

FEDERAL FURLOUGH BILL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, one of the most unpleasant adjustments a former small businessman or former State legislator—and I am both—faces in coming to DC is the unlimited ability of the Federal Government to deficit spend. We all know that small businesses have to balance the books, or they go out of business. At least, that was true before the bailout culture took hold here in DC. And unlike the spendthrift ways prevalent in this building, State governments generally have to balance their budgets.

Currently, at least 24 States, and nearly three fourths of a million workers, are undertaking a budget-cutting maneuver that I believe we should consider at the Federal level: short term employee furloughs. These States, across the Nation, along with city and county government counterparts, recognize that occasional worker furloughs are necessary to cut budgets and hold down spending. It also has the benefit of ensuring that Federal workers are not sheltered from the realities of life in today's economy.

The Federal Government continues to grow, and continues to rack up debt. I would like to make the U.S. Government as cost conscious as the States. My legislation is a start. It will make Federal civilian employees subject to a non-consecutive two-week furlough next year, correspondingly reduce appropriations for salaries and expenses for offices of the legislative branch, and provide a 10 percent reduction in pay for Members of Congress. An exception is provided for national security or reasons relating to the public health or safety, including effective law enforcement. This bill will save the Federal Government over \$5.5 billion.

Furlough Fridays are becoming a common occurrence for State and local governments. They present slight problems but they provide large solutions to the budget troubles we face. I believe that managed appropriately, with due allowance for vital and national security implications, as specified in this bill, they can do the same for the Federal Government.

HONORING COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES
CAROLINA BARCO ISAKSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, Colombia and the United States America enjoy a friendship rare among nations. That friendship has been strengthened by Colombian Ambassador to the United States Carolina Barco Isakson's tireless engagement and sound stewardship over her four-year tenure. While I am sad to see her leave this post, I commend her work and legacy on behalf of U.S.-Colombia relations.

Ambassador Barco, whom I consider a close friend, has made the case for continued strong ties between our two countries. She

has told the positive, but yet unfinished, narrative of Colombia coming back from the brink and building strong democratic institutions. Over the past several years, Colombia has adopted several innovative initiatives to protect human rights, address the needs of internally displaced people and investigate and prosecute crimes against humanity. Colombia has seen impressive gains in security. Long an economic dynamo in Latin America, the Government of Colombia has battled back the FARC and right-wing militias giving citizens their security back. In the process they have invested mightily in social programming, taking government services to places where they hadn't previously been provided.

Through my service in the Peace Corps in Medellin, I grew to love Colombia. Over the last several years, I have happily watched Colombia grow more stable and prosperous. Ambassador Carolina Barco recounted every detail of Colombia's remarkable turnaround to Members of Congress in vivid detail. And when that didn't work she showed the story by taking Members of Congress to Colombia.

Ambassador Barco is a lifelong public servant whose commitment to improving not just her country, but the entire world, is evident in all that she does. Prior to heading the Colombian Embassy in Washington D.C., she was Colombia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2002 to 2006. She has directed the City Planning Department in Bogota and advised the National Planning Department, the Office of the Mayor of Bogota and the Ministries of Development, Culture, and Environment. She has consulted with the United Nations Development Program and is a member of Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Board of Directors.

Ambassador Barco will soon return to her roots as an urban planner. She intends to stay on in Washington, D.C. to consult with the Inter-American Development Bank on green- ing cities.

I asked Ambassador Barco to name one thing that she achieved while Ambassador to the United States that makes her most proud. Without hesitation she noted that it was bringing Peace Corps back to Colombia. After two decades, Peace Corps will return to Colombia largely due to the heavy lifting Ambassador Barco did to bridge our countries and outreach to the appropriate government agencies.

Ambassador Barco never missed an opportunity to show her appreciation for Peace Corps. She invited former volunteers to the Colombian Embassy, where she watched in amazement as scores of former Peace Corps volunteers sang the Colombia National Anthem. She traveled to Cartagena two years ago to celebrate the return of hundreds of former Peace Corps volunteers to Colombia for a special week of service, always with the goal of formalizing a relationship between the Peace Corps and Colombia. I am proud to say that the first class of Peace Corps volunteers since 1981 is now working in Colombia, changing the lives of countless Americans and Colombians for the better.

Thank you, Ambassador Barco, for successfully bringing our countries together and keeping our alliance relevant and robust. I wish you all the best as you depart from this important ambassadorship and will look forward to collaborating with you as you continue to make a positive impact with your work.

HONORING ELLEN FEINBOLD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I am from time to time asked to write to help explain why a particular organization is giving an award to a particular individual. In this case, the reverse would be in order: that is, if an organization dedicated to providing first-rate housing for older people was not to honor Ellen Feingold that would demand an explanation.

After a distinguished career as an advocate and administrator, Ellen took on the job of running Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly. And I can think of no better career move—not for Ellen, but for the thousands of people who are the beneficiaries of her enormous talent, great compassion, and inexhaustible supply of common sense.

At a time when the whole notion of an important public sector role in improving the quality of our lives, especially in cooperation with private sector activity is under attack, the great work Ellen did at JCHE becomes even more important than the work itself. That is because it stands as an example of what can be done when talented people use the resources of both the private and public sectors to achieve great results.

Ellen is entitled to take great comfort in the fact that so many thousands of people live better lives than they otherwise would have had she not done her work.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCHEON LANDING

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, we have occasion today to mark the deep and sustained friendship between our Nation and the great Republic of Korea.

Today, September 15th, marks the 60th anniversary of the daring amphibious landing at Incheon by United Nations forces under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur. British military historian Anthony Farrar-Hockley called the landing "a stroke of genius" because of the way it caught the North Korean enemy by surprise and put them off-balance.

As the son of a Korean War veteran, I value the history and deep sacrifices the people of both our countries have shared over the years. My father took great pride in service, appreciating the important work of the Korean War for the preservation of liberty and for the advancement of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, in Northeast Asia and the world as a whole.

Indeed, the strategic importance of the Republic of Korea as an ally of ours in that region cannot be overstated.

Our friendship with and commitment to Korea does not only rest on the experiences shared in the Korean War six decades ago. No, the United States and the Republic of

Korea remain partners dedicated to peace, freedom, democracy, and global stability.

The relationship between the United States and Korea is a comprehensive and dynamic one. We are major trading partners, with investment ties deep among our countries.

However, we have not even come close to realizing the full potential of this relationship. In 2007 our two countries signed a Free Trade Agreement that, by every estimate, will improve the lives of people in both Korea and the United States by creating jobs, reducing prices of products and services, and expanding consumer choices. This agreement when implemented will remove 95 percent of the bilateral tariffs between our countries that are currently holding back what could be tremendous growth for both sides.

Unfortunately, the agreement has not yet been brought to Congress for a vote. I hope that, in the coming months, my colleagues will recognize the economic boost that ratifying this agreement will generate.

As a co-chair of the bipartisan U.S.-Korea Free Trade Working Group, I will be working to ensure that we can meet President Obama's stated goal of being able to resolve outstanding issues by November so that we can once and for all remove this impediment to an increasingly productive economic relationship.

I look forward to a vigorous discussion of the merits of the agreement as ratification would further consolidate the longstanding friendship between the United States and Korea, an alliance forged in battle and sharpened through six decades of business, cultural, and political exchanges.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the success of the Incheon Landing on its 60th anniversary, saluting the veterans of the Korean War, and recognizing the bright future ahead for our two countries when we can finally realize the mutual benefits of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

FINDINGS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1493, I am submitting changes in law that will help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; promoting efficiency and government reform; and controlling spending in the programs within each Committee's jurisdiction.

This year saw significant deficit reduction resulting from crop insurance changes enacted by Congress in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act, FCEA, of 2008. In that legislation, the Committee included a provision directing the Administration to renegotiate the federal crop insurance program's Standard Reinsurance Agreement, which sets the financial terms and conditions for companies which participate in the program. The fruits of our effort were borne when USDA completed its renegotiation this past June, resulting in a more efficient crop insurance program and net savings, according to the Congressional Budget Office, of almost six billion dollars for deficit reduction.

This six billion dollars represents a seven percent reduction in the crop insurance program's baseline from FY 2011–20, making the Committee on Agriculture the only Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives that has accomplished deficit reduction this year through decreasing mandatory spending for programs under its jurisdiction. If other federal government spending was trimmed by a similar percent reduction and the savings dedicated to deficit reduction, we would reduce the budget deficit by almost three trillion dollars during FY 2011–20.

Federal spending to support production agriculture, according to CBO, represents less than one-half of one percent of all Federal Government spending. With these reductions, I believe agriculture has gone above and beyond any expectation with regard to finding cuts to reduce the deficit. However, this does not mean our programs are completely free of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement or inefficiency. As Chairman, I can assure you that I will continue to lead the Committee's efforts through investigations, hearings, and general oversight to find other ways to improve further the operation of the government programs under our jurisdiction.

CELEBRATING THE FITZGERALD THEATER'S CENTENNIAL SEASON AND ITS PLACEMENT IN THE NA- TIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the centennial season of the Fitzgerald Theater, located in downtown Saint Paul, Minnesota. On September 18th, 2010, Minnesota Public Radio, which owns the theater, will celebrate the 100th season of "the Fitz," as it is affectionately known, and commemorate its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Originally called the Sam S. Schubert Theater when it opened in August 1910, this theater has long served as a cultural center for the many visitors and residents of Saint Paul. In 1910, a young Saint Paul resident named F. Scott Fitzgerald was only 14 years old and yet to author the great American novel, "The Great Gatsby."

Eighty-four years later, another great artist and resident of Saint Paul, Garrison Keillor, led the charge to rename the theater in honor of F. Scott Fitzgerald and his role in American letters. And thus, in 1994, what began as the Schubert was reborn as the Fitzgerald Theater. Now, at 100 years old, the building is the oldest surviving theater space in Saint Paul and is a cultural landmark for the state of Minnesota.

The 1,000-seat theater continues to serve and strengthen regional and national communities as Minnesota Public Radio's largest broadcast studio. The Fitzgerald Theater is also home to the nationally-broadcast radio show, A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor. More than 100 years after its opening night, the Fitzgerald Theater continues to evolve, while maintaining its commitment to compelling performances, live radio

shows, and a legacy of significant literary programming.

Without any doubt, the Fitzgerald Theater has contributed a century's worth of memories, ideas, and insights to Saint Paul and the national cultural and literary community. The Fitzgerald will thrive into the 21st century, playing a critical role for future generations in bringing ideas and information in the areas of news, culture, literature, and music to a broad audience, both in Saint Paul, Minnesota and nationwide.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the centennial season of the Fitzgerald Theater and its contributions to the rich history and culture of the city of Saint Paul and the state of Minnesota.

IN MEMORY OF FRED SHAW

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to mourn the passing of my friend Fred Shaw. A stand-out student in China, Fred first came to the United States seeking an advanced degree in Civil Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He moved to the Twin Cities in 1947 to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

Fred made his first mark on the Minnesota business community in 1974 when he co-founded the Shaw-Lundquist Contracting firm, which stands presently as one of the most prominent general contractors in Minnesota and is the largest Asian-American-owned contractor in the nation. The motto of his company, "Be honest, fair, and reliable and treat people right," is a lesson in which everyone can find truth. In addition to his business endeavors, Fred played a pivotal role in the advancement of minorities in business having been a founding member of the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) of Minnesota and the Chinese American Business Association. Fred's dedication and tireless work will continue to inspire minority groups in the business community for years to come.

Furthermore, Fred will be remembered as a great supporter of international education. He and his wife Jennie established a scholarship with the University of Minnesota China Center which helps send students to China for academic study.

Madam Speaker, Minnesota has lost a true trailblazer in the promotion of minority businesses with the passing of Fred Shaw.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN THOMAS SABOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of John Thomas Sabol, devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and United States veteran. Mr. Sabol lived life with great joy and an unwavering dedication to his family, community and country.