

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MINIMUM WAGE COMPROMISE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit for my colleagues the following editorial, from the September 7, 2000, edition of the Norfolk Daily News. This editorial highlights the letter sent by House Speaker DENNIS HASTERT to the President both on the minimum wage and on small business tax cuts. In particular, this editorial recognizes the Speaker's efforts towards compromise on this.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Sept. 7, 2000]

A COMPROMISE—HOUSE SPEAKER HASTERT OFFERS METHOD TO REACH DEAL ON MINIMUM WAGES

House Speaker Dennis Hastert says he believes it possible for congressional Republicans and the Clinton administration to reach agreement on the minimum wage issue.

The White House and Democrats on Capitol Hill had sought a minimum wage increase of more than the dollar over a two-year period that many Republicans believed acceptable. Mr. Hastert's colleagues wanted that spread over a three-year period. They have relented.

The compromise outlined by Mr. Hastert includes a tax package that would benefit the small businesses most affected by changes in the minimum wage scale. Therefore, its risks of broader adverse economic effects are reduced.

Given the fact that current employment conditions mean the minimum wage is less frequently the starting wage today, the impact may be limited. There is still the risk, though, that the figure is high enough that employers can be discouraged from hiring the unskilled and marginal workers most in need of job opportunities.

Raising mandatory minimums is a dangerous political exercise. Politicians cannot create jobs on a lasting basis, but they can easily destroy them and harm the economy by trying to fix wages in the private sector. So it is important that their perennial tendency to raise them be moderated. Mr. Hastert's effort is in that spirit, and it is a test of President Clinton's willingness to reach a reasonable compromise.

TOWN OF MEDFIELD ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to acknowledge the Three Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Town of Medfield, Massachusetts and in so doing reference the fine historical research of Richard DeSorgher in compiling a perspective of the Town's history.

Mr. Speaker, in the month of June, in the year 1650, a small group of pioneers ventured

outward from the already established Town of Dedham, Massachusetts, into the wilderness seeking to build a new life for their families.

In 1651, those pioneers incorporated the Town of Medfield as the forty-third town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and quickly adopted the town meeting form of government that exists to this day in Medfield and in countless towns throughout the Commonwealth and the Nation.

As an inducement to participate in town meetings, it was voted that any citizen of Medfield that arrived at the town meeting after nine o'clock would be fined twelve pence. Selectmen were compensated for their public service with a free dinner, while the custodian/drummer was paid twenty shillings for his labor.

Mr. Speaker, the Town of Medfield has, since its founding and throughout its history, demonstrated the civic mindedness, sense of honor and duty, and compassion that have made this country the beacon of hope and freedom it has become to people from all over the world. The brave, and self-reliant men and women who founded America's first towns bore the hardships that were the cornerstone of the American character, and the citizens of Medfield have demonstrated that character since the year Medfield was first established.

In that spirit, when the City of Boston was blockaded by the King's Navy under the Intolerable Acts, the citizens of Medfield did not hesitate in collecting and delivering one-hundred and thirty-two pounds of pork, four hundred and two pounds of cheese, and twenty-two cartloads of wood to aid their fellow colonists in time of need.

Mr. Speaker, one hundred and fifty-four citizens of Medfield saw combat in the Revolutionary War, which at that time, reflected one out of five people of Medfield's entire population.

Throughout American history and the history of the Commonwealth, Medfield has played a prominent and honorable role. Akin to the public mindedness of their ancestors, Medfield's citizens continue to demonstrate a commitment to working together in order to enhance the public good.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to report that the same strength, character, and perseverance that has sustained Medfield over the last three hundred and fifty years, continues unfettered to this day as is evidenced by the outstanding achievements of the town officials, and the citizens investing in their future by maintaining perhaps the finest school system in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute and to bring congratulations and thanks to the men, women, and children of Medfield, from the United States Congress.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit for my colleagues this editorial from the August 23, 2000, Omaha World-Herald regarding the effectiveness of bilingual education.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Aug. 23, 2000]

BILINGUAL ED TAKES A HIT

Ken Noonan, a California public school principal, has an interesting story to tell. It begins: I was wrong.

Noonan, whose story was related in The New York Times on Sunday, spent many years as a leading proponent of bilingual education. That's a way of educating students who enter school not knowing the English language. The theory is that these students can learn best by taking their math, science, history and other subjects in their native tongue. Over time, they make a gradual transition into English, partly as a result of studying it on the side as a second language.

Or so the theory goes.

So enamored of bilingual education was Noonan that, 30 years ago, he founded the California Association of Bilingual Educators. In the 1990s, when opponents of bilingual education proposed a ballot initiative to discontinue its use, he was one of the leaders in the fight to preserve the status quo.

"I thought it would hurt kids," he said of the ballot initiative.

But the initiative passed. In effect, students who don't speak English are required to plunge in and do their best. In the two years since the initiative took effect, test scores in the target group have risen sharply. Kids are learning English. And Noonan, who predicted that children would be hurt, now says: "The exact reverse occurred, totally unexpected." He said children are learning formal and written English "far more quickly than I ever thought they would."

Research, he said, says it takes seven years for students to learn English. In practice, they showed considerable progress in 9 to 12 months.

The Times, in its story about the higher test scores, noted that some educators are still reserving judgment. For one thing, it's uncertain how many schools made a complete break from bilingualism. Other improvements, including a reduction in class sizes, may account for some of the progress. And the overall scores, even though they rose, are still embarrassingly low.

From the experience of Noonan and others in California, however, it's possible to draw a few conclusions about the way society educates its children:

Too often the educational establishment trusts in theories, such as the theory Noonan thought justified giving students seven years to learn English, when common sense cries out for more documentation. No one knows how much damage has been done by the various new maths and watered-down histories that have come along over the years in the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

name of making education more "progressive."

One of the worst ways to harm children is to expect too little of them. That bores them and teaches that school is of little consequence. These feelings are compounded by artificial esteem-boosting, such as the praise of accomplishments that aren't really accomplishments. This makes them feel sheepish. Challenging them with real work makes them feel the pride that can come only from growing, stretching, maturing and mastering a difficult task.

Immigrants, for the most part, want to learn English. Critics who accuse them of the contrary are generally basing their opinions on assumed or incomplete information.

Bilingual education, *The Times* said, took root because of strong support in Congress. Extra money was provided for bilingual programs, following the idea that government knows best.

Of course, government doesn't always know best. Just ask the founder of the California Association of Bilingual Educators. He has a story that's worth listening to in any other place where bilingual education is producing less-than-satisfactory results.

THE ARC OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation and support for the Arc of Montgomery County. For the past 40 years, this organization has sponsored the Fashion Show Benefit each spring as its major annual fund-raiser event. The proceeds of this wonderful benefit go toward improving the lives of people with mental disabilities and their families. Over the years more than 20,000 people have attended this event, which has netted about \$1.2 million. Throughout its history, the Arc of Montgomery County Fashion Show has been planned and organized by hundreds of dedicated volunteers, who choose a theme, produce publications, coordinate an auction, assemble elaborate decorations and market the event. The Arc of Montgomery County is proud to be associated with all the volunteers who have contributed to the event, and with the program participants who have benefitted.

Mr. Speaker, I too have been proud to be associated with the Arc of Montgomery County and their volunteers. I commend them for their outstanding achievements.

THE EISENHOWER DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS AWARD

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with its policy, "the Army takes care of its own," the members of the U.S. Army and their families and friends financed and constructed the Army Distaff Hall at 6200 Oregon Avenue, Washington, D.C. The facility, designed to provide a haven for the widows of deceased military personnel, was completed in 1962. Ten years

ago, the name of the facility was changed to Knollwood and a new resident policy was instituted to include retired military personnel and their spouses.

A driving force behind this successful operation was General Dwight D. and Mrs. Eisenhower. The Army Distaff Foundation, Inc. annually recognizes an individual whose contributions to the military are outstanding. The current recipient of the Eisenhower Distinguished Citizens Award is historian and author, Stephen E. Ambrose, Ph.D., and his citation is as follows:

Stephen Ambrose has devoted his whole professional life to the writing of deeply insightful accounts of critical moments in American history. From the explorations of Lewis and Clark in the early 1800's, to his works on the Civil War, the Indian Wars, and World War II, Dr. Ambrose has brought into focus the profound hardships and perils of many outstanding historical events. In doing so, he has revealed the strength, the determination, and the courage of the men and women who risked their lives to achieve the needs and the goals of our country.

Dr. Ambrose chronicled the achievements of men and women of all ranks in World War II—citizens who braved adversity to overcome the barbaric threat to the free world. In an initiative of enduring importance going beyond his historical writings, he brought into being the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, an institution that celebrates and commemorates the American spirit, teamwork, optimism, courage, and sacrifice of the men and women who won World War II.

As a result of Dr. Ambrose's careful documentation and analysis of the major campaigns of World War II, he has been a force in the field of international education. His works have been published in numerous languages and he has lectured at nearly all the leading universities in Europe. Central to all his presentations, he has been a storyteller who vividly explains, illustrates, informs, and entertains.

Throughout his lifetime of work, Dr. Ambrose has distinguished himself in his field by showing the need for military preparedness, and by describing the achievements of American leaders, and the citizen soldiers whom they led, thereby illustrating the historical heritage of America and Americans. The nation stands in debt to this accomplished storyteller who has added so much to our knowledge of what has gone before.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, Christian Brothers Academy first opened its doors to 17 male students on September 4, 1900 in a house on the corner of North State and East Willow Streets in the city of Syracuse, New York. Since that time, Christian Brothers Academy, referred to locally as CBA, has grown to become a dominant force in scholastic education in Central New York as a private, Catholic, co-

educational college preparatory school in the LaSallian tradition.

After opening in 1900, CBA's first structure was replaced by a three-story school building in 1904, which remained the "Brothers' Boys" home until it moved to a modern campus in DeWitt, New York in 1961. Today, that modern campus on the corner of Kimber and Randall Roads continues to be transformed. In conjunction with the school's centennial celebration, the Board of Trustees has undertaken a \$7 million capital campaign to upgrade and expand the CBA campus—including the construction of a Fine Arts wing, renovation and expansion of science facilities, the addition of new classrooms and multi-media labs, and the construction of new athletic practice facilities. In addition, the campaign will provide an increased number of endowed scholarships to make CBA's strong educational program available to more needy young men and women in the Syracuse area.

Throughout its existence, Christian Brothers Academy has responded to the changing times. Junior high grades were added in 1977 in an effort to counter declining numbers with the addition of two Diocesan regional high schools, the dress code was relaxed, academic course options were implemented and females were admitted in 1987 with the closure of the all-girl Franciscan Academy in Syracuse.

While receptive to improvements, CBA has held many traditions constant. Its annual Musicale continues, and CBA remains a local powerhouse in scholastic athletics, winning a variety of sectional, state and Eastern States Catholic Schools titles in men's football, baseball, basketball and soccer, and in women's varsity swimming.

CBA graduates are successful professionals and parents residing throughout our nation, and dozens of Central New York's past and present elected leaders boast of Brothers' diplomas. As a member of the CBA Class of 1966 myself, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Christian Brothers Academy on 100 years of service to our community as we continue with "pride in our past and faith in our future." Congratulations.

HONORING MR. ARMAND AUDINI

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share with you the story of Mr. Armand Audini better known as "Dini" to his co-workers. Mr. Audini has worked at the New Mexico VA Medical Center in Albuquerque New Mexico for 30 years now. Because of his dedication and loyalty, Green Thumb Inc. presented this octogenarian with the most Outstanding Older Worker award.

Mr. Audini is truly a shining example of America's mature worker who is changing the stereotypes about aging and he serves as a positive role model for our younger generation. Mr. Audini has seen his work process enter the world of "high tech" and he has met the challenge of a computerized environment admirably.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Audini's enthusiasm and commitment to today's work force. He truly exemplifies that Ability is Ageless.