

A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUE, SIDNEY RICHARD YATES

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress in 1991, I became acquainted with my colleague, Sid Yates, who represented the 9th Congressional District of Illinois. Mr. Yates had first been elected to Congress in 1949 and was passed the four decade mark in service to the U.S. Congress when I met him.

While Congressman Yates and I served in different parties, we all served the state of Illinois and worked together on projects of mutual interest to our state and our nation. Congressman Yates had one of the most distinguished careers of any member ever to serve in the House of Representatives. He was a man whose reputation for honesty and integrity was untarnished after years of public service. He was a man who understood and loved the system that is the U.S. House of Representatives.

After Sidney Yates retired in 1999, I had the opportunity to visit with him about how he liked his new status. While I know that he enjoyed his retirement he missed very greatly the institution in which he had spent so many years of his productive life.

It is with regret that I acknowledge the passing of Sidney Yates so soon after his retirement. Yet, he was a man whose life was very full, who had so many good and productive years in which he dedicated himself to his state and nation. For his service, for his life, for the standards he set, he will long be remembered and always admired.

FTS 2001 PROGRAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the U.S. Government Federal Telecommunications Services contracts, called FTS 2000/2001. As a member of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology and with my continued interest in information technology issues, I believe it is important that we do all we can to ensure that a customer—as large and important as the U.S. Government—is not short-changed in the midst of the digital age.

Since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, telecommunications and high-tech companies have experienced colossal incentives to offer more advanced services and lower prices for consumers. This industry continues to have the opportunity to form strategic unions with its government customers to place a new emphasis on the latest technological innovations and showcase offerings of voice, data and video services throughout the United States and the world.

Even though we are making progress since passage of the 1966 Act, I remain concerned about the recent articles I've read stating that

winning FTS vendors and the Federal government have run behind schedule in conversion of the contracts from FTS 2000 to 2001. This has impacted the competition built into the FTS 2001 contract. I find it troublesome to learn that this has resulted in a limited competitive opportunity for young, cutting-edge companies. As a result, this marketplace has experienced little in the way of introduction of new products and services to the government market.

I believe that it is important that we exercise our Congressional oversight authority and we quickly review the fair process that was initially established for federal agencies under the FTS 2000/2001 programs in order to restore competition within the government sector.

AMERICA WILL MISS
CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the passing of Illinois Congressman Sidney Yates. I appreciate this opportunity to join his colleagues in honoring his memory and his legacy of service.

Congressman Sidney Yates served the people of Illinois and the American people with distinction. He actively and assertively championed the cause of cultural development, as one of the Congress' leading advocates of the National Endowment for the Arts. He reminded us that continued public sponsorship of artistic expression is essential to nourish America's creative spirit, and the Chicago Tribune called him the "greatest friend" of the arts. As an active member of the Appropriations Committee and as Chairman and Ranking Member of its Interior Subcommittee, Sidney Yates also championed the cause of America's outdoors. Due in large part to his devoted stewardship, the National Park System grew as visitorship increased from 29 million in 1948 to almost 280 million in 1998.

This natural leadership should have come as no surprise. Sidney Yates was clearly an exemplary American. He excelled at the University of Chicago. There, he developed both the keen intellect that served him and his constituents so well in Congress and a real devotion to the outdoors, as a star basketball center and an exceptional amateur golfer. When the shadow of the Second World War brought darkness to our shores, Sidney Yates served in the United States Navy, earning the rank of Lieutenant. The young veteran again answered the call of duty in 1948, winning a seat in Congress that he eventually held for almost a half-century. Over the years, his steadfast dedication to the interests of his constituents won the support of the political machine that dominated Chicago politics during his first few terms, as well as the backing of Chicago's reform advocates. Sidney Yates retired last year as the longest-serving member in the history of the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I will recall Sidney Yates with fondness. In honoring his memory, I honor the example of a life given in selfless service to our nation, and I can say with confidence that America will miss Congressman Sidney Yates.

HONORING MARILYN CULPEPPER

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Marilyn Culpepper for her dedication to the health and well being of Monroe County, Alabama, citizens.

Marilyn Culpepper was appointed to the Monroe County Hospital Board in July 1996 and elected its chairman by unanimous vote of the board a few months later. She served as chairman from 1997 to 2000. Mrs. Culpepper has since moved to Mobile, and I wish her well as she takes on new challenges.

A native of Grove Hill, Alabama, Mrs. Culpepper is a 1980 graduate of the University of West Alabama (formerly Livingston University) and was the recipient of that school's Alumni of the Year Award in 1996.

Over the years, she has had several successful careers and civic achievements. In 1986, at age 27, she was elected to the Sumter County Board of Education. She was elected a second time in 1988 and served with distinction until moving to Monroe County in 1991.

In Monroe County, Marilyn Culpepper served first as associate editor, then managing editor of the Award-winning weekly newspaper, The Monroe Journal. She also distinguished herself through community service in several capacities. To name a few, she was president and/or board member of the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Monroe County Public Education Foundation, the Monroeville Kiwanis Club (where she was the first woman elected as "Kiwanian of the Year"). She also served as a volunteer for the Monroe County Heritage Museums, and for the Alabama Writers Symposium during their inaugural year. In addition, she served in Israel as the representative of the Monroe County Commission and the Monroeville Area Chamber of Commerce during performances of "To Kill a Mockingbird." Manifesting her talent, Mrs. Culpepper is a two-time recipient of the Alabama Medical Association's Douglas L. Cannon Recognition for Excellence in Medical Journalism.

As editor of The Monroe Journal and, later, economic developer for Monroe County from 1997–2000 and as chairman of the Monroe County Hospital Board, Mrs. Culpepper was an advocate for accessible health care for all citizens regardless of age, social or economic status. She was a driving force behind expansion of hospital services and creation of a rural health clinic in Monroe County.

Under Mrs. Culpepper's leadership, the hospital in Monroeville embarked on a major expansion and construction project, the creation of a cancer-treatment center and the development of a diabetes support program. She also oversaw the creation of the Monroe Health Foundation and has been a contributor to the foundation.

Today, Mrs. Culpepper serves as executive director of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society. Her commitment to community development—preservation, education, and innovation in enriching the lives of all citizens continues. She is committed to developing a regional network of cultural, civic and humanitarian efforts to benefit all residents of south Alabama and

continues to be a friend to Monroe County and Monroe County Hospital in this endeavor.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 574, a bill approving the Journal of October 29, 2000. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 575, H.J. Res. 119, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 576, a motion to instruct conferees on the Labor, Health and Human Services for fiscal year 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

HONORING JAMES HEIDEN

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Mr. James Heiden upon his retirement from Easter Seals. It is an honor to recognize Mr. Heiden and the outstanding service he has given to the entire community of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Heiden has served Easter Seals for 26 years and is currently Executive Director of the local affiliate. Over the past 20 years as director of the local Easter Seals, he has worked tirelessly to implement new programs for this community and to expand Easter Seals services to thousands of families.

Under the direction of Mr. Heiden, the local affiliate serving Montgomery, Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester Counties has become a national leader in early intervention services for children up to five years of age and their families. The Easter Seals affiliate has also been successful in expanding home- and community-based services. They have implemented many cutting-edge programs including specialized assistive technology services for children and adults with disabilities, programs for siblings and families of children with disabilities, and a variety of adaptive recreation programs.

Easter Seals has received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This is a prestigious recognition that has been achieved by only seven percent of early childhood programs nationwide.

It is a privilege to honor the contributions of Mr. James Heiden to the Easter Seals foundation of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His hard work and dedication is appreciated by all whose lives he has touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on October 28 and 29, 2000, I was detained with business in my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on roll call numbers 570 through 576. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 570 through 576.

In addition, this morning, I was unavoidably detained, and therefore unable to cast my votes on roll call numbers 577 and 578. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 577 and 578.

TRIBUTE TO ELMER A. FERGUSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American, and I am proud to recognize Elmer A. Ferguson in the Congress for his invaluable contributions and service to our nation.

Elmer Ferguson distinguished himself through his devotion to his family, friends, and community. He was born in DeWitt, Arkansas on September 17th, 1910, the son of a local farmer. His family instilled in him the value of an education, and he and his sister enrolled at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville in 1930, but he was able to remain only for one year because of financial difficulties. Elmer never forgot his hardship, and he would later do everything he could to make sure that deserving students could go to college.

Of course, Elmer made the most of his opportunities, despite his initial challenges. After returning from Russellville, he worked his way from a \$15 a week job at a DeWitt grocery store to being the manager there. Eventually he became a successful grocery store owner, an accomplished farmer, and the well-respected board chairman of the DeWitt Bank and Trust Co., a position he held until he died last week.

Elmer would probably count his family as his greatest success, however. After marrying Gladys Guthrie in 1934, he was blessed with three daughters, seven grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

As mentioned earlier, Elmer always remembered his humble beginnings, and used his success to help others have the opportunities he missed. In 1987, he established the Elmer Ferguson and Gladys Ferguson Charitable Trust, which funded four-year college scholarships for DeWitt students. Elmer also donated a scholarship to the University of Mississippi.

Elmer's generosity and empathy had no limit. He and Gladys gave \$250,000 to the Children's Miracle Network Telethon, and underwrote the creation of the Neuroscience Unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, which is named for them. Just eight years ago, both were also named to the honorary board of patrons by the Baptist Medical System Foundation in recognition of their support to that organization.

Sadly, Elmer Ferguson passed away on Friday, about a month after Gladys died. They

were great friends of mine, and I will miss them as much as their family, friends, and the great community of those who ever knew them. On behalf of the Congress, I extend my deepest sympathies to their family, even as I encourage them to join me in celebrating their extraordinary lives.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
BIBLE WEEK, NOVEMBER 19, 2000-
NOVEMBER 26, 2000

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to serve as Congressional Co-Chairman of National Bible Week with Senator CONRAD BURNS. It is fitting that National Bible Week occurs the week of Thanksgiving, a week used by many to reflect on the past and give thanks for their blessings. Whether you consider the Bible a book of comfort, guidance, or literature, I hope this week will be one of reflection and study of the Bible.

I have read and studied the Bible for as long as I can remember. I memorized passages for Sunday school as a child. As an adult, the Bible has become an important source of guidance.

I have always found the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 25:31-46, most helpful as a guide to setting public policy. But even more important is Matthew 16:26 which says, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" This verse is especially relevant to today's national leaders who are increasingly faced with votes of conscience.

I commend the National Bible Association for setting aside this week to encourage others to read and study the Bible. The Bible has influenced Western art, literature, music, and even our laws. I encourage you to read and study it this week.

RECOGNITION FOR ADOPTIONS
TOGETHER

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, as National Adoption Month 2000 approaches, I take great pride in recognizing the exceptional work being done by Adoptions Together, a nonprofit organization in my Congressional district, on behalf of children in need of a permanent, loving adoptive home. Since its founding ten years ago by Janice Goldwater of Silver Spring, Maryland, Adoptions Together has worked to help all children in need of a home regardless of the child's age, health, race, physical or mental handicap. Adoptions Together welcomes every child who seeks its help.

Many things about adoptions needed to be changed for the better than Janice Goldwater began Adoptions Together in 1990. At the time, there was little hope that medically fragile infants whose birth families could not care