

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. RALPH D. FEIGIN
FOR BEING APPOINTED TO THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. Ralph D. Feigin, for being appointed to the Board of Governors at the National Institutes of Health and Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center. This appointment acknowledges Dr. Feigin's outstanding contributions in pediatric medicine for more than three decades.

Indeed this is an honor for the internationally renowned expert in pediatric infectious disease, who has published over 400 articles in chapters and books. The function of the board is a very important one, to advise, consult, and make recommendations to the Director of the NIH and the Director of the Clinical Center on matters of policy including the approval and development of a strategic plan and the annual budget. Members of the Board of Governors are chosen for their knowledge and expertise in health care governance and management, operational aspects of academic health care centers, and clinical research. Dr. Feigin has served since 1977, as the J.S. Abercrombie Professor of Pediatrics and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Baylor College of Medicine. While sharing knowledge with residents and cultivating their performances, he is still dedicated to his patients and to his daily work at Texas Children's Hospital.

A native of New York City, Dr. Feigin graduated from Columbia College with a B.A. in 1958. He received his Medical Degree from Boston University School of Medicine in 1962. Dr. Feigin completed his Pediatric Internship at the Boston City Hospital in 1963.

Dr. Feigin is known throughout the Texas Medical Center Community as a remarkable doctor and dedicated leader, who views his students as extended family. Each month he invites students celebrating birthdays' to his home for a seated dinner and birthday cake baked by his wife Judith. Although is administrative duties consume much of his time, he starts each morning making rounds with residents, reviewing material, and sharing his knowledge of pediatric medicine that has earned him a distinguished reputation. From 1987 to 1989 he served as Executive Vice President of Texas Children's Hospital. In addition, he is Physician-in-Chief Pediatric Services, Ben Taub General Hospital and Chief of the Pediatric Service, The Methodist Hospital, also of my district.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Dr. Feigin on this appointment and his many years of dedication to pediatric medicine. His achievements are an inspiration to us all.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4205,
FLOYD D. SPENCE NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4205, the National Defense Authorization Act.

As a conferee, I first would like to thank the Speaker for appointing me and to thank both Chairman SPENCE, and Ranking Member SKELTON, for affording me many opportunities to influence the conference deliberations and shape a number of provisions. It was an enlightening experience and I look forward to future opportunities to work with them and my other colleagues to provide for a strong national defense.

Mr. Speaker, of particular note are the quality of life improvements the conference report makes for both active duty and military retirees. Representing a large community on and around Travis Air Force Base, I know that many of these improvements are long overdue. The improvements in health care, especially access for retirees, will provide needed reassurance to those who serve our Nation in uniform.

Mr. SKELTON dubbed this year as the "year of military health care." I ask my colleagues to note the significant improvements to the TRICARE health care system for our active duty, retirees and their families. The conference report eliminates co-payments for active duty family members in TRICARE PRIME, so those active duty family members are treated fairly and equitably. It allows family members to participate in TRICARE Prime Remote, so that those who live far from a military base, including significant numbers in northern California, have the same access to health care. It authorizes reimbursement for travel expenses when families must travel long distances to see a specialist. It reduces unnecessary referral requirements to improve access to care. And, it establishes a permanent chiropractic benefit for our active duty personnel.

As I mentioned, the conference report honors the commitment to our military retirees and their families and restores access to lifetime military health care. It establishes a pharmacy benefit that allows retirees and their dependents to obtain drugs through the National Mail Order Pharmacy, a network pharmacy or a non-network pharmacy. No matter where you live access to pharmaceuticals will no longer be an issue.

The conference report also reduces the catastrophic cap for out-of-pocket expenses from \$7,500 to \$3,000. It adopts the House-passed provision extending the TRICARE Senior Prime Program, more commonly known as Medicare Subvention. As a result, military re-

tirees will have one of the best health care programs in the country.

The conference report includes a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life for our service members and help the Services in their recruitment and retention efforts. It provides a 3.7 percent pay raise for all military personnel and includes a targeted pay raise for mid-grade enlisted personnel.

Most important for many of the active duty service men and women who live off-base, the conference report eliminates the cap and reduces the out-of-pocket housing costs for our members to 14.5 percent. To improve the quality of life for our junior enlisted families the conference report increases housing standards and authorizes \$157 million more than requested for family housing, including the construction of 64 family housing units at Travis Air Force Base.

These are several of the initiatives I am pleased to have played a role in fashioning and I would like to thank my subcommittee chairmen, STEVE BUYER and JOEL HEFLEY, for the opportunity to work with them and the other conferees on these personnel and military construction issues.

In fashioning this House-Senate compromise, there are, of course, disappointments. I regret conferees did not accept the provision I authored to require the Department of Defense to collect and analyze the DNA of violent offenders and to provide those analyses to the Department of Justice CODIS database. While I don't disagree with their view that such a requirement should be government-wide, the bill the House passed imposing this requirement is likely to stall in the Senate. As a result, we will have lost as much as a year of using this DNA in criminal investigations.

I also regret that the Senate-passed hate crimes measure was dropped from the conference report.

I am also disappointed with a Senate-passed provision directing the Departments of Defense and Energy to study ways to "defeat hardened and deeply buried targets." Though slightly modified from the original, the language still permits limited research and development, which could lead to a new low-yield nuclear weapon with earth-penetrating capabilities.

As I expressed to other conferees, my concern with developing such a weapon is that it is likely to encourage military and political leaders to think more readily about using nuclear weapons. In my view, we should not lower this threshold or make nuclear weapons a more acceptable choice in war. In addition, development of such a weapon is contrary to our Nation's goals of reducing and eventually eliminating nuclear weapons. To begin development and stockpiling of a new nuclear weapon would reverse the difficult achievements the United States has made to slow the proliferation of nuclear material and weapons.

Undoubtedly, reconsideration of this issue will occur next year and I look forward to debating it with a new Administration.

● 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.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I believe the increased authorizations for national missile defense are unnecessary and unwarranted. Rather than accelerating program elements, I believe we should have a renewed debate, not only about the technological components of NMD, but also about the strategic and foreign policy questions it raises. Until those questions are fully debated before the American people, it is, in my view, unwise to increase NMD authorization levels.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report before us makes significant improvements to our Nation's defense. It takes significant steps to address issues associated with operations tempo and aging equipment. And, as important, it gives the members of our uniformed services not only the weapons, training, and equipment they need to prepare for the next war, but also the peace of mind that comes from a home and work environment reflective of the important role they perform for America and all Americans.

I urge adoption of the conference report.

MODIFYING RATES RELATING TO REDUCED RATE MAIL MATTER

SPEECH OF

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service, I am pleased to join Chairman MCHUGH in the consideration of S. 2686, legislation introduced in the Senate, S. 2686, on June 7, 2000, by Senator THAD COCHRAN, the Chairman, and Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, the Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Subcommittee on International Security Proliferation and Federal Services. This measure will provide much needed postage rate relief for nonprofit mailers and address serious shortcomings in the current United States Postal Service (USPS) rate case proposal that is now before the Postal Rate Commission (PRC).

On Friday, October 6, the United States Senate approved passage of S. 2686, legislation drafted by the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, the Postal Service, and others that is designed to protect preferred postal rates for nonprofit mailers.

S. 2686, which will protect nonprofit or preferred mailers from double-digit rate increases, is identical to H.R. 4636, legislation I introduced on June 12, 2000. I was joined in the introduction of this bill by Congressman STENY H. HOYER, Ranking Minority Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, and Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS and Congressman MAJOR R. OWENS, both members of the Subcommittee on the Postal Service. To date a number of members have co-sponsored my bill.

The practice of designating certain types of mail for preferred rates was initiated by the Congress more than 50 years ago. In 1993, deficit reduction legislation eliminated federal financial support for nonprofit mailers, but mandated that nonprofit rates be lower than rates for commercial mailers.

In January of this year, the Postal Service Board of Governors proposed postage rate increases for all classes of mail. The USPS formally filed the rate request which is pending before the PRC. The proposed postal rate increased for all classes of mail is designed to raise \$3.7 billion in new revenues—beginning in 2001. Under the current rate request, rates for nonprofits will surpass rates for corresponding commercial mail. The USPS attributed the increase to inaccurate cost data and have suggested that the “average” increase for mailers is approximately 6.4%. Unfortunately, for nonprofits and magazine industry, the hit is double-plus the average increase.

To its credit, the Postal Service requested and proposed legislation to fix the nonprofit rate anomaly. The legislative fix was drafted by the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers with the assistance of the Magazine Publishers of America, National Federation of Nonprofits, Direct Marketing Association, and others. These organizations worked with the postal service to craft an acceptable legislative solution to the nonprofit rate problem in the current rate case before the PRC. You are all to be commended. Without the legislation, the nonprofit periodical preferred rate will disappear.

How does S. 2686 correct the rate anomaly? The bill would “lock-in” the rate relationship between nonprofit and commercial Standard A and Periodical rates, which would prevent nonprofit mail from current and future “rate shock” by doing the following:

Set nonprofit Periodical rates at 95% of the commercial counterpart rate. Excluding the advertising portion, nonprofit mailers would receive a 5% discount off the commercial rate.

Set the revenue per piece for nonprofit Standard A mail to reflect a 40% discount over the revenue per piece received by commercial Standard A mail.

Set Library rates at 95% of the rates for the Special subclass of Standard B mail.

Passage of the bill is necessary before the Postal Rate Commission completes deliberations on the current rate case.

Mr. Speaker, before I close I would like to thank Chairman MCHUGH and his staff, Robert Taub and Heea Vazirani-Fales, for their hard work in ensuring a compromise on this matter, PRC Chairman Ed Gleiman for his efforts to keep Congress focused on fixing the problem, Neal Denton of the Alliance for keeping the coalition together and on track even in the face of last minute challenges, the Postal Service for being proactive and Nanci Langley, Deputy Minority Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on International Security Proliferation and Federal Services and Dan Blair, Senior Counsel, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee for all of their help and support. I must also commend and thank the Government Reform Committee Chairman, Congressman DAN BURTON for keeping all the parties together for the good of the nonprofit community. I close by thanking the Ranking Government Reform member, Congressman HENRY A. WAXMAN for his support, hard work, and co-sponsorship of H.R. 4636, and for bringing the bill to the attention of the Corrections Day Group.

And so, on behalf of local charities, hospitals, churches, educators, arts organizations, nonprofit publications, and a host of others including Girard College, the Center for Science

in the Public Interest, the National Association of Independent Schools, and Chicago WILDERNESS Magazine, and the cosponsors of H.R. 4636, I ask that my colleagues support S. 2686 and urge its swift adoption.

RECOGNIZING CELANESE CHEMICALS, CLEAR LAKE PLANT AS A LA PORTE-BAYSHORE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONOREE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 16, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Celanese Chemicals Clear Lake Plant Site for being honored as the La Porte-Bayshore 2000 Industry of the Year. Celanese's commitment to building a better future for the LaPorte/Bayshore community has made it an example that all industry can follow.

Since 1967, Celanese Chemicals and its employees have been responsible members of the Clear Lake, Deer Park, La Porte-Bayshore, and Pasadena areas, all in my district. Celanese Chemicals, Clear Lake Plant Site, is a world leader in the production of organic materials and production of bulk commodity chemicals. Located on 1,000 acres, the plant's continuous program of innovation and improvement has increased the original plant's capacity to more than five billion pounds annually.

The Clear Lake Plant is specifically engineered for synergistic production. The synergy increases efficiency, minimizes waste and helps ensure quality. Products are shipped worldwide via pipeline, oceangoing tankers, barges, rail, and highway tank trucks. Celanese provides products to other petrochemical companies, specialty chemical companies, and consumer products companies around the world.

Dedication to worker safety and environmental performance has also been a hallmark of this company. Its proactive environmental and safety programs have received recognition from many organizations, including the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the Chemical Manufacturers Association, and the Texas Chemical Council. In addition to being an integral part of the area economy, the company contributes greatly to the community. As a participant in Chemical Manufacturers Association's Responsible Care program, the plant takes part in community advisory panels, which creates dialogue with plant leadership and the local community. The plant is also a member of several community chambers of commerce and community service organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Celanese Chemicals, on being named the La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce 2000 Industry of the Year. This is well deserved for their hard work in expanding business, producing products vital to our lives, their commitment to environmental protection and worker safety, and their many contributions to the community.