

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5005) to establish the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes:

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Chairman, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, provides critical training for a range of federal law enforcement personnel as well as state, local, foreign, and private sector security personnel. I want to associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON, who has so effectively lead the effort to ensure that FLETC has adequate resources and support to continue to do its job so well.

In the war on terrorism, FLETC's role will become even more important. Training at the center has grown significantly since it first opened in 1970 and now serves the training needs of over 70 federal agencies in all three branches of government with 25 thousand graduates annually. The proposal we are discussing today will put nine law enforcement and security functions in the Department of Homeland Security. FLETC trains security personnel in each of these agencies and through its well-established network offers a unique training resource to all levels of federal, state, and local law enforcement. Newer roles for FLETC include training our air marshals and, hopefully, our pilots to provide an additional layer of aviation security.

I strongly support the Kingston amendment. We need to ensure that we have a robust law enforcement and security force that can effectively provide security for our nation. The men and women who conduct this critical training at FLETC are an integral part of our national security. While the bill transfers FLETC to the Department of Justice, this important amendment will ensure that we minimize the impact to its operations as much as possible and allow the important work taking place at FLETC to continue. I hope that my colleagues will join us in doing all we can to enhance the ability of FLETC to quickly and flexibly respond to the new training demands of the war on terrorism.

HONORING THE FOUNTAIN OF PRAISE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the members of the congregation of the Fountain of Praise, of the South Post Oak Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, for celebrating the dedication of their new church facility on July 28, 2002. The Fountain of Praise family has been a pillar of the community, effectively ministering to its members for more than four decades.

South Post Oak Baptist Church was organized October 4, 1959 as a separate entity of

Almeda Baptist Church and was incorporated in 1961. From its humble beginnings, the church has been a viable point of spiritual reference for the community. Under the leadership of Rev. Remus E. Wright, the membership of the church has grown rapidly, from 300 in 1991 to more than 6,500 members in eleven years, making it the fastest growing church in southwest Texas.

In 1998, South Post Oak Baptist Church purchased 19 acres of land in preparation of their next phase of ministry. The new facility will accommodate more than 2,400 parishioners per service and will host a number of programs aimed at developing a strong spiritual foundation for its members and visiting guests.

In 2000, the members of South Post Oak adopted the name, the Foundation of Praise as a reflection of their commitment to God and their love of worship. The Church's focus has been on building stronger the families; the responsibilities of men; fulfilling the needs of our senior citizens; and uplifting youth. The Foundation of Praise is a catalytic force, which seeks to empower both its members and the surrounding community through numerous ministries, and community service projects, such as, capital improvement projects, food drives, and neighborhood cleanups. In the wake of one of Texas' most devastating natural disasters, the Fountain of Praise family opened its doors to their neighbors who fell victim to Tropical Storm Allison. Without hesitation they allowed the church facilities to become a satellite office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that area residents devastated by the event could get the relief they needed. Other times the church has opened its doors for the community's use such as the many town hall meetings my office has conducted. The tremendous strength of Rev. Wright and South Post Oak's leadership over the years is a testimony to the success of their efforts to address the needs of the congregation and surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that a congregation is only as effective as its leader, the Foundation of Praise serves as a symbol of strength in the Greater Houston community, under the leadership of Rev. Remus Wright. Rev. Wright has proven to be one of the most dynamic young preachers in Houston, who will leave a long legacy in the development of Southwest Houston in the name of his congregation and his faith. Since its beginnings four decades ago through the last 10 years of unprecedented growth, the Fountain of Praise should be commended for its dedication to God and commitment to the needs of its congregation and surrounding community.

CELEBRATING THE 12TH YEAR OF THE ADA

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today Americans throughout the country will celebrate the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The landmark 1990 civil rights law for people with disabilities.

The disability community will come together in our Nation's Capital to pay tribute and cele-

brate the life of Justin Dart Jr., one of the fathers of the ADA. Justin Dart passed away on June 22nd at the age of 71.

As founder and Co-chair of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus this celebration of the ADA makes me proud to be an American. It was one of my proudest moments as a Member of the U.S. Congress to be at the White House 12 years ago and see President Bush sign the ADA into law.

President Bush said it best at the signing of ADA, he said:

"This Act is powerful in its simplicity. It will ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which they have worked so long and so hard. Independence, freedom of choice, control of their lives, the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the right mosaic of the American mainstream."

It was a defining moment to hear President Bush proclaim "I now lift my pen to sign the Americans with Disabilities Act and say, let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down".

Justin Dart was right by the President's side.

Mr. Speaker, Justin Dart Jr. was an activist who for more than three decades worked to champion the cause of people with disabilities. For his tireless efforts, In 1998 Justin Dart was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I believe that it is only fitting that Congress honor this civil rights activist with the Congressional Gold Medal, this is why I have introduced H.R. 5188.

Let Congress, too, celebrate the life and death of Justin Dart; let Congress reaffirm its commitment to the civil rights of all Americans with disabilities, by honoring this true American hero with the Congressional Gold Medal, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 5188.

A WARRIOR IS GONE, BUT STILL LIVES: A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE CARL WALKER, JR.

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am touched and honored to have the opportunity to be on the floor today to celebrate and remember the life of Judge Carl Walker, Jr. of my hometown Houston, Texas. Judge Walker, Jr. passed away last week, leaving behind a loving wife and a host of bereaved relatives and friends. We have all lost enormously with the passing of this great warrior in the struggle for justice. Through his example, he exalted all of us to be unrelenting as we strive for excellence, justice, and fairness.

I knew Judge Walker very well and admired his dedication and perseverance in the face of great odds. It brought me great sadness to hear of his death. I stand before you today to give public acknowledgement and offer a heartfelt commemoration of the achievements of this eloquent, fearless and peerless man.

Carl Walker, Jr. was born in Marlin Falls County, Texas. After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in Houston, TX, he was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Force in 1943. He received an honorable discharge in 1946, and used his G.I. Bill to enter Texas

Southern University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree and later earned a Master's degree in economics in 1952.

His pinnacle academic achievement came when he earned a law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, at Texas Southern University.

This degree led him to blaze the trail and knock down doors for those of us who would follow. His law degree allowed him to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney appointed by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Marking yet another first, Judge Walker was the first African-American U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas.

When not busy upholding the law, the Honorable Carl Walker, Jr. was involved in a number of civic and religious organizations in Houston, Texas.

He held positions with the Civic League, Eldorado Social Club, and the South Central YMCA Board of Managers. Mr. Walker served as President of the Harris County Council of Organizations, the Houston Chapter of the U.S.O., the Texas Southern University Alumni and Ex-Students Associations, and the Houston Business and Professional Men's Club. He also served on the board of directors of the American Red Cross.

He had a number of professional affiliations including the United States Supreme Court, the Houston Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation, the United States Tax Court, Federal Bar Association, Fifth Circuit of Appeals, and the Texas Judicial Association.

I was humbled by an invitation to give a special tribute to Carl Walker, Jr. at his passing. I hold our men and women who have used their lives to better our country in the highest regard and take great pride in commemorating the extraordinary life of the Honorable Carl Walker Jr. It is because of Carl Walker's good works that not only the Congressional District but all of Houston and America could have an improved quality of life. He was a tremendous moral force who will be sorely missed as we look to his example in the struggle for justice and integrity in our country today.

A BILL FOR EXTERNAL REGULATION OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AT DOE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that provides for the external regulation of nuclear safety and occupational safety and health at the Department of Energy civilian laboratories. This bill, which draws from the work of my friends and colleagues Congressman TIM ROEMER, Congressman KEN CALVERT and former Congressman TOM BLILEY, would push the Department of Energy to take a step that virtually everyone agrees is overdue: get the Department of Energy out of the business of regulating itself in the areas of nuclear and worker safety.

Discussion of external regulation at the labs is an old idea. It received an official boost in 1993 when then Secretary of Energy Hazel

O'Leary announced that she would seek to implement external regulation of worker safety. Then, in 1994, legislation was introduced forcing DOE to stop self regulating their nuclear facilities. DOE responded to these legislative initiatives by launching advisory groups to lay out a path to external regulation. In 1996, DOE embraced a ten-year plan to implement external regulation.

For many outside of the Department, this ten-year plan appeared too cautious. However, to those in the Department, it appeared too ambitious. In 1997, then Secretary Pena decided to take a step away from that commitment and run a 2-year pilot program to determine the costs and benefits of external regulation. With the end of that pilot program, Secretary Pena's successor, Secretary Richardson, decided that external regulation would be unworkable.

Curiously, the two participating regulatory agencies involved in the pilot came to a very different conclusion. Both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) concluded the pilot to have been successful. I was the ranking member on the Energy Subcommittee of the Science Committee when the pilot was completed and we had an elaborate hearing on this issue. I came away convinced that while there were some questions about implementation, the overwhelming evidence was that external regulation would provide more safety to workers and communities near labs while allowing the labs themselves to focus more on the science and technology.

It is for this reason that laboratory managers also favor external regulation. They believe that external regulation would free up overhead costs involved in self-regulation and allow them to redirect resources towards doing more science. From the labs' perspectives DOE is an inconstant regulator with changes in standards, reporting requirements, and interventions. The NRC and OSHA are both professional regulatory bodies that provide a clearer regulatory regime with significant cost savings to those subject to their regulatory guidance.

Recently, the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee here in the House has taken a leading role in pushing the Department towards external regulation. Yet, the Department continues to resist external regulation. Just yesterday, the Energy Subcommittee of Science held a hearing in which the Director of the Office of Science said they are moving towards another study of external regulation. They are planning an elaborate study involving OSHA and NRC with preliminary results due next year. After nine years of studying this issue, we already know that external regulation is the right answer; yet, DOE insists that another study is needed.

There is a consensus everywhere outside of DOE that the labs should be subject to external regulation. GAO holds that position. The Labs hold that position. The potential regulators hold that position. I believe the workers, the communities near the labs and the taxpayers all deserve to see this happen sooner rather than later. As a Member of the Science Committee—an authorizing Committee of jurisdiction—this bill is intended as another signal to DOE that foot-dragging and endless studies will not satisfy this Congress.

H.R. 3763, THE CORPORATE AND AUDITING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report on H.R. 3763. I would like to commend the hard work of the conferees on this critically important legislation. The recent string of accounting scandals has badly damaged the confidence of many Americans in our nation's corporations and markets. This legislation is a strong step toward restoring their confidence and stabilizing our nation's economy.

It seems like every day we hear a new story of executives who misled their investors and their workers and stole millions of dollars. These executives are called irresponsible; they are accused of mismanagement or unorthodox business practices. But these corporate leaders aren't unorthodox; they are criminals, plain and simple. They have stolen more money than any thieves I've ever heard of, and their crimes have real victims.

The victims of these corporate crimes are workers, like the workers at Enron who just wanted an honest job with a fair expectation of job security. For all their hard work, these workers got 10 minutes to clear out their desks. In some cases they were even denied their severance packages if they refused to sign documents giving up the right to sue Enron for defrauding them. Defrauding workers and forcing them to give up their legal rights isn't irresponsibility; it is a crime.

Even workers who never had anything to do with Enron were hurt by the collapse of that company. As Enron declared bankruptcy, public employees in 30 states lost anywhere from \$1.5 billion to \$10 billion from their pension plans. Stealing money from public employee pension plans is not irresponsibility; it is a crime.

Even those of us who had absolutely nothing to do with the Enrons or Worldcoms of the world are hurt by corporate crime. The unethical behavior of the executives at Worldcom, which was recently forced to admit it had invented \$3.8 billion in earnings, has had a devastating effect on that company's stock price. But the stock market as a whole has also suffered from the lack of confidence created by widespread corporate abuse. Less than 3 percent of all publicly traded companies misstate their earnings, but this small group casts doubt on the statements of other, more ethical businesses.

A free-market system cannot function if investors do not trust executives, and therefore the crimes of Worldcom and Enron are crimes not only against their stockholders, but against the very system that allowed these companies to flourish.

Even after the collapse of Enron and the exposure of billions in fake earnings at Worldcom, many in Congress were working to protect their corporate patrons from any real accountability. The initial House-passed version of this legislation, sponsored by Mr. OXLEY, did nothing to protect against corporate abuse and bring back public confidence in corporate governance. In some cases, the