

S. CON. RES. 160

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate adjourns at the close of business on any day from Wednesday, November 20, 2002 through Saturday, November 23, 2002, or from Monday, November 25, 2002, through Wednesday, November 27, 2002, or on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader, or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House of Representatives adjourns on any legislative day through the remainder of the second session of the One Hundred Seventh Congress on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and the House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each:

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL F. DiMARIO, 23RD PUBLIC PRINTER OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the 107th Congress draws to a close, I want to pay tribute to a great public servant and dear friend whose Government service is also now drawing to a close. Michael F. DiMario, the 23rd Public Printer of the United States, will soon retire from his post now that the Senate has confirmed his successor. Mike has served as Public Printer since November 1993, and he leaves the Government Printing Office a much different and better place than when he took office nine years ago.

Mike's achievements as Public Printer are numerous and represent a sea-change in the way GPO produces and distributes government information to the American people. Mike's preeminent achievement has been the establishment and phenomenal growth of GPO Access (www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess), the GPO website established pursuant to a landmark 1993 act of Congress passed with his enthusiastic support. GPO Access today makes about 225,000 Federal titles available on-line, free of charge, to anyone with a computer and access to the Internet. Members of the public today use GPO Access to retrieve an average of 31 million documents each

month, over a million every day; more than 1.1 billion Federal documents have been retrieved via GPO Access since it went live in 1994. The GPO site also serves as host to 19 other Federal websites, including the Supreme Court's, and the databases GPO prepares for GPO Access are indispensable to the Congress's prominent legislative website, THOMAS, which is operated by the Library of Congress. GPO Access was the primary site for several major Federal-document releases of the past decade, including the Microsoft anti-trust decision, the Supreme Court's decision in the Florida election cases, and the Starr Report, as well as all annual Federal budgets. GPO Access has won multiple awards from the on-line, library, legal, government, and educational communities, and will undoubtedly continue to revolutionize the distribution of government information.

During his service, DiMario also strongly supported and successfully implemented the Congress' policy decision to transition the Federal Depository Library Program to a primarily electronic format. He worked closely with the library community to implement this transition in a way that met Congress' goals of economy and efficiency while continuing to serve the needs of the public. Today, more than 60 percent of the new titles going into depository libraries are electronic, and the program has realized sufficient savings to underwrite the costs of GPO Access without requiring substantial new appropriations.

DiMario also brought other new technologies to GPO, streamlining its operations. Notable among these advances are the capacity to move print copy directly from computer to plate, which is now used to produce 90–95 percent of all plates used in GPO; rolled on-demand printing; and new, smaller, more efficient presses. DiMario also enhanced GPO's electronic communications capabilities through establishment of an agency web site to facilitate online posting of most bid solicitations for printing contracts, and an office-wide Intranet. Working closely with the House, Senate and other Federal agencies, DiMario oversaw the successful Y2K transition at GPO with no disruption of service. On his watch, In-Plant Graphics magazine chose GPO as the top in-plant in the country for four consecutive years, and in 1999, PC Week magazine hailed GPO as one of the top technology innovators in the United States. GPO has received "clean" financial opinions on all independent audits conducted during DiMario's tenure, and a comprehensive management audit in 1998 found that GPO has strong support among its "customers," i.e., the Congress, Federal agencies, and the public. During last year's anthrax crisis, DiMario offered GPO facilities for the use of various House and Senate offices, and he made available GPO's loading docks to the Capitol Police when Congress' own delivery-screening facilities were unusable. Since that time, he has worked to establish off-site printing and web capabilities to prevent disruptions of service in future emergencies.

Throughout his tenure, DiMario has strived to cut costs at GPO, and as a consequence, GPO's appropriations have remained relatively flat. Total personnel strength has declined by more than 35 percent since 1993, and now stands at the lowest level in over a century. It is a testament to Mike DiMario's leadership that he achieved the reduction through attrition with no significant workforce dislocation. Dur-

ing his tenure, DiMario worked closely with GPO's unions to reach reasonable wage contracts and ensure the successful implementation of new technology and new ways of doing things.

Through changing times, Mike stoutly defended the GPO against shortsighted proposals to reinvest or privatize its operations, regardless of their source. He clearly articulated how valuable GPO is to Congress's legislative operations, to the economical and effective procurement of printing for executive agencies, and to the public's ability to access Government information in a comprehensive, equitable manner. In the past several months, his defense of GPO against the ill-advised printing proposal of the Office of Management and Budget has been just as determined. The fact that GPO continues to operate today is due in no small part to the fact that Mike believes in the agency and never shirked from defending it when necessary.

Mike DiMario has had the 4th longest consecutive term of service as Public Printer since it began operations in 1861. He resides in Bowie, Maryland, so he's not just my friend, he's also my constituent. As Mike departs the GPO for a well-deserved retirement following 40 years of Federal service, I am sure my colleagues join me in wishing him good luck, Godspeed, and offering him the thanks of a grateful Nation for a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO HON. DAVID BONIOR OF MICHIGAN, AND ISSUES FOR THE 108TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we just finished, I think, a very necessary debate and discussion involving the Homeland Security Department but, as well, some of the ailments that we will be facing as this Congress returns in the 108th session.

Before I comment on some of the issues that I believe leave us in a state of unreadiness, I would like to take this opportunity as well to again thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), for the leadership that he has given to this Nation. I might say "to this Congress," but I believe his leadership goes far beyond these walls.

Having come in 1995, elected in 1994, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is the leadership that I knew, which, in essence, I grew up under, legislatively. If I might say, there was not a time, although his work was as the whip in organizing the votes, that he did not have a listening ear and welcoming of different perspectives, being courageous enough to recognize that we do not always speak in one voice. We speak as Americans, but we do not always speak in one voice.

So my applause to him for always being willing to be of service and, might I add, for the special work that he has been engaged in, and that is working to bring people together. I know he has a special connection to the Faith and Politics Institute, bringing individuals of faith and political

life together for the betterment of all of us. So I thank him very much.

It leads me right into the reason why I speak today, which is to highlight, as I said, the unreadiness of this Congress on a series of issues that I think are extremely important that we have not yet done.

I want us to move quickly in the 108th Congress to face down corporate irresponsibility and malfeasance. Yes, we have passed legislation dealing with the ability to audit the internal records of corporations, to fix the audit committees, to oversee accountants, but we have not done much reform on the bankruptcy laws that negatively impacted laid-off or terminated employees.

For example, in my congressional district, when Enron filed bankruptcy on Sunday, they laid off almost 5,000 employees on Monday. Those employees are still trying to recoup. They had nothing, and they lost everything. It is interesting that the corporation could go in and recover through the bankruptcy laws, but the employees had no standing.

I am looking to file legislation with my colleagues to reform the bankruptcy law to put unsecured, fired, or terminated employees of corporations who seek bankruptcy protection at the top of the line. That is most evident by what happened to the family in my community, a member of the Enron family who was out on leave with a catastrophic illness. He, along with others, were terminated in the midst of his catastrophic illness. Of course, he was left with nothing. He lost his house, and he lost his life, because there was no more medical care for him, and there were no more health benefits and no ability to secure his prescription drugs. We have to fix that, Mr. Speaker.

We also have to fix this homeland security bill. I bring to the Members' attention the autism case dealing, as my colleague spoke before, with a vaccine that was utilized to the bad results of this particular individual. Russell Rollins was a picture perfect baby. Then at 15 months, just like every other baby, he got his MMR shot. He had a physical reaction to those vaccines, including a high-pitched scream and days of high-pitched crying and listlessness. Ten years later, those problems continue. Russell is now autistic.

So a vaccine moratorium on this case would be horrific, and this could happen time after time with the kind of limited liability that we have in the homeland security bill. I think it is misdirected, Mr. Speaker, as it is misdirected for airport security and antiterrorism technology.

We have never been afraid of doing the right thing, of ensuring that we have an opportunity for redress of grievances in courts. We have never been overwhelmed with frivolous lawsuits to the extent of products that are defective. We only need to engage in saving life. If Americans understood

that under the auspices of homeland security we are blocking their opportunity into the courthouse, they would understand the problem.

Let me close by simply saying that we have many miles to travel; and, as we travel, we need to do it right. I close by simply saying that we did not do it right today, Mr. Speaker. We left 800,000 employees who were fired, terminated, and unemployed without unemployment insurance. We did not do it right, and I hope that we will get it right. I will fight on behalf of those individuals and on behalf of America until we get it right in this Congress.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO MEMBERS, STAFF, CONSTITUENTS, AND FAMILY FOR SUPPORT IN MEMBER'S SERVICE TO THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), for her lovely comments, and to say how much I have enjoyed working with her through the years. I wish her and her family all the best and the best to the gentlewoman in her future endeavors. She is a great asset to this institution and also to the country.

I also want to appreciate the kind words uttered by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who will be the new Democratic whip. I wish him much success in his new responsibilities; and to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), who also expressed some very kind words, I wish him all the best. It was wonderful over the years working with him and engaging in colloquies at the end of the week, looking forward to the following week. I wish him the best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon just to say thank you. I wanted a chance before I left to thank the Members of this institution and my staff for the support of individuals who make this building and this government run so incredibly well.

I want to start by thanking my wife, Judy, who has been absolutely fabulous. I thank her for her love and support; for her loyalty to the issues of social and economic and racial justice; for her wise counsel over the years, keeping me out of trouble when I needed to be kept out of trouble. Most of us who serve here find a way into trouble too often.

She was wonderful in keeping me on the right path, but she also was very good about encouraging me to create controversy, trouble, if you will, when the times clearly needed it. I thank her for helping me lead a path to clarity among much of the confusion that sometimes engulfs our lives, our per-

sonal lives, as well as our professional lives, and also for stoking my outrage when outrage was needed, when the situation called for us to become indignant and to stand up and to express ourselves in the most forceful and emotional way, sometimes, that we could to get our points across.

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She is a great asset to this institution herself, having served here for over 20 years; and we look forward to the rest of our lives together and continuing on issues that we care deeply about and supporting many of the people who have supported us, especially the young people who are making their way up politically in their lives.

I also thank my children, to Stephen and Julie and Andy, the three of them. They are grown adults now and out of school, fully employed and working in the Washington, D.C., area, for the most part. They have given much sacrifice over the years when their father was not there, when sometimes he should have been. They are great kids. They have worked in the campaign over the years. They have just been super lovely children and now wonderful adults, and I cannot thank them enough for their patience and for their encouragement and sometimes for their criticism when their father needed it. I wish them, of course, the best; and we will continue to love and support them.

I want to also mention some wonderful people on my staff. Seneca once said that loyalty is the holiest good in the human heart. While I am not so sure that that it is the holiest good in the human heart, I appreciate the sentiment. Loyalty is a very important part of work, whether it is government work or private work or family life. You have to have loyalty, and I have had the most loyal, wonderful staff that one could ever imagine.

I am going to start by talking about, just very briefly, four people who have been with me throughout basically my whole career. The way my office basically ran was we had four people, two in Michigan, two in Washington; and they worked as a group, as a board: Ed Bruley, Chris Koch, Sarah Dufendach, and Kathy Gille.

Now, they all were with me for virtually my whole career: Ed Bruley, 25 years; Chris Koch, 25 years; Sarah Dufendach, 25 years; and I think Kathy about 20 years, although she worked on my first campaign 26, 27 years ago. So we have known each other, we have supported each other, and we have marched together with each other. They have all left now over this last year, but they will always be in my heart, and I wish them the best. They are really special people.

Ed does such a great job with young people particularly, nourishing them and helping them grow, helping them to become involved.

Chris Koch was sort of the person in our office who managed things and who