

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

July 26, 2000.

SITE AND DESIGN: UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE, EL PASO, TEXAS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to Section 7 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, (40 U.S.C. §606), appropriations are authorized for acquisition of a site and the design for the construction of a 221,613 gross square foot United States courthouse, including 60 inside parking spaces, located in El Paso, Texas, at a site cost of \$4,120,000 and design and review cost of \$4,353,000, for a combined cost of \$8,473,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

July 26, 2000.

SITE AND DESIGN: UNITED STATES
COURTHOUSE, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to Section 7 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, (40 U.S.C. §606), appropriations are authorized for acquisition of a site and the design for the alteration of the existing courthouse and construction of an annex for a 399,394 gross square foot United States courthouse, including 47 inside parking spaces, located in Norfolk, Virginia, at a site cost and utility relocation of \$5,787,000 and design and review cost of \$4,806,000, for a combined cost of \$10,593,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That any design shall, to the maximum extent possible incorporate shared or collegial space, consistent with efficient court operations that will minimize the size and cost of the building to be constructed.

Provided further, That any design shall incorporate changes in the 1997 United States Courts Design Guide, including the implementation of a policy on shared courtrooms.

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

July 26, 2000.

CONSTRUCTION: UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE,
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to Section 7 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, (40 U.S.C. §606), appropriations are authorized for the alteration of the existing courthouse and construction of an annex for a 134,794 gross square foot United States courthouse complex, including 18 inside parking spaces, located in Erie, Pennsylvania, at an additional design cost of \$121,000, a management and inspection cost of \$1,764,000, and estimated construction cost of \$25,084,000 for a combined cost of \$26,969,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included, in this resolution.

Provided, That the construction of this project does not exceed construction benchmarks as established by the General Services Administration.

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

July 26, 2000.

CONSTRUCTION: UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE,
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to Section 7 of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, (40 U.S.C. §606), appropriations are authorized for the construction of a 428,376 gross square foot United States courthouse including 112 inside parking spaces, located in Fresno, California, at an additional design cost of \$820,000, at a management and inspection cost of \$4,596,000, and estimated construction cost of \$107,141,000 for a combined cost of \$112,557,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, That the construction of this project does not exceed construction benchmarks as established by the General Services Administration.

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

July 26, 2000.

There was no objection.

NEVADA'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN WILL WORK

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, last week Vice President GORE criticized the State of Nevada for its innovative prescription drug plan for seniors.

Mr. GORE said it would not work. Mr. GORE said it was a complete failure. He also said insurance companies would not participate.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respectfully say that Mr. GORE's statements about Nevada's prescription drug plan were false and misleading, and Mr. GORE should apologize to the hard-working people of Nevada.

At least five insurance companies have asked to serve as the vendor for the State's program. The State of Nevada will provide the selected insurance company with help and, in turn, Nevada's low-income seniors will truly benefit from reduced prescription costs, starting next year.

Providing an insurance-based prescription drug benefit can work and Nevada is leading the way. It is time to get Washington, D.C. out of the medicine cabinets of American seniors. It is time to follow Nevada's lead and provide a voluntary, flexible, and affordable prescription drug plan under Medicare.

INDONESIAN MILITIAS KILL U.N. STAFF IN WEST TIMOR

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, in 1999, militias, armed and supported by the Indonesian military, rampaged through East Timor because the people of East Timor voted for freedom and independence.

One year later, the militias are on the rampage again. Today, pro-Indo-

nesia militias killed at least three United Nations refugee workers in West Timor.

Over 100,000 refugees from East Timor remain trapped in squalid refugee camps in West Timor, under the control of the militias. These U.N. workers were providing much-needed relief to these refugees.

Let me tell my colleagues how they died. A mob of thousands of militiamen, wielding machetes and rifles stormed the U.N. headquarters in West Timor. The militias stabbed their victims to death, dragged their bodies into the street, and then set them on fire.

President Clinton must condemn these brutal murders and demand the Indonesian government disarm and disband the militias and ensure the safe return of the refugees to East Timor.

Finally, the United States must maintain the suspension of all U.S. military aid and relations with the Indonesian military until this has been accomplished.

The murder and mayhem in West Timor must stop today.

THE FIRST CONGRESS OPENED WITH PRAYER

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, on this day, September 6, 1774, 226 years ago, the first Congress assembled in Philadelphia. According to the Records of Congress, Congress established two important precedents on that day. First, rules of governing its procedures; and, second, it decided to open its sessions with prayer.

John Adams provided the details on that second decision, reporting that "When Congress first met, Mr. Cushing made a motion that it should be opened in prayer. It was opposed by one or two, because we were so divided in religious sentiment that we could not agree on the same act of worship. Mr. Samuel Adams rose and said, 'He was no bigot, and could hear a prayer from a gentleman of piety and virtue, who was at the same time a friend to his country, and therefore he moved that Mr. Duche, an Episcopalian clergyman, might be desired to read prayers to the Congress tomorrow morning.' The motion was seconded and passed in the affirmative."

Interestingly, although objections were raised against public prayers two centuries ago, Congress quickly learned that prayer was a unifying rather than a dividing force. Now, two centuries later, we still benefit from what they learned 226 years ago today.

TAKE HEED REGARDING ELECTRIC UTILITY DEREGULATION

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I returned home, like all of my colleagues, to my district in August. And what did I find in my hometown of San Diego? In a word, disaster.

San Diego is the first area of California to fully deregulate its electrical utility industry. The result is that in just 3 months the double and tripling of electrical rates by the price-gouging electrical generators; seniors on fixed incomes wondering whether to turn up their air conditioning or pay for their medicines; small businesses wondering how long they can hold out; hospitals, libraries, youth centers, schools, the military, all their budgets thrown into turmoil.

While the State legislature has just administered a Band-Aid to stop the bleeding, we need stronger and longer-lasting action. I am asking the House today to pass legislation to roll back the wholesale rates for electricity in the western region and roll those back retroactively. Those who have gouged our consumers for more than \$350 million in the last 3 months should pay the bill for their actions.

We need to take this action now. So, my colleagues, welcome back, but look closely at San Diego. We are the poster children for the nation. Many of my colleagues have deregulation bills in their States and we have deregulation bills on our floor. Deregulation cannot work when the basic commodity is controlled by monopolies. Take heed, Congress.

DEATH TAX OVERRIDE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, author Pearl S. Buck once wrote, "Our society must make it right and possible for old people not to fear the young or to be deserted by them, for the test of a civilization is the way that it cares for its helpless members." Yet our Nation's tax policies do desert the elderly.

The IRS bureaucrats tax seniors who work, scrimp, and save all their lives to build a business or a family farm. Their property and profits are taxed yearly. They even pay taxes on their employees. And what is the result? Upon the death of the owner, a successful business is hit with a death tax of up to 55 percent of the business' worth. Most family businesses cannot survive such crippling taxes, and families are forced to sell.

The death tax is uncivilized. Let us override the Clinton veto of the death tax.

CONGRESS SHOULD LOOK INTO CHINESE MONEY LAUNDERING SCHEME AND ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REFUSAL TO INVESTIGATE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, something stinks. First it was the Chinese general, then it was the Chinese Communist party, and then along came another 96 Chinese nationals. And they all had one thing in common: They all made illegal contributions to the Democratic National Committee.

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And after all that, the Justice Department said no investigation is warranted.

Now, if that was not enough to tip off Barney Fife, my colleagues, task force chairmen LaBella and Conrad and FBI Director Louis Freeh all recommended an independent counsel for the matter and Janet Reno said no. She said no three times, my colleagues.

Beam me up.

Janet Reno has betrayed America.

Congress should demand immediately an investigation into both this Chinese money laundry business and, number two, Janet Reno.

I yield back the statement of the CIA that, as we speak, Chinese missiles are pointed at us.

ESTATE TAX

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, when I was a young lad, I grew up successfully in two different farming villages. One had 800 occupants. Another had 200. And I became acquainted with the work of the farmers. They work very, very hard. They struggle to build their farms. They reinvest in their farms. And when they die, they want to leave it to their children.

But unfortunately, because of something called the death tax, established in order to finance World War I, they frequently are not able to leave that farm to their children.

The death tax can be as high as 55 or 60 percent. They simply cannot afford to pay the tax in order to keep the farm. They do not have the cash. Their money is tied up in the land.

We passed a bill in the House and the Senate to get rid of the death tax. The President vetoed that plan. He and the Democrats in this Chamber argue that this is a tax cut for the rich. They should go talk to some farmers. They will find out they are not rich. Their money is tied up in the land. It is not in their wallets.

I urge that we override the President's veto and make things right for these people.

The rich escape the estate tax. They have attorneys who show them all the ways to get rid of it. The farmers cannot afford to hire those attorneys.

I urge an override of the veto.

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today on my continued effort to bring to the attention of this House my deepest concern for the American families destroyed by cases of international child abduction.

Today I will share with my colleagues the story of Ms. Ildiko Gerbatsch and her two daughters, Naomi, 13, and Isabelle, 10.

In the summer of 1997, Naomi and Isabelle visited their father in Germany. At the end of the children's visit, their father failed to return them to their mother in the United States. After 3 years of legal disputes costing close to \$100,000 in legal fees, the mother now has full custody of both children, but only on paper.

Ms. Gerbatsch has only been allowed to visit with Naomi and Isabelle on three occasions. She has been mistreated by the German courts, who have failed to comply with the Hague Treaty.

Madam Speaker, I come to the floor for these daily 1-minutes because I care about families and reuniting children and parents. Let us make it our duty to place pressure on countries who are Hague signatories and who choose not to abide by that agreement.

I urge my colleagues to join me in spreading the message and taking a responsible role in bringing our children home.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY AND IMPROVING EDUCATION IN AMERICA

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, over the last month, I held many town hall meetings, meetings with constituents across the 7th Congressional District of Michigan.

Two priority issues that seem to come from those meetings as a message to me to bring back to Washington was making sure we save Social Security, not only a concern of the seniors but a concern of their kids and their grandkids.

Secondly was somehow doing a better job to improve education to make sure every child has the opportunity to learn to their maximum potential.

So I challenge myself and I challenge my colleagues to give education a top priority, to get the money out of Washington and into the district.

In terms of Social Security, we must have provisions that make sure that that generation that works so hard, that did so much, that sacrificed, that saved string, that saved tinfoil are not deprived of the Social Security that they have been promised by this Congress. Let us make that effort.