

As also happens up here, there is often disagreement between the governor (and his financial team) and the legislature as to the precise fiscal condition of the territory and the true revenue projections for the coming fiscal year. A CFO, in my view, would take the uncertainty out of this equation and allow our legislature and governor to work better together because they would both get their numbers from the same independent source. Additionally, the departments of government, semi-autonomous agencies and labor unions would be better able to plan, and the people of the Virgin Islands in general would have information on how the millions of Federal dollars coming to the Virgin Islands are being spent.

The bill as being passed today contains certain changes. I have revised it with respect to providing a financial management system because such a system is already in the process of being implemented. In recognition of and in deference to the upcoming constitution to be drafted by the people of the Virgin Islands, the bill before us calls for the term of the Chief Financial Officer to expire at the implementation of a ratified Virgin Islands Constitution or in five years, whichever comes first.

All four previous Constitutional documents have contained a provision similar to what is proposed in this legislation, and it is my hope that our Fifth Constitutional Convention will present a document for the ratification of the people of the Virgin Islands that will make this legislation unnecessary. In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the Chairman of the Resources Committee, the gentleman from West Virginia, NICK RAHALL, without whose support this bill would not be on the floor today. I also want to thank my friend Ranking Member DON YOUNG for his support as well.

Madam Speaker, it has been said that "heavy is the burden that one who is called to lead bears". Pursuing enactment of this bill has not been an easy burden to bear but an important one; which I am proud to bear. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2107.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1, Improving America's Security Act of 2007, which includes critical security provisions endorsed by the 9/11 Commission as well as an overdue expansion of the visa waiver program, VWP.

Mr. Speaker, the visa waiver program is an immensely valuable program for the United States, and the legislation before us will not only enable us to expand the visa waiver program to additional allies who already offer U.S. citizens visa-free travel to their countries, but simultaneously strengthen the security aspects of the program.

Although H.R. 1 expands the VWP, I would have preferred that the program expand to all the roadmap countries, among them some of

America's most important and loyal allies, and I am hopeful Congress will take steps to address this issue in the near future.

Despite my concerns that some roadmap countries may be excluded, this legislation is an important step towards addressing the security concerns that members of Congress have articulated about the visa waiver program. I am confident that once the security measures outlined in H.R. 1 are implemented, those members of Congress who previously had concerns about the program will be open to considering further expansion of the visa waiver program.

In the meantime, it is imperative that the Bush Administration and Congress continue to work with our allies, who deserve to participate in the program. The United States should also provide assistance to help these governments reduce their visa refusal rates and meet all the necessary requirements detailed in the Improving America's Security Act.

It is clear that H.R. 1 fulfills key 9/11 Commission recommendations and improves the security aspects of the visa waiver program, and I applaud my colleagues for their efforts to make our country safer and further expand this program. However, America cannot successfully fight the battle against international terrorism without the cooperation and trust of our allies. I would like to remind my colleagues that the 9/11 Commission also stressed the need for diplomacy and cooperation with other Nations to address the threat of international terrorism. In this vein, further expansion of the visa waiver program can play a vital role in strengthening America's relationships and security partnerships with our most trusted allies—which is essential to preventing another 9/11 disaster.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Chairman, I would like to express my support for the amendment to the Farm Bill Extension Act of 2007, H.R. 2419, offered by my friend Mr. FRANK from Massachusetts. The amendment aims to remove the expansions in the underlying legislation that would expand the Farm Credit System. The Farm Credit System is a \$163 billion direct lending Government sponsored enterprise that has its own regulatory system and preferential borrowing authority.

The proposed expansions of the Farm Credit System in the original measure would have diluted farmer ownership of farm cooperatives and would have undermined farm cooperative principles. Fortunately, the Frank amendment passed last night by a voice vote, as these extensions of the Farm Credit System clearly did not have the support of the majority of my House colleagues. Because the amendment was approved, the Farm Credit System is bet-

ter able to serve its intended constituency by providing credit directly to family farmers, ranchers, and farmer-owned cooperatives.

The protections afforded by the Frank amendment to the farming sector are also reflected in protecting our financial institutions by preventing an unwarranted expansion into mainstream banking activities. Our Nation's financial institutions have continued to evolve and meet the needs of consumers over the years. These innovations should continue to be fostered while maintaining the security and independence of our financial institutions.

I applaud the passage of the Farm Bill, which will provide our Nation's farmers with meaningful and necessary assistance for the next 5 years. I look forward to continuing to work with my House colleagues to enact effective reform in the financial sector as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 748. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 748.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, as reflected in the RECORD, on July 25 and 26, I was on a scheduled leave of absence for a family funeral. If I had been present, I would have voted in the following way:

On rollcall No. 727, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 728, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 729, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 730, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 731, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 732, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 733, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 734, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 735, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 736, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 737, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 738, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall No. 739, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 740, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 741, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 742, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 743, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 744, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit a record of how I would have voted on Thursday, July 26, during which I

was at the Oval Office with the President discussing my recent mission to Iraq.

(1) Stearns Amendment (15 minutes)—The amendment would prevent the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from using any appropriated funds for the purpose of bringing lawsuits against a company that requires its employees to speak English. It would not affect any current case, only future suits. Vote: Yes.

(2) Flake Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would strike \$200,000 in funds for the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine. Vote: Yes.

(3) Flake Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would strike \$720,000 in funds for the meteorological equipment at Valparaiso University, IN. Vote: Yes.

(4) Pence Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would prohibit funds in the act from being used to enforce "the amendments made by subtitle A of title II" of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. This amendment would prohibit the DOJ from enforcing the electioneering communications section of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law. Vote: Yes.

(5) Upton Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment states that no funds shall be made available to purchase light bulbs that do not have the "ENERGY STAR" or "Federal Energy Management Program" designation. Vote: Yes.

(6) Jordan Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce spending across-the-board by 3.0% to reflect FY 2007 levels—Vote: Yes.

(7) Price (GA) Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce funding in the bill by 1.5%. (30 minutes) Vote: Yes.

(8) Musgrave Amendment (2 minutes)—The amendment would reduce spending across-the-board by 0.5%. (30 minutes) Vote: Yes.

(9) Republican Motion to Recommit (15 minutes)—Vote: Yes.

(10) Passage—H.R. 3093—CJS Appropriations (5 minutes) Vote: No.

TRIBUTE TO MELVA JOAN ADKINS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on October 13, 1964, Melva Joan Adkins of East Lynn, West Virginia began her career with the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, as a GS-3 Clerk Stenographer in Real Estate's Management and Disposal Branch. She always sought ways to show initiative and achieve results regardless of the assignment. Her dedication to a job well done enabled her to move to the top of the administrative field.

In 1974, Mrs. Adkins advanced to the position of Conveyance Examiner and was responsible for assuring the Government acquired appropriate title to project lands. She audited project acquisition records and recommended actions to correct deficiencies. Melva quickly mastered the skills required for the position and became an expert in the audit field.

Her exceptional communication skills and real estate knowledge were an asset when

she was promoted to Realty Specialist in the Encroachment Section of Management and Disposal Branch in 1990. She worked on the very difficult Muskingum Area Encroachment Program, the first dedicated program of its type in the Nation. Her ability to communicate at all levels contributed to successful resolution of many situations.

In 1992, Mrs. Adkins transferred to the Management Section of Management and Disposal Branch. Her new duties entailed the utilization, disposal, and leasing of civil works projects in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio. In this position she worked with numerous Federal, State, and local agencies, the general public, and other Corps team members to meet the projects recreation and flood control missions. In the last two years of her employment, Mrs. Adkins arranged in-kind services totaling over \$1,000,000 that benefited various District projects. She is known by Corps customers as honest and ethical and has consistently received recognition and praise for her high quality of work.

During her career Mrs. Adkins has been an excellent role model and mentor to her team members. She has served on numerous Federal Women Program committees, served as a Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor, and helped to write the Huntington District's Etiquette Book for the Physically Challenged.

Melva J. Adkins has made significant contributions to the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers' mission. On July 30, 2007, she retired with 42 years, 7 months, and 5 days of Federal service, and I offer my heartfelt congratulations on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. DONOGHUE, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF THE WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a devoted public servant. Michael J. Donoghue will officially retire tomorrow as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Worcester Regional Retirement System, marking the end of a distinguished career in which he has ably served the citizens of my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts and all of Worcester County.

For more than thirty years, Mike Donoghue managed a \$400 million pension system comprised of fifty Worcester County communities and another forty-five school districts. During that time, he vigorously protected the retirement security of thousands of public employees with an uncommon care and concern for their future hopes and dreams. Throughout his tenure, Mike made it his business to personally know the individual members of the Worcester Regional Retirement System and steadfastly refused to allow the pensioners to become anonymous participants in a cold actuarial exercise. Mike's unfailing loyalty to his membership will forever be remembered as the hallmark of his remarkable public service.

It also bears noting that Mike Donoghue's contributions to the greater Worcester community extend far beyond the management of the

Worcester Regional Retirement System. Mike served two terms on the Worcester City Council before being elected Worcester County Treasurer in 1978. Mike's unique combination of insight, skill and common sense made him a coveted board member for virtually every major civic and charitable organization in the City of Worcester. He has served on the board of directors for the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives (MBI). Mike's expertise and leadership helped establish Worcester as a center for medical research more than twenty-five years ago and the Gateway Park Project which is right now transforming a former brownfield site in Worcester into another major biomedical research park is also due in no small part to his efforts. Mike's compassion for the less fortunate has caused him to also lend his talents to the Board of Directors for the VNA Network Foundation, the Worcester Area Mental Health Association, the Worcester Area United Way and the Special Olympics of Massachusetts. After the devastating Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse Fire in 1999, Mike was a natural choice to help the City commemorate the sacrifice of the six fallen firefighters and was appointed to chair the Worcester Firefighters Memorial Committee. He remains committed to that effort today as an active board member.

A man of deep religious faith, Mike has also given to his community through his church as a former member of the Board of Incorporators of Catholic Charities for the Worcester Diocese and Saint Vincent's Hospital. A proud graduate of Nichols College, Mike has had the special privilege of serving as a trustee for his alma mater.

Madam Speaker, all of us in public service share a special bond forged by the great demands, challenges and rewards of our profession. In the finest traditions of our noble calling, Michael J. Donoghue has proven himself worthy of the respect and admiration he enjoys from his colleagues in government. I will always be grateful for his sage advice and loyal friendship as will my colleague, U.S. Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY, who has long relied on Mike as a trusted advisor and confidant. I know Senator KENNEDY joins me in expressing the heartfelt appreciation of the United States Congress to Michael J. Donoghue on this occasion and we wish him, his wife Maureen, and their beautiful children and grandchildren continued best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement. You, my friend, have earned it.

RENT IS DUE ON THE COURTHOUSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's the first of the month—time to pay the rent at the courthouse. Unfortunately, the costs keep rising with the number of criminals held accountable for their crimes each year, but the good news is their victims have plenty of resources at their disposal as a result of the Victims of Crime Act, or better known as VOCA Fund. Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Poe/Costa/Moore(KS) Amendment