

LETTER FROM MICHAEL
HAYHURST, PARTNER IN BOISE,
IDAHO, OFFICE OF ARTHUR AN-
DERSEN

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place into the public record the views of my constituent, Michael Hayhurst of Boise, Idaho. Michael is a partner in the Boise office of Arthur Andersen and is deeply concerned for the future of his firm and the well being of his fellow employees and their families. I urge the Administration and others who are pursuing the wrongdoers in the Enron collapse to remember that all of their actions impact the innocent as well. It is my fervent hope that a just settlement can be found that will ensure that the guilty are adequately punished, retirees are protected, and innocent men and women can maintain their jobs and careers.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN, LLP,
Boise, ID, March 15, 2002.

U.S. Rep. BUTCH OTTER,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE BUTCH OTTER:
As one of your constituents, I would like you to consider the following:

I am a partner of the Boise office of Arthur Andersen. I was admitted to the partnership on September 1, 2001 (last fall) and find it necessary to provide information to you about our Firm's current situation and myself.

I was born and raised in Idaho. I grew up in American Falls—a town of 3,000 people, just west of Pocatello. As one would expect for an accountant, I was somewhat of a bookworm and did not participate much in the party scene in school. I was, however, able to maintain a 4.0 GPA (there was no extra credit for college prep courses at that time) and graduate as a co-valedictorian of the class of 1984. As an aside, I am also an Eagle Scout.

I attended Idaho State University for my higher education and graduated in 1990 with a double major in accounting and finance. My college time was extended as I received a Rotary scholarship to study in Australia between my junior and senior year. Throughout college, I maintained a 3.93 GPA and attained the highest score in the state of Idaho on the CPA exam for individuals sitting for the exam the spring of 1990.

I started my career with Arthur Andersen June 3, 1990. I was, and still am, very proud to be able to work with as fine of people as I have had the opportunity to work with over the last 11 years with Arthur Andersen. I also am very proud of the history and the culture of our firm. The coordinated attack on our name and our people by congress and the media does not do justice to, or represent the true side of my firm or the 85,000 outstanding individuals in my firm (28 thousand of whom are located in the United States).

The rules we operate under have gotten increasingly complex since I started with the Firm. This includes both the accounting rules under which our clients are required to report financial information and the auditing rules and standards under which we attempt to provide reasonable assurance that those financial statements are materially correct. I will not bore you with the details, but I can assure you that I have spent and continue to spend a significant amount of my time staying up-to-date on these rules and that I come to work every day with

nothing but the intention of doing what is right. I always strive to do the best job that I can, for my Firm, my clients and the users of their financial statements.

Also over the last eleven years, I have become increasingly involved in the community of which I am a part. I am currently acting as the Treasurer of Funds, Inc., the Ore-Ida Council of Boy Scouts and the Boise River Festival. Not only do I commit a significant amount of time to these activities (much of which is during my workday and using Firm resources—our culture has always been to give back to our communities, which the Firm wholeheartedly supports with monetary and other resources for our people) but I also contribute monetarily to these and other civic causes in the community.

After being with Anderson for one year, I met an R.N. working for St. Luke's RMC and we were married one year later. We now have two children. My oldest son is five and will be starting kindergarten next fall. He is in swimming lessons at the local Y and this spring and summer will participate in Y-Ball (basketball) and T-Ball. My youngest son is three and will begin preschool next fall. We just found out that our youngest son has amblyopia. He will now be wearing glasses and may have to patch his eye after the next visit to the optometrist. My wife still works as an R.N. and somehow finds time to keep all of the men in her life under some semblance of control.

I am trying to put a face on Arthur Andersen for you, my representatives to our government, so that you understand that Andersen is made up of people. The abridged story above plays itself out 40 times, the number of professionals we have in our Boise office, locally and over 28 thousand times in communities across the United States. All of us are individuals at various stages in our careers. Over 99% of our professionals in the United States have never worked on, or had anything to do with, the Enron audit.

As I signed my Partner Agreement on September 1, I have had to come to the realization that the loan I took out at that time to provide my capital contribution to the Firm will likely not be repaid from funds out of my capital account, I can live with that. What I cannot live with is the potential impact that the Department of Justice's position will have on my people in this office. This is not "justice" and has prompted me to write to you. I am an American and as we have all seen after the events of September 11, we can only be unjustly beaten down and pushed around so long before we find ourselves in a position of having to fight back.

Our position is that we are not guilty, therefore we will not plead guilty. Also, we believe that a fair reading of the facts is summarized in the attached letter and our law firm's report on its investigation into the document destruction matter would lead anyone to the conclusion that this indictment, and the manner in which it is being pursued, is nothing but a gross abuse of power that is being orchestrated for political reasons.

Normally, I would say, "let the courts decide." However, the risk of enforcing a death sentence on over 86,000 careers (28,000 in the U.S.)—which has been amply pointed out in the media—without ever having the opportunity for this to reach a free hearing in trial, along with the fact that we have been completely forthcoming and cooperative throughout this process and that we have agreed to significant changes without the enforcement of criminal charges, makes this an unconscionable act by my government's officials.

Please take the time to read the following information. I would be happy to answer any

questions you may have or provide additional information if necessary. You may reach me at 208-387-4029.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL L. HAYHURST.

VETERANS' MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION ACT OF 2002

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, today I and Ranking Democratic Member, Mr. FILNER of California, introduce a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to complete ten construction projects to improve, renovate, and update Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country.

These older VA medical centers are in dire need of repair, and our veterans need and deserve quality health care in modern, well maintained, and safe buildings. The Veterans' Major Medical Facilities Construction Act is an important step that would provide authority to the Secretary to move forward on VA's highest construction priorities without further delay. The bill authorizes appropriations for each project, and limits each project to not exceed the level authorized. The total amount authorized for these projects is \$285 million. The House VA Health Subcommittee will hold a hearing on this proposal on April 24th.

The VA medical facilities receiving seismic upgrades and corrections or seismic bracing and anchorage of non-structural items include facilities in Palo Alto, San Francisco, West Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego, California. These upgrades will bring each facility into conformance with current VA seismic standards. Completion of these construction projects will eliminate significant safety risks.

Cleveland, Ohio's VA medical facility's mechanical and electrical systems will be replaced. Installed in 1961, they are in dire need of attention. Anchorage, Alaska's project involves the construction of a new combined Veterans Affairs Department of Defense facility, which will help address the workload and provide space for additional personnel. This project reflects our interest in having these two departments share health resources under Public Law 97-174, the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operations Act. The VA Medical Center in West Haven, Connecticut will see a variety of improvements: renovations to inpatient wards to correct patient privacy inadequacies, consolidation of support services, and corrections to deficiencies in air quality, ADA accessibility, and the general safety of patients and staff.

The construction project for the VA medical facility in Tampa, Florida will relocate three Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) inpatient wards and ancillary support functions to the new SCI building just dedicated in February 2002. This will allow for more space and further expansion of the facility.

The authorization level of \$285 million is included in the resolution on the budget approved by the House on March 20, 2002. Mr.

Speaker, I am very pleased and encouraged that the budget resolution the House approved included the funding necessary for this bill. I especially want to thank the Budget Committee Chairman, Mr. NUSSLE, and the Ranking Member, Mr. SPRATT, for their understanding and support of these critical construction needs in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor and favorably consider this measure to improve the hospitals and clinics in which veterans receive their health care. We have no greater responsibility than to ensure VA facilities are safe and up-to-date. This bill will aid us in that effort and I am proud to introduce it and urge its early passage.

NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED SITES

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, Native American sacred lands are under attack as never before in this country and we must work together and be willing to put teeth into legislation to protect these lands once and for all.

The Native Hawaiians in my district are very spiritual and instinctively honor that which we receive from nature. Indeed the goddess of fire, "Pele" working through the volcanoes created most of the great State of Hawaii. She is still very active and very honored.

There are specific areas in my state which are sacred to the Native Hawaiians. Although the areas do not have a large steeple or white-washed fence around them, they none-

theless deserve to be respected and protected.

We have begun remediation on the sacred island of Kahoolawe and protected it from further destruction as a military bombing range. But there is so much more to be done.

The problem is that we have a few laws that dance around the idea of protecting native sacred lands which use words like "consultation" or "accommodate" but are inadequate to simply stop potential desecration.

Occasionally, we are able to stop the mining of one sacred site, or the demolition of another. But the time has come for Congress to enact strong legislation to protect Native American sacred lands.

HONORING REVEREND ROBERT R. BLYTHE FOR HIS SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Reverend Robert R. Blythe for his life-long commitment to the educational and spiritual development of residents in Richmond, Kentucky and the surrounding communities.

Born and raised in Richmond, Reverend Blythe is a shining product of the local public school system. He was educated in the Richmond School System before earning his bachelor's degree in math education at Eastern Kentucky University, where he was elected President of the class of 1971.

Following graduation, he went home to the local school system to begin his distinguished

teaching career. He was named the Jaycees Outstanding Young Educator in 1974, and he received the Jaycees Outstanding Young Man of America Award in both 1978 and in 1985.

In 1981, Reverend Blythe joined the First Baptist Church in Richmond as their Pastor; he was a worthy shepherd to lead the local flock. In 1986, he received his Master of Divinity with Pastoral Emphasis from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Reverend Blythe taught at Madison High School in Richmond and at Madison Southern High School in Berea as a mathematics and French instructor. He continues to educate Kentucky's future as a mathematics instructor at his alma mater, Eastern Kentucky University.

Reverend Blythe has had a significant impact on the Richmond community and its residents. He has served on the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, the Youth Leadership Madison County Advisory Committee and the Governor's Health Care Data Commission. He continues to serve as the President of the Madison County Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Blythe represents what is right about America. He demonstrates a willingness to sacrifice his own needs to foster and improve the lives of others. I am convinced that the lives of Central Kentucky residents have been and will continue to be blessed by Reverend Blythe's presence. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Blythe for his twenty years of service at the First Baptist Church and for his life-long service to the residents of Richmond, Kentucky.