

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pope's imprisonment is reminiscent of those ugly dark days of the old Soviet regime when men and women were taken from their homes in the dark of night, interrogated, and sometimes never seen again. And that is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, as of yesterday, I was told that Mr. Pope still lacks such basics as a blanket, a blanket his wife has been trying to send to him, a blanket that has been described and detailed about what they have to do to get through the Russian bureaucracy and yet continued to be denied, a blanket.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Pope's parents, Roy and Elizabeth Pope, who live in my district in Grant's Pass, Oregon. Mr. Speaker, both of them are elderly. Mr. Pope suffers from terminal cancer and dementia. They and I do not fully comprehend the diplomatic obstacles that keep their son away from his family.

Mr. Speaker, on May 9, I wrote to our own Secretary of State. On June 27, I wrote again. In neither case has this administration bothered to respond to the two letters of inquiry that I have sent directly to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Speaker, Ed's family knows that Ed is no criminal and that his imprisonment is unjust.

Mr. Speaker, we simply must do everything in our collective power to see to it that he is freed as soon as humanly possible.

Mr. Pope is no spy and he should be returned to his family. So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in sending a strong message to President Putin and the Russian government that the American people are serious about this and will not forget their actions if Mr. Pope is not returned immediately.

In an era when the opportunity exists for better relations between our two nations, now is not the time to return to the mutual antagonism and suspicion that held the entire world hostage for a half a century of the Cold War.

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TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE JIMMY MORRISON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to mourn the passing of a former Member of this body, the Honorable Jimmy Morrison of Louisiana.

Congressman Morrison was one of my constituents and represented much of the district I now represent. He served in this body from 1944 through 1966.

I was only 5 years old when he left this House, so my knowledge, obviously, of his tenure here is limited to conversations with those who were privileged to work with him and to the history books. I do know that he was a Member of whom we can all be proud.

In 1944, when he was first elected to office, his district was, like much of the country, a rural area still working to recover from the Great Depression.

Congressman Morrison earned a seat on the Committee on Agriculture and the Post Office and Civil Service committee, two assignments that allowed him to address the immediate needs of his constituents.

The esteem in which my older constituents hold him speaks volumes of his effectiveness. He had a distinguished record in this body. He always stood up for the downtrodden and spoke very passionately about his commitment to speaking and working for the causes of the downtrodden.

Perhaps the clearest example of that was his vocal support of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He was extremely instrumental in furthering the needs and the interests of his particular district. He was really personally responsible for seeing to it that the intersection of I-12 and I-55 in his district happened in the area of Hammond, which helped enormously with the growth of the entire Hammond area.

He also worked as a leading member of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service to establish needed post offices throughout his district.

On a more national scale, he introduced the legislation that led to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

He was also very colorful and effective in the realm of politics. Besides being a sterling stump speaker, Mr. Morrison staged what he called the "convicts parade" on Canal Street during the 1939-1940 campaign to call attention to the convictions arising out of the Louisiana scandals involving the Huey Long machine.

Perhaps those of us in Louisiana politics today should take a lead from that in light of the recent conviction of our former governor, Edwin Edwards. Maybe we need another convicts parade.

I can speak from personal knowledge of his life after Congress. He returned full time to his hometown of Hammond and resumed an active role as an attorney and civic leader. Leaving Congress in no way weakened his commitment to public service. He was a strong supporter of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, the institution that houses his congressional papers.

In honor of this support, the University hosts an annual lecture. The James H. Morrison Lecture on Politics and Government has brought leaders from throughout Louisiana and the Nation to Hammond to share their wisdom with the southeastern community.

Shortly after joining this body a little over a year ago, I traveled to Hammond to seek Congressman Morrison's advice. It is clear from our conversation that he held the House in great esteem and viewed his opportunity to serve as a great honor accompanied by great responsibilities. I always will remember our discussion and the advice and wisdom he shared.

To his wife, Marjorie, to family and many friends, let us all offer our sincere condolences. May they be comforted by the knowledge that he is now blessed with the joy and peace far greater than any on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Morrison served with only two present Members of the House. One of those with whom he served for quite a bit of time was the honorable gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) could not join with me tonight. He had a pressing engagement off the floor. But he did give me a statement which he asked for me to read on his behalf. This again is from the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL):

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an honorable, courageous man who passed away last Thursday in his hometown of Hammond, Louisiana. James H. "Jimmy" Morrison represented his constituents well, fought for the underdog admirably, and served in this body with distinction.

I had the pleasure of serving with Jimmy Morrison, a principled populist and a passionate fighter on behalf of Louisiana and his Sixth District, which he served from 1942-1966. He was an advocate for working men and women before he came to Congress, beginning his legal career organizing strawberry farmers who fell prey to unfair price fixing. In Congress, he continued to fight to ensure that every individual was entitled to fair treatment in the workplace and given the opportunity to live the American dream. Always alert to the needs of his constituents, he brought back federal dollars home for roads, schools, and post offices.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note Jimmy Morrison's courage. Jimmy Morrison's proudest and most courageous vote, in support of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, undoubtedly cost him his seat. His opponent played the race card during a tense time in the South, throwing fuel on the fire of fear and hate, and beat Jimmy in doing so. But that did not matter; Jimmy Morrison knew he was on the side of righteousness, not political expediency. History should remember his courage.

I would ask my colleagues to join me in honoring James H. Morrison, a good, decent, courageous public servant who should be remembered both for his accomplishments and the example he set.

Those were the comments, as I said, Mr. Speaker, of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BAKER) joins me in this special order, and he is here with us on the floor. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as a recent high school graduate many, many years ago, I had the occasion to open my mail and there in the mailbox was a letter from my Congressman. I was so shocked to think that he first knew that I had graduated high school and that he would send me such a nice congratulatory note.

Many years later, I was at the dedication of a new building project in the congressional district and in the audience was Congressman Jimmy Morrison. And I reminded him of his kind act

of courtesy in sending me this congratulatory letter in which he not only said "Congratulations on your fine academic achievement. But should you ever have occasion to come to Washington, I certainly want to invite you."

In that context, I extended my appreciation for that offer and accepted his kind invitation to come to Congress.

Congressman Jimmy Morrison was more than just a good political figure. He had exemplary courage. In fact, he was a leader in the civil rights fights of the 1960s. And many believe it was his belief and conviction in the action of civil rights that brought his long and distinguished congressional career to an end.

But it was also exemplary of the core of what Congressman Morrison's strengths really were. He was a courageous person. Serving in office from 1943 to 1967, he was never afraid to take a stand whether controversial or not.

Many might say about many Louisiana politicians that at times they can be flamboyant. Certainly Congressman Morrison was no exception to that observation. But throughout it all, he was a leader. He is a leader who is known in the State for his accomplishments but also as a political legend. But he is known as a legend for all the right reasons.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we will all remember Congressman Morrison very fondly, very proudly for his contributions not only to his part of Louisiana, to our home State, but to the Congress and to the country.

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FUNDING FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 50 minutes.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, we rise here today to state and restate a goal that we had set several years ago to attempt to and to succeed in doubling the funding for NIH, the National Institutes of Health, over a 5-year period. This was 3 years ago.

We began that by introducing a resolution to that effect and gathering sponsorship. And lo and behold, the first 3 years have yielded the steady advance toward that doubling of funding that we so earnestly felt was necessary for the people of our country.

Today, as we stand here, the Congress is poised to do the third leg of that doubling process down the road by engaging in a conference report between the House and the Senate in which the top figure, that contained in the Senate, \$2.7 billion, or thereabout, would be exactly the amount required to keep us on the path towards the doubling of the funding.

We anticipate that Members of the House and the Senate will eventually support that final figure that will keep us on this track.

But why is this important? It is important not just for the sake of the money required to keep an enterprise moving, but the work of that enterprise will be to relieve pain, to relieve suffering, to prevent disease, to cure disease. Because that is what the business of the NIH is, to reach out and, through research and through efforts in the world of medicine and healthcare, to bring about breakthroughs in the various maladies that face the people of the Earth.

We have seen evidence over the last 10 years of tremendous breakthroughs and advances in Parkinson's disease, in women's breast cancer, in other types of cancer, in Alzheimer's disease, in many of the things that plague us and for which there is sometimes said to be no cure. And that is true, but we do not know how soon we could reach a point where we might develop a cure.

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But the point is that is the purpose of the increased funding for the NIH. Along the way, then, we in this Congress submitted a similar resolution, H. Res. 437, which does the very same thing. \$2.7 billion is our target. We are short of that in the House, but as I said the conference report will probably yield assent by the Congress to this third leg of the doubling effort about which we speak. We have ample documentation and evidence from other Members of Congress and people throughout the Nation that there is gigantic support for this particular effort.

Mr. Speaker, I want to enter into the RECORD my own statement in this regard, a copy of H. Res. 437, various Dear Colleague letters that speak on the subject, a list of cosponsors of the effort, and also letters of support, some dozen of them.

H. RES. 437

Whereas past Federal investment in biomedical research has resulted in better health, an improved quality of life for all Americans, and a reduction in national health care expenditures;

Whereas the Nation's commitment to biomedical research has expanded the base of scientific knowledge about health and disease, and revolutionized the practice of medicine;

Whereas the Federal Government is the single largest contributor to biomedical research conducted in the United States;

Whereas biomedical research continues to play a vital role in the growth of this Nation's biotechnology, medical device, and pharmaceutical industries;

Whereas the origin of many new drugs and medical devices currently in use is biomedical research supported by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas women have traditionally been underrepresented in medical research protocols, yet are severely affected by diseases including breast cancer, which will kill over 43,300 women this year; ovarian cancer, which will kill 14,500; and osteoporosis and cardiovascular disorders;

Whereas research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health is responsible for the identification of genetic mutations relating to nearly 100 diseases, including Alz-

heimer's disease, cystic fibrosis, Huntington's disease, osteoporosis, many forms of cancer, and immunodeficiency disorders;

Whereas many Americans face serious and life-threatening health problems, both acute and chronic;

Whereas neurodegenerative diseases of the elderly, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, threaten to destroy the lives of millions of Americans, overwhelm the Nation's health care system, and bankrupt the Medicare and Medicaid programs;

Whereas 2.7 million Americans are currently infected with the hepatitis C virus, an insidious liver condition that can lead to inflammation, cirrhosis, and cancer as well as liver failure;

Whereas 297,000 Americans are now suffering from AIDS, and hundreds of thousands more are infected with HIV;

Whereas cancer remains a comprehensive threat to any tissue or organ of the body at any age, and remains a top cause of morbidity and mortality;

Whereas the extent of psychiatric and neurological diseases poses considerable challenges in understanding the workings of the brain and nervous system;

Whereas recent advances in the treatment of HIV illustrate the promise research holds for even more effective, accessible, and affordable treatments for persons with HIV;

Whereas infants and children are the hope of our future, yet they continue to be the most vulnerable and underserved members of our society;

Whereas approximately one out of every six American men will develop prostate cancer and over 40,000 men will die from prostate cancer each year;

Whereas juvenile diabetes and diabetes, both insulin and non-insulin forms, afflict 16 million Americans and place them at risk for acute and chronic complications, including blindness, kidney failure, atherosclerosis, and nerve degeneration;

Whereas the emerging understanding of the principles of biometrics have been applied to the development of hard tissue such as bone and teeth as well as soft tissue, and this field of study holds great promise for the design of new classes of biomaterials, pharmaceuticals, and diagnostic and analytical reagents;

Whereas research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health will map and sequence the entire human genome by 2003, leading to a new era of molecular medicine that will provide unprecedented opportunities for the prevention, diagnoses, treatment, and cure of diseases that currently plague society;

Whereas the fundamental way science is conducted is changing at a revolutionary pace, demanding a far greater investment in emerging new technologies, research training programs, and development of new skills among scientific investigators; and

Whereas most Americans overwhelmingly support an increased Federal investment in biomedical research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Biomedical Revitalization Resolution of 2000".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

It is the sense of the House of Representatives that funding for the National Institutes of Health should be increased by \$2,700,000,000 in fiscal year 2001 and that the budget resolution should appropriately reflect sufficient funds to achieve this objective.