

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. CARL
HIRSCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Carl Hirsch, a leading figure in the music industry in Cleveland and throughout the country.

Born in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Mr. Hirsch demonstrated a love for radio broadcasting from an early age. He graduated from Kent State University and began working in the music industry, swiftly becoming a big name in the business.

Mr. Hirsch was known for his ability to drive radio station ratings through the roof. He was the man behind such popular stations as WMMS—The Buzzard and WMJ—Magic in the Cleveland area and WHTZ—Z100 in New Jersey. He was also instrumental in bringing the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to Cleveland. In recognition of his vast achievements, he was inducted into the Cleveland Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and received an honorary doctorate from Kent State University.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please rise with me in honor and remembrance of a dedicated and widely respected individual. Mr. Carl Hirsch was a legend in the radio industry, and his exuberance, generosity, and promotion of his hometown will not be forgotten. I extend my sincerest condolences to his fiancée, Cappy; his children, Lori and Scott; and to all of his friends and relatives.

THE PRIVATE CALENDAR

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, TED POE, JERROLD NADLER, DONNA EDWARDS, JOSE SERRANO and I would like to take this opportunity to set forth some of the history behind, as well as describe the workings of the Private Calendar. I hope this might be of some value to the Members of this House, especially our newer colleagues.

Of the four House Calendars, the Private Calendar is the one to which all Private Bills are referred. Private Bills deal with specific individuals, corporations, institutions, and so forth, as distinguished from public bills which deal with classes only.

Of the 108 laws approved by the First Congress, only 5 were Private Laws. But their number quickly grew as the wars of the new Republic produced veterans and veterans' widows seeking pensions and as more citizens came to have private claims and demands against the Federal Government. The 49th Congress, 1885 to 1887, the first Congress for which complete workload and output data is available, passed 1,031 Private Laws, as compared with 434 Public Laws. At the turn of the century the 56th Congress passed 1,498 Private Laws and 443 Public Laws—a better than three to one ratio.

Private bills were referred to the Committee on the Whole House as far back as 1820, and

a calendar of private bills was established in 1839. These bills were initially brought before the House by special orders, but the 62nd Congress changed this procedure by its rule XXIV, clause six which provided for the consideration of the Private Calendar in lieu of special orders. This rule was amended in 1932, and then adopted in its present form on March 27, 1935.

A determined effort to reduce the private bill workload of the Congress was made in the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Section 131 of that Act banned the introduction or the consideration of four types of private bills; first, those authorizing the payment of money for pensions; second, for personal or property damages for which suit may be brought under the Federal tort claims procedure; third, those authorizing the construction of a bridge across a navigable stream, or fourth, those authorizing the correction of a military or naval record.

This ban afforded some temporary relief but was soon offset by the rising postwar and cold war flood for private immigration bills. The 82nd Congress passed 1,023 Private Laws, as compared with 594 Public Laws. The 88th Congress passed 360 Private Laws compared with 666 Public Laws.

Under rule XV, clause five, the Private Calendar is called the first and third Tuesday of each month. The consideration of the Private Calendar bills on the first Tuesday is mandatory unless dispensed with by a two-thirds vote. On the third Tuesday, however, recognition for consideration of the Private Calendar is within the discretion of the Speaker and does not take precedence over other privileged business in the House.

On the first Tuesday of each month, after disposition of business on the Speaker's table for reference only, the Speaker directs the call of the Private Calendar. If a bill called is objected to by two or more Members, it is automatically recommitted to the committee reporting it. No reservation of objection is entertained. Bills un-objected to are considered in the House in the Committee of the Whole.

On the third Tuesday of each month, the same procedure is followed with the exception that omnibus bills embodying bills previously rejected have preference and are in order regardless of objection.

Such omnibus bills are read by paragraph, and no amendments are entertained except to strike out or reduce amounts or provide limitations. Matters so stricken out shall not be again included in an omnibus bill during that session. Debate is limited to motions allowable under the rule and does not admit motions to strike out the last word or reservation of objections. The rules prohibit the Speaker from recognizing Members for statements or for requests for unanimous consent for debate. Omnibus bills so passed are thereupon resolved in their component bills, which are engrossed separately and disposed of as if passed separately.

Private Calendar bills unfinished on one Tuesday go over to the next Tuesday on which such bills are in order and are considered before the call of bills subsequently on the calendar. Omnibus bills follow the same procedure and go over to the next Tuesday on which that class of business is again in order.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to describe to the newer Members the Official Objectors Committee, the system the House has established to deal with Private Bills.

The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader each appoint three Members to serve as Private Calendar Objectors during a Congress. The Objectors are on the Floor ready to object to any Private Bill which they feel is objectionable for any reason. Should any Member have a doubt or question about a particular Private Bill, he or she can get assistance from objectors, their staff, or from the Member who introduced the bill.

The amount of private bills and the desire to have an opportunity to study them carefully before they are called on the Private Calendar has caused the six objectors to agree upon certain ground rules. The rules limit consideration of bills placed on the Private Calendar only shortly before the calendar is called. With this agreement of March 31, 2011, the members of the Private Calendar Objectors Committee have agreed that during the 112th Congress, they will consider only those bills which have been on the Private Calendar for a period of seven (7) legislative days, excluding the day the bill is placed on the calendar and the day the calendar is called. Reports must be available to the Objectors for three (3) calendar days. It is agreed that the majority and minority clerks will not submit to the Objectors any bills which do not meet this requirement.

This policy will be strictly enforced except during the closing days of a session when the House rules are suspended.

This agreement was entered into by: The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the gentleman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

I feel confident that I speak for my colleagues when I request all Members to enable us to give the necessary advance considerations to private bills by not asking that we depart from the above agreement unless absolutely necessary.

IN HONOR OF THE SISTERS OF
CHARITY FOUNDATION OF
CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland for their groundbreaking work to promote and improve Cleveland's Central Neighborhood.

Founded in 1996, the Sisters of Charity Foundation focuses on improving the health status and educational outcomes of Cleveland's residents and children. Beginning in 2006, the Foundation has commissioned research and held discussions, focus groups, and panels in order to determine the health and education priorities for Cleveland's Central Neighborhood. From this research, they developed their "Five A's" framework of funding. In order for them to fund a program, the program must be available, affordable, accessible, adequate, and residents must be aware of its existence. They have raised over \$330,000 in local funding for the Central Neighborhood and are planning to create a Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood with the help of a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing and honoring the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland for their outstanding work in promoting the Central Neighborhood of Cleveland. Their recognition of the neighborhood's promise and potential, coupled with their drive to improve the situation of those living there, makes the Foundation a wonderful asset for the community.

UNFPA AND THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, imagine a country where women are systematically raped, children are given guns to fight wars and most of the population struggles to live on \$2 a day. This horrific almost unimaginable scenario is the reality for women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This month, the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights held a very timely and important hearing on the crisis in the DRC and what America can do to help address the situation and end the violence.

The systematic and relentless sexual violence faced by women in the DRC is an unconscionable violation of human rights. In 2008, I introduced H. Res. 1227 which reaffirmed our chamber's abhorration and condemnation of rape as a weapon of war in the Congo.

The systematic rape of women in the DRC must end and this was forcefully raised at the hearing by witnesses including Cindy McCain and Ms. Francisca Vigaud-Walsh of Catholic Relief Services. I could not agree more.

In the Congo, many international actors are working to end the violence and they need the support of the US as they work in a very difficult political environment to end the violence.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, plays a key leadership role on the ground in addressing sexual based violence in the DRC. UNFPA aids survivors of sexual violence by providing medical care, economic and social rehabilitation, and legal assistance. The Fund has trained thousands of armed forces on protection and care for survivors.

In Kasai Oriental, North and South Kivu, thanks to global support for UNFPA's efforts, over 15,000 sexual violence survivors have received medical care. In camp Kibaki, home to 200,000 displaced people, UNFPA provides kits to test for and treat sexually transmitted infections, post exposure cleansing for rape cases and clean safe delivery kits.

Moreover, UNFPA played a key advocacy role in the 2006 adoption of the DRC law on sexual violence, expanding it to include sexual harassment, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization and other brutal practices.

Yet, the House Republicans passed an appropriations bill calling for zero funding for UNFPA. This is both unconscionable and nonsensical. Why would we have a hearing to call attention to the dire situation in the DRC and how America can help and then at the same time defund one of the key international organizations addressing the needs and well being of rape survivors?

I recall back to 2008 when my colleagues in the U.S. Senate held a similar hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee several Republican Senators expressed their shock and dismay in learning about the violence and in particular the incidence of traumatic fistula from rape. Why, they asked, is not more being done? These were the same Senators who had voted to defund U.S. support to UNFPA—the lead agency addressing fistula. This would be ironic if it was not so irresponsible.

My Republican colleagues raised the same tired and discredited arguments about UNFPA's country program in China earlier this month. UNFPA is clearly and firmly on the record in opposition to the heinous "one-child policy" and continue to promote changes in China to a human-rights-based and voluntary approach to family planning. It is UNFPA who has raised the issue about the dramatic gender disparity and societal imbalance that results from sex-selection abortion and how critical it is to end this practice and promote the well being of girls. Indeed, what UNFPA's small human rights based program in China is doing are exactly the kind of pressure my Republican colleagues claim they want to see happen in there. Moreover, we have a long-standing agreement on language that ensures that in our contribution to UNFPA, no U.S. funds are spent in China, no U.S. funds are spent on abortion services and all U.S. funds are kept in a segregated account to be able to track these things. We are the only one of UNFPA's 180 donors who put restrictions on our contribution.

In the coming weeks as decisions are made on the final budget, it is imperative that the United States continues its financial and moral support for the life-saving work of UNFPA. The women in the Democratic Republic of Congo and everywhere else where UNFPA works are counting on us.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIM-
BURSEMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2011 today to increase the Federal Government's reimbursement for a portion of the District of Columbia's Medicaid costs because the District is the only city, except for New York City, that pays any portion of Medicaid, an expense that is carried by the Federal Government and States. New York City, the jurisdiction that powers the economy of New York State, contributes a 25 percent share for Medicaid costs, while the state pays 25 percent, less than the District's federally mandated 30 percent contribution. The District's continuing responsibility for the share of Medicaid costs that are borne by entire states is a major component of the District's structural deficit and a threat to the financial stability of the city itself, according to the District's chief financial officer. Today, considering high unemployment in the District and the expansion of Medicaid eligibility under the new health care reform law, effective 2014, now is the time to make the District's Medicaid burden more equitable.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Revitalization Act), Congress recognized that state costs are too high for any city to shoulder. To address this unfairness in the District, the Revitalization Act transferred certain state responsibilities from the District to the Federal Government, including prisons and courts, and the Act increased the Federal Medicaid reimbursement to the District from 50 to 70 percent, partially relieving this burden. The city continues to carry many state costs, however.

In 1997, a formula error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital allotment reduced the 70 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) share, and as a result, the District received only \$23 million instead of the \$49 million it was due. I was able to secure a technical correction in the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to \$32 million from fiscal year 2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of \$20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing D.C.'s Medicaid reimbursements to \$57 million as intended by the Revitalization Act.

However, this amount did not reimburse the District for the years the federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to eliminate the District's structural deficit, which this bill partially addresses.

The bill is the eighth in my "Free and Equal D.C." series. The series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District and no other U.S. jurisdiction.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF GUNNERY
SERGEANT DARWIN LEAVELL

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and pay tribute to Gunnery Sergeant Darwin Leavell, United States Marine Corps, on the occasion of his transfer from the House liaison office. I, and many other members of this chamber, have had the pleasure of working with Gunnery Sergeant Darwin Leavell over the past two and a half years during his service with Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and as the Congressional Liaison Staff Non-Commissioned Officer of the U.S.M.C. Liaison Office in the House of Representatives.

Gunnery Sergeant Leavell distinguished himself through exceptional meritorious service while serving as the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer of Legislative Affairs. Every day he served in direct support of not only the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs but in direct support of every member of Congress, every Marine and every American. His keen abilities in organization, interpersonal relationships, and communication were extremely critical to the successful accomplishment of the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs' mission. His achievements and ability to get the job done have always been effective and noteworthy.