

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WELCOMING KING MOHAMMED VI

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. PITTS and I, would like to welcome King Mohammed VI of Morocco to the United States and wish him well during his visit. We strongly urge His Majesty to uphold and implement his nation's agreements regarding the conflict over the Western Sahara. In addition, we urge His Majesty to uphold U.N. Security Council Resolution 1541 as a tribute to former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who promoted international legality and justice while responding to the true long-term interests of both parties concerned in this conflict. His Majesty's support for the former U.N. Special Envoy Baker's Peace Plan would be the best contribution to peace and stability in the region. In addition, upholding the Peace Plan would demonstrate the effectiveness of the pursuit of national aspirations through non-violence in the greater Middle East, a region that has been the target of much violence.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of Members sent a letter to President Bush requesting that during his meeting with the King, he strongly encourage His Majesty to implement the United Nations Settlement Plan in order to achieve a just, peaceful, and lasting resolution to the conflict over Western Sahara. The letter welcomed United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1541 adopted April 29, 2004, which reaffirmed support for the Peace Plan for Self-Determination of the People of Western Sahara devised by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's Special Envoy, James Baker, and shared deep regret over the departure of Mr. Baker and the circumstances that led to his resignation.

In addition, the letter welcomed the confidence-building measures taken by the Polisario Front which released a further 643 Moroccan POWs since July 2003; the number of POWs the Polisario has liberated since 1991 now totals 1,760. However, the Members of Congress expressed their regret that the Government of King Mohammed VI has not reciprocated in a commensurate way. The fact that the Sahrawis have opted for non-violence in the affirmation of their identity and have respected the terms of the cease-fire signed in 1991 between their representative and Morocco, is telling in terms of who is committed to settlement of the conflict.

Further, the letter expressed great concern that if the conflict between these two parties is left unresolved, it has the potential to disrupt peace and stability in the Maghreb region, thus threatening the interests of the United States. The Members expressed that the United States should use its unique influence in that region to press the Moroccan Government and the Polisario Front to agree to the Peace Plan and to implement it under the supervision of the United Nations. Although U.S.

attention is primarily focused, as it should be on Iraq and on the war against terrorism, the letter underscores the concern of the Members that the Western Sahara conflict needs to be addressed urgently and fairly to the benefit of the peoples of the region and in the interest of the United States. A peaceful, successful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara will provide a signal to the Broader Middle East and North African region that in the 21st century there are successful alternatives to violence in the pursuit of national aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, we again extend our welcome His Majesty and strongly urge him not to stand in the way of progress towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara.

HONORING GRACE CLAYTON ON THE COMPLETION OF HER INTERNSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions Grace Clayton has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Grace, a fellow Middle Tennessean, has been a wonderful addition to the office and a great servant to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Grace is finishing her second internship in my Washington, D.C., office, but she must return to the University of Alabama, where she is majoring in public relations. She is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, a volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and an acolyte in the Episcopal church.

During her internship, she has been a tremendous help to me and my staff as she assisted us in numerous projects. Not only did she win us over, but she also won over constituents as she guided them through the U.S. Capitol.

I hope Grace has enjoyed her fast-paced internship as much as we have appreciated her hard work. I wish her all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber Wednesday, June 23, Thursday, June 24, and Friday, June 25, during rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall No. 288, and "Yea" on rollcall No. 300, "Yea" on rollcall No. 304, "No" on rollcall No. 318, and "Yea" on rollcall No. 325.

HOUSE FOOD SERVICE WORKERS SHOULD BE COMMENDED

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the food services workers of the Longworth, Rayburn, and Cannon House Office buildings, I submit for the record a letter signed by thirty-eight Members of Congress to Guest Service Inc. CEO/President Gerald T. Gabrys denouncing his decision to have his workers pay his company a day of wages on The National Day of Mourning.

The men and women who serve Members of Congress, staff, and the public each day in the House cafeterias are some of the most dedicated, hard working, and patriotic workers in our nation. They spend hours on their feet each day, ensuring that the House functions smoothly. Their characteristic smiles are a testament to the professionalism with which they go about their jobs.

But while the House food service workers have served Members of Congress for years—often without recognition—it has become time for Members of Congress to serve them. The rest of nation set aside June 11, 2004 to honor and pay solemn tribute to former President Reagan, but Guest Services Inc. (GSI) used the National Day of Mourning as a unique opportunity to extract compensation from its workforce.

Indeed, as federal employees across the nation were granted a one-day paid "holiday" on the National Day of Mourning, Guest Services employees were barred from reporting to work and required to expend a vacation or sick day to be paid for this previously scheduled day of employment. As a government contractor, GSI knew that Congress or the President could close the government at any time. This is a business risk inherent in GSI's relationship with the government. GSI passed the cost along to its employees.

The thirty-eight Members of Congress who signed this letter believe that decision was wrong. We have called upon GSI to pay its workers for the National Day of Mourning and return any vacation or sick time used as a result of their policy.

The House food service workers should be commended—not punished—for their admirable service to the federal government and our nation.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2004.

Mr. GERALD T. GABRYS,
President/CEO, Guest Services Inc.,
Fairfax, VA

DEAR MR. GABRYS: We write to express our concern and disappointment regarding the decision by Guest Services Inc. (GSI) not to pay its food service workers on June 11, 2004, The National Day of Mourning.

As you know, all executive departments, independent establishments, and other governmental agencies were closed on June 11th

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

so that our nation could honor and formally pay its respects to the late former President Ronald Reagan.

While federal employees across the nation were granted a one-day paid "holiday" for this purpose, non-salaried Guest Services employees in the Longworth, Rayburn, and Cannon House Office Buildings were summarily barred from reporting to work, and GSI announced they would not be paid for this previously scheduled day of employment. Instead, GSI employees were told that they would be required to utilize an accrued vacation or sick day.

What GSI has done is to compel its employees to effectively pay GSI one day of wages for the National Day of Mourning. This is extraordinary. As a government contractor, GSI must have been aware of the possibility that Congress or the President could designate a one-day National Holiday shutting down the federal government at any time. But while the rest of the nation set aside June 11th to honor and pay solemn tribute to former President Reagan, GSI appears to have used the National Day of Mourning as a unique opportunity to extract compensation from its workforce in retaliation for a cost inherent in GSI's relationship with the government.

We do not believe this was appropriate or within the spirit of this historically important day. We request that you both pay your workers for the day of June 11th and return any vacation or sick leave utilized by employees in response to your policy. Your employees should be commended—not punished—for their hard work and dedication in service to the federal government and our nation.

We look forward to your prompt response to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely

Dennis J. Kucinich; Max Sandlin; Gary L. Ackerman; Jim Cooper; Ellen O. Tauscher; Stephanie Tubbs Jones; Jim McDermott; Karen McCarthy; José E. Serrano; Gregory W. Meeks; Brad Sherman; Barbara Lee; Bernard Sanders; Sam Farr; Albert Russell Wynn; Lois Capps; Betty McCollum; George Miller; William D. Delahunt; Diane E. Watson; Patrick J. Kennedy; Tammy Baldwin; Mark Udall; Neil Abercrombie; Sheila Jackson-Lee; Jay Inslee; Fortney Pete Stark; Major R. Owens; Sherrod Brown; Brian Baird; Michael E. Capuano; Jerrold Nadler; Tom Udall; Rosa L. DeLauro; Raul M. Grijalva; Eddie Bernice Johnson; Michael M. Honda; and Chris Van Hollen.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DEREK WINANS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, it is with sorrow that I rise to inform my colleagues of the sudden passing of Derek T. Winans. Mr. Winans, a direct descendant of William Wheeler, a founder of Newark with Robert Treat in 1666, lived in my hometown of Newark for over 40 years. He was known for his deep commitment to civil rights and was a major figure in organizing and winning support for anti-poverty, alternative education, and community development programs.

He was a graduate of St. Paul's in Concord, NH, and of Harvard College. His senior thesis at Harvard received a magna cum laude. His own success in education inspired him to devote himself to providing similar opportunities

for the youth in our community. Derek founded the Newark Day Care Council/Springfield Avenue Community School, the Ironbound Community Corporation/Ironbound Children's Center, and the Community Mobilization Center. He was co-founder of the Newark Community Project for People with AIDS, served as secretary of the Newark Coordinating Council, was active with the Newark Community Union Project, and acted as a spokesperson and planner for many civil rights and community-based organizations in Newark. He worked as deputy director for the International Youth Organization (IYO), planning director of the United Community Corporation, and was the staff person for Councilman Donald Tucker during his founding of the NJ Black Issues Convention.

Derek was not only involved locally but he also made an impact nationally. He was very active with Congressman BARNEY FRANK of Massachusetts, a Harvard classmate, on the enactment of the Ryan White Legislation in the early 90's, which significantly increased funding for education and treatment of HIV and AIDS. Earlier this year the House of Representatives approved a proposal written by Derek: The New Jersey Underground Railroad Cultural Heritage Project, for which IYO is serving as the lead agency. It was my privilege to work with Derek not only on these two projects but many others mentioned earlier.

Derek loved public policy, believed in the power of people to govern well, and possessed a long history of civic and political involvement. He was an important figure in many New Jersey political campaigns, with State Assemblyman George Richardson, Mayor Ken Gibson, and the Newark City Council campaign of the late Jesse Allan. He was truly a great friend of mine.

Derek was the son of the late Elizabeth Carrington and James Dusenberry Winans. He is survived by his stepmother, Polly Dudley Winans Beischer of Lakewood, NJ; a brother, Pete Torrey Winans of Amelia Island, FL; two stepbrothers; a stepsister; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in remembering the life of this remarkable man, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in recalling his lifelong commitment to service, integrity, and compassion. I express my condolences to his family and friends as they grieve his passing.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF PAUL RUMLER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions Paul Rumler has made to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. Paul has been an integral part of my Washington staff for the last few months, but he has moved on to greener pastures.

Paul was a versatile contributor in the office, lending a hand to constituent services and the development of legislation. His research on methamphetamine abuse played an important role in the development of H.R. 4636, the Methamphetamine Remediation Act.

During his time here, he quickly won over the staff as well as Middle Tennesseans who were visiting our Nation's Capitol. His easy-going attitude and gentlemanly demeanor made him a wonderful addition to the office.

Although my staff and I will miss his hard work and enthusiasm, we are happy for Paul as he embarks on his new journey. I wish him all the best.

WESTERN SHOSHONE CLAIMS DISTRIBUTION ACT

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I request that the following letters between the Committee on Resources and the Committee on Ways and Means regarding H.R. 884, the Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act, be submitted for the record under General Leave.

As you know, H.R. 884 passed the House under suspension of the rules on June 21, 2004. I wish to include these letters between the two Committees concerning the legislation as part of the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 3, 2004.

Hon. BILL THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I request your help in expediting consideration of H.R. 884, the Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act, authored by Congressman Jim Gibbons. The bill authorizes the distribution of a monetary judgment awarded to the members of the Western Shoshone tribe in 1979 based on land claims against the United States and mismanagement of their tribal accounts by the federal government. The funds have been appropriated and have been accruing interest for over 20 years. Under current law, legislation is required before the tribal members can receive their awards and to establish an education trust fund for the tribe. The Committee on Resources favorably reported the bill on October 7, 2003.

H.R. 884 is the House companion measure to S. 618, which was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent on October 17, 2003. The Joint Tax Committee has determined that Section 3(c)(3) of the Senate bill contains revenue provisions and would be subject to a blueslip by your Committee. To avoid this Constitutional problem and to facilitate passage in the Senate, I wish to amend H.R. 884 with the text of S. 618 as passed by the Senate and have this considered by the House of Representatives under suspension of the rules next week.

I recognize the Committee on Ways and Means' jurisdictional interest in Section 3(c)(3) of the proposed amendment but ask that you allow H.R. 884 to go forward. I agree that by allowing the revised bill to be scheduled, the Ways and Means Committee does not relinquish any jurisdiction over H.R. 884 or similar legislation. I would also support your request to be represented on a conference on H.R. 884, if one should become necessary. Finally, I will include my letter and your response in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of the measure.

The Western Shoshone have waited for over 25 years to receive their just awards, and Congressman Gibbons has been a tireless advocate on their behalf. We both appreciate