

unusual punishment. Based on this decision the Federal courts have been able to place stringent standards regarding prison conditions that take power away from the States.

In my home State of Texas, our State comptroller conducted an audit of the State's prison system. He found that as a result of Federal court rulings, on any given day, 6,100 beds, 14 percent of total space available, is vacant.

In addition, there is drastic overcrowding at the county level, early release of violent criminals, and taxpayer dollars being needlessly wasted.

The State audit also found that the State of Texas alone can save \$610 million over the next 5 years by changing these federally mandated requirements.

The Federal Government has no right to tell States that a cell with two beds can only support one criminal.

I believe that every State knows best how to operate their prisons.

I ask Members to vote against this amendment and support the provision in the bill.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. FLINN

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 1995

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated member of the federal financial management community upon his retirement as Director of Operations for the Department of Defense Comptroller after more than 30 years of service to his country. Mr. John A. Flinn is most deserving of our tribute. He has consistently demonstrated the qualities expected of our finest public servants. His efforts have been a primary factor in the effective formulation and presentation of the Department of Defense Operation and Maintenance budget for more than 20 years, and the fact that our military today is the finest it has ever been is in no small part due to his efforts.

Mr. Flinn's Federal career commenced in 1961 with the Department of the Navy. He served in many responsible positions with the Navy before being selected to work in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in 1974. Since 1986, Mr. Flinn has served as Director of Operations, the primary DOD Comptroller interface with Congress and the Military Departments for the Military Personnel and Operation and Maintenance appropriations. His knowledge and expertise in operating budgets is unequalled in the Defense Department. During his 8 years as Director for Operations, he has gone beyond his regular duties to play a major role in the Department's transition to operations in a post-cold-war environment. The high esteem accorded Mr. Flinn by myself and my colleagues is reflected in the many times he was requested by name to testify before the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He always provided candid and accurate testimony.

Mr. Flinn was the primary focal point within the Comptroller for developing budgets to support Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The unprecedented funding mechanism in which many nations provided both financial and in-kind resources, required the establishment of new and innovative approaches to meeting the

service's funding requirements. Mr. Flinn was able to develop and implement this innovative funding mechanism because he had the respect and confidence of the Military Departments and our staff. Mr. Flinn's most enduring contribution, however, will always be his steadfast advocacy in support of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines, and their families.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to present the credentials of Mr. Flinn before the Congress today. It is clear that Mr. Flinn has played a key role in ensuring effective financial management for the Defense Department and for the taxpayers of the United States. We wish him success in his coming endeavors. He will be missed.

VIOLENT CRIMINAL INCARCERATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FREDERICK K. (FRED) HEINEMAN

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 667) to control crime by incarcerating violent criminals.

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Chairman, according to the FBI, the rate of violent crime in the United States is the worst for any developed western country. A murder occurs every 21 minutes. A rape every 5 minutes. A robbery every 46 seconds. An aggravated assault every 29 seconds.

These are not the statistics of a country where people have just gone mad and are creating mayhem. After all, just 7 percent of the criminals commit nearly two-thirds of all crime. These are the statistics of a country that has failed to deal with a criminal justice crisis.

It's very simple. Put criminals in jail and keep them there. The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that criminals serve only 45.4 percent of their jail time; 51 percent of violent felons are released in 2 years or less; 30 percent of all murders in this country are committed by individuals on probation, bail, or parole.

Cops are doing the best job they've ever done. They're catching the bad guys. Prosecutors are convicting and judges are sentencing. The problem is that prisons aren't keeping them. There is no room.

Age is the key factor in predicting whether the serious criminal of today will repeat their offenses. The younger a criminal is when first arrested, the higher the rate of repeat offending. The older a prisoner is when released, the lower the rate of repeat offending. Instead of keeping criminals in prison, we are turning them loose younger and younger during their crime spree years.

Imprisoning and incapacitating the serious criminals being released early today throughout America would cost far less than releasing them. A study by the National Institute of Justice concluded that offenders on the loose cost society over 17 times as much as it would cost to keep them behind bars.

Patrick Langan, a noted criminologist wrote:

Rising incarceration rates reduce crime in two ways. Through their deterrent effect, would-be offenders are deterred from committing crimes by the growing threat of a prison sentence. Through their

incapacitative effect, increasing numbers of offenders are physically prevented from committing new crimes because they are behind bars.

That's not even counting the increasing numbers of victims.

The criminal knows the system. He has no fear that he will do jail time. He knows there is no room at the inn.

Since the 1960's, we have conducted the largest prison alternatives program in the history of the world. And it has failed miserably. It is time to put criminals in prison. It is also time to return to the concept of prisons that punish, rather than providing recreational opportunities for its occupants. Prison should be an experience that no one wants to repeat.

Evidence suggests that there is a strong correlation between increased incarceration and lower crime rates: from 1990 to 1991, States with greatest increases in criminal incarceration experienced an average decrease of 12.7 percent in crime. On the other hand, those States with the weakest incarceration rates experienced a 6.9 percent increase in crime on the average.

Once again, it's very simple. Put the criminals in jail and keep them there.

The Violent Criminal Incarceration Act will do just that. States can challenge their non-sensical consent decrees that force counter-productive prison caps on their prisons. Prison funding is increased from \$8 billion to \$10.5 billion. Additional prison construction funding is authorized for those States that require criminals to serve 85 percent of their sentences. If we need more prisons, so be it. The lives of our families and our neighbors' families should outweigh the needs of criminals.

There is a fire on the streets of America today. Crime is that fire. We need to put out that fire. Then we need to concentrate on the long-term meaningful programs to prevent crime. In the long run, prisons are definitely not the answer. We must delve into the difficult arena of welfare reform, education reform, and other societal needs, but for those of us in the homes and on the streets of America today, we need relief. Construct prisons and put criminals where they can't commit crimes. The people of America deserve no less.

SALUTING BILL AND ELLEN CARTER OF HOUSTON, TX

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they were not born in Houston, or even Texas, but Bill and Ellen Carter personify the "can do" spirit that has made Houston a great city and Texas a great state. In the 36 years since they moved to Houston—and as a result of their own hard work and sacrifice—Bill and Ellen Carter have enjoyed tremendous success as business owners. Their success demonstrates that even today, Texas remains a place in which a person can advance as far as his talent, dedication and hard work can carry him.

Bill and Ellen Carter were recently profiled in a feature story in the Houston Post that detailed their love of Houston, as well as their