of my colleagues will join me in honoring Father Popieluszko, the Polish people, and the members of the Polish-American Congress who will honor him on Sunday, October 22.

THE 72D ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to challenge the notion that one shouldn't mix business and pleasure. That's exactly what we've been doing for 72 years in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, and it's worked remarkably well.

The Commonwealth's only national forest, it is one of northwest Pennsylvania's greatest assets. Selective harvesting of timber has created thousands of jobs, provides funding for schools and roads, and returns millions of dollars annually to the U.S. Treasury. The University of Pittsburgh at Bradford has estimated that ''5,540 jobs are directly related to wood products, and another 12,576 are significantly impacted by the forest products industry.''

But its economic benefits don't stop there. Each year, 12 million visitors—and area residents—enjoy camping, fishing, and hiking in the forest. If any of my colleagues and their families would like to visit, I'd be happy to identify some truly amazing sites.

I'm proud to say that this mix of work and pleasure is balanced with a keen awareness and diligent attention to the forest's conservation needs. By responsibly harvesting our renewable timber resources, we allow the forest to flourish and continue to fuel the economy.

The Allegheny National Forest strikes a wonderful balance between its many uses and its needs. For many, it's a source of livelihood; for millions more, a recreational haven. And, through its responsible management, it will remain so for generations to come.

The saying ''don't mix business and pleasure'' may have its merits, but it's also important to remember another, ''there's an exception to every rule.'' Pennsylvania's national forest is certainly exceptional.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize the Allegheny National Forest on its 72d anniversary, and to congratulate all those who have come to enjoy, respect, and benefit from it.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine, Mr. Norman Hardy of West Palm Beach, FL, sent me the following article regarding balancing the Federal budget. Mr. Hardy said this article is ''right on the mark'' and I agree with him. The same municipalities and local governments that the new Republican majority claim were the ones to request the block grants are now the ones saying we may need to slow down. Balancing the budget and block-granting Federal funds might have sounded good in the abstract but the reality may very well be disastrous.

[From the Palm Beach Post, Sept. 24, 1995]

WASHINGTON'S MESSAGE TO AMERICA'S CITIES: DROP DEAD

(By Nancy Graham)

I am gravely concerned about where this country seems to be heading. That puts me among the 60 percent or more of Americans who would like to join a third political party.

What I see at the state and federal levels in the way of partisan politics disgusts me. As the elected leader of the largest city in Palm Beach County, it is clear to me that our ''elected representatives'' at those levels, particularly those in Washington, have no knowledge of the world in which most of us live—and, frankly, I don't think they even care. If we have any hope of putting Americans first, the power plays and the ego-driven, mean-spirited partisan politics must give way to reason and logic.

There is not and should not be anything partisan about local government. We are closest to the people we serve, provide most of the services, have to pick up the pieces of people's lives fractured by the actions of the state and federal governments and still try to maintain some quality of life for all our citizens.

There is no greater example of mean-spirited, ego-driven partisan politics than in the current debate over the proposed federal budget cuts. I think I will be sick to my stomach if I see another 30-second sound bite by either party extolling the virtues of its actions on the budget, or slamming the other side's. What is frightening to me is that most Americans will sit back and take these professionally scripted sound bites for the truth. There is much not being told to Americans, particularly about how these budget cuts will affect each of us, no matter where we live.

Don't get me wrong. I strongly support the goal of balancing the federal budget, reducing the federal deficit and reforming a number of federal programs such as welfare and Medicare. We will all need to sacrifice to make them happen. West Palm Beach has to balance its budget every year, in good times and in bad. We know how to impose financial discipline. We know how to cut popular services, to raise revenues. West Palm Beach is ready to do our fair share.

Congress, however, is asking local communities to take a direct hit for its years of free-wheeling spending. The budget currently under consideration does not ask cities and counties to do their fair share to balance the budget. It asks cities and counties to do the lion's share.

Proposals in Washington would have a devastating impact on crime prevention, economic development, housing, children and our elderly. Amazingly, these proposals have received very little scrutiny.

So far, Congress has engaged in a ''stealth'' budget process. It appears that Congress is hoping that the American people don't figure out what's going on until it's too late.

The new Congress went to Washington promising to reform government.

Unfortunately, all they did was pass the buck.

The proposed budget doesn't actually solve problems, it just shifts the problems and shifts taxes to the local level.

Worst of all, this is a very short-sighted budget. It was put together with virtually no public input or hearings. The vast majority of the cuts being made are from only one-third of the federal spending, the domestic spending for Americans. In fact, the proposed budget adds about $7 billion in the defense budget, an increase not even requested. We are spending more for our foreign agenda than to preserve a decent quality of life for our own citizens.

ECONOMIC FUTURE SACRIFICED

The proposed budget would sacrifice the long-term economic future of this country for short-term political gain. At a time when America should be investing in our people and our economic foundation, this budget is a unilateral retreat. This budget would cut job training. It would cut education. It would cut youth programs. There is absolutely no logic or rationale to the proposed cuts. No matter what political party one comes from, we should all agree on the need to invest in our economic future.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties recently conducted a survey of mayors and county officials to see how these proposed cuts would affect our cities and our citizens. The response was overwhelming—96 percent of the mayors believe the proposed cuts would hurt their cities and residents. Ninety-three percent believe the cuts would hurt their human-investment efforts; 84 percent foresee negative effects on their cities' economies; 85 percent see negative effects on their economic development efforts; and 86 percent believe that the effects of the cuts would extend to their regional economies.

For most city residents, the cuts would be felt in loss of services and/or increased taxes. Eighty-five percent of the survey respondents said that they would have to reduce city services; 61 percent said they would be forced to lay off city workers; 41 percent said they would be forced to raise taxes.

The survey responses from the National Association of Counties were very similar.

So what does this mean for West Palm Beach? If we are to revitalize our city, we must reduce crime, clean up our decaying neighborhoods, create economic development opportunities (businesses and jobs) and focus heavily on our youth. We have started these efforts over the past few years, but much more needs to be done. We have developed partnerships with the Palm Beach County School Board, our business community and non-profit groups to save taxpayers money. We have cut staff and worked to improve services. We cannot stretch any further.

Yet, several times a day I hear from frustrated people about what they see as a declining quality of life, fear of crime, lack of affordable housing, lack of jobs and other problems that are so complex and intertwined. Balancing the federal budget almost solely on the backs of domestic programs is going to substantially aggravate these problems and increase the public's frustration with government. West Palm Beach is by no means an isolated case.

We want welfare reform—and rightly so. Yet we cut—and in some cases eliminate—job training; we cut education, cut student loans, fail to provide decent, affordable health care, and penalize poor families who try to stay together. We talk to the working poor, and we tell them, ''We want you to go to work. We want to end welfare.'' But what does this budget do? What messages of hope does it send to the working poor? It increases the tax burden on the working poor by lowering the earned income tax credit. The working poor will pay $230 more a year in taxes. They are getting a tax increase. In many cases, that's a substantial percentage of their income. This is in the face of a proposed tax cut for the wealthy.

CUTS WILL PRODUCE MORE CRIME

Crime among our youth is rising at frightening rates. Young people are dropping out of school at record levels. We talk to them about staying in school so they can get a

good, decent job. The one program that links them, while they're students, to the job market and opens up opportunities for them to get jobs is the Summer Youth Employment Program. This money is to be completely eliminated. No jobs, no job training—no question, higher crime.

West Palm Beach receives about $1 million annually in grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. We currently rehabilitate 25 full-scale housing units and handle 46 emergency ''rehab'' housing units each year. The proposed 50 percent cut would drastically reduce West Palm Beach's ability to assist low-to-moderate-income working families to maintain their homes.

We also receive $446,000 from HUD Home Funds. Seventy-five percent is used for the Mayor's Renaissance Fund for first-time home buyers. This money generates between seven and 10 times the money in the form of investments by local lending institutions. More than 30 families have been able to purchase homes in the past year. There is a waiting list in excess of 344 applicants wanting to buy a home. The city has used HUD money to create attractive, decent, affordable rental units for low-to-moderate-income people with the Harris Music Building and Ballet Villages in the downtown area.

LONG WAITING LIST FOR HOUSING

More than 1,000 people are on the waiting list for public housing in West Palm Beach. Most of these people are decent, caring human beings who have not been as fortunate as most of us who will read this article.

I recently visited Dunbar Village on Tamarind Avenue. Most of the units there leak badly when it rains, damaging walls and floors. Is that acceptable for our seniors and poor because they are throwaways?

No summer youth jobs? Consider that last summer, the city used $240,000 in federal money to get approximately 23 dropout youth back into education programs and job training. Our success rate was about 70 percent—excellent. Most are now continuing their educations, some at college. Others have jobs. One young man received his high school equivalency diploma, trained with the city to become a certified landscape sprayer and is now employed by us full time. Most of the youth we saved were headed toward becoming a criminal statistic.

We are all sadly aware of the problems in our schools. Yet the proposed budget cuts education, food for hungry children at school and money for Safe and Drug Free Schools. Can children learn with empty stomachs and daily fear of violence?

There are many more examples I could give about what these proposed cuts will mean here in Palm Beach County, but you have probably gotten the point. The proposed cuts are unfair, illogical and lack any rational basis.

We do need to balance the federal budget and reduce the deficit for future generations. We do need reform of entitlement programs. These important objectives can be achieved and still ensure a decent quality of life and vital communities for us all. This can only happen, however, if we demand that our elected representatives consider our best interests as they were elected to do and put the good of America over petty, mean-spirited partisan politics. We must accept no less—our future depends on it.

I would draw upon the maxim that the true test of a democracy is the treatment of its poor, its young and its elderly. Cuts will ''write off'' whole segments of our country's population rather than building upon action that can create improved national economic viability for our future.

West Palm Beach, as most cities in Florida, does not have the option of raising property taxes. We are too close to our legal limit. We can only cut services. The county can increase taxes, but that money comes from the same pocketbooks. The real irony is that if crime increases and neighborhoods decline, property values decrease, and we end up with even less revenue to meet the public demands.

GOVERNMENT FOR THE WEALTHY?

We can solve these problems, but the federal and state governments must do so in a logical, rational, thoughtful manner—not through immature bickering and posturing. Local governments can't make all of these changes overnight; we need time to adjust to some of them. We also have to make sure that the effort to balance the federal budget is not just a shift to local property taxes. Property taxes tend to be regressive taxes.

What is even more unbelievable to me is that while Washington is proposing to drastically cut domestic spending, at the cost of low- and middle-class Americans, it is proposing a tax cut for the wealthy. Is Washington being run only by the wealthy for the wealthy, with the interests of lobbyists being put over us regular and less fortunate folks?

Washington uses 30-second sound bites of abuses in domestic programs to convince us they are doing the right thing. They do not tell you the success stories. Let me tell you just one.

I was raised in a large, poor, but hard-working family. We lived for a number of years in public housing, received free school lunches and received some free medical care. I worked and put myself through college and law school with the assistance of student loans. (I have repaid every penny.) I have one sister who had a child out of wedlock.

Yet not one person in my family is on welfare or receives federal assistance. I am not the exception; there are many more like me. Under the proposed cuts, I can guarantee you I would not have been able to succeed alone.

Yes, there are abuses. But inept federal government and complex regulations cause many of them. Yes, families must also take responsibility for their well-being and that of their communities. But if the federal and state governments just dealt with their own waste first, we probably would be a lot closer to balancing the federal budget and reducing the deficit without the extreme measures being proposed.

Call or write your congressional representatives in Washington now. Demand truth in governance, responsibility and accountability to the people they represent—us—and demand that petty partisan politics stop for the sake of America's future. Let them know you are not in favor of the cuts as proposed and demand that they hold open hearings.

SHELTER ISLAND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY REMARKS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to congratulate the men and women of the Shelter Island Heights Fire Department for 100 years of dedicated service to the people of the Heights. The residents of the Shelter Island Heights Fire District are very fortunate to have such a well-trained and devoted fire department. The Shelter Island Heights Fire department worked hard to establish itself as one of the best departments in New York and has achieved an impeccable record.

The success of the fire department is a direct result of selfless dedication and effective management displayed by its members. Under the leadership of Chairman Frederick J. Gurney, the fire department has continued to play an active role in the life of the Shelter Island community. This leadership umbrella extends to the other members of the Board of Fire Commissioners: Charles Williams, Eugene Tybaert, Louis Cicero, and Richard Surozenski, as well as the loyalty and hard work exemplified by Chief Officer Stuart Nicoll, First Assistant Larry Lechmanski, and Second Assistant Dave Sharp. The Shelter Island Heights Fire Department consists of more than 35 professional volunteer firefighters, containing no career employees, offering further evidence of their passion and commitment to the community they serve.

On Saturday, September 30, 1995, the Shelter Island Heights Fire Department celebrated its 100th anniversary, marking a long, proud history by recognizing and honoring the efforts of those who have sacrificed and served the department and community over the years. Therefore Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask the rest of the House to join me in congratulating this all-volunteer fire department on achieving this momentous milestone. This is a much-deserved tribute and I wish them all the best on their day of recognition and glory. They give of themselves because of the love and pride they share for their community and we applaud their extraordinary service and efforts. These courageous individuals have truly earned this recognition. May they continue to serve their community for the many 100 years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO HUGH HANDLEY

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 1995

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today to pay a special tribute to Hugh Handley, who is retiring after serving 23 years as the agricultural commissioner of Kings County.

Over that time, Hugh has not only kept up with the myriad changes in agricultural practices in California's Central Valley, he has helped develop them. His coworkers consider him an encyclopedia of information, and they no doubt will miss his expertise.

As ag commissioner, Hugh has witnessed technological breakthroughs made by the farms in his county, and has tried to provide a supportive role to those breakthroughs. He managed to maintain this even as government budgets were reduced.

One major development in the county that Hugh was directly responsible for was the building of a one-stop agricultural government center. The center houses all of the agricultural offices for the county, the U.C. Cooperative Extension, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, greatly benefiting farmers by simplifying the process of dealing with government agencies.

While the center is only a building, it embodies the approach to his job that Hugh has maintained—he has always sought to make