

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Chairman, this is a particularly ill-considered amendment offered today by the gentleman from Wisconsin, [Mr. KLUG], and I oppose it strongly. It gives little thought to the reductions to the Government Printing Office already contained in the bill or the significant reductions to GPO over many years due to its modernization efforts. Let me describe those efforts for my colleagues.

In 1975, GPO had 8,500 full-time equivalents, or FTE's. The committee-mandated level of 3,900 FTE's means GPO has reduced its staff by over 50 percent since that time.

In just the past 2 years—since February 1993—total GPO employment has fallen by 13 percent. FTE's have been reduced from 4,893 to 4,250, a reduction of 646 positions at a cost savings of \$32 million. During those 2 years and based on the retirement incentive program, which was authorized by law, 357 positions, primarily managers and supervisors, were eliminated representing about 7 percent of GPO's work force.

GPO's authorized level has been reduced in this bill from 4,293 FTE's to 3,900 FTE's. In addition, GPO has typically employed fewer FTE's than authorized by law. For example, in fiscal year 1994, GPO utilized 4,364 FTE's compared with an authorized level of 4,493. In the current fiscal year, 1995, GPO is utilizing 4,250 FTE's compared with an authorized level of 4,293, and their objective is to reduce FTE's further in this fiscal year—to 4,200.

Clearly, the trend over many years has been to reduce employees at GPO, to take advantage of modern equipment, to bring management-to-employee ratios into equality with those throughout the Government, and to use even fewer FTE's than authorized by law.

This amendment offers absolutely no guidance as to where a 350-employee reduction would come from. GPO's core printing and binding function—which utilizes the vast majority of FTE's—could be affected adversely.

Perhaps more important, an amendment of this nature sends a terrible message to an important agency and to the employees who would be affected. It sends the message that no matter what strides GPO makes in downsizing, we will never consider it enough. No matter what type of planning they start to undertake for cost-effective long-term downsizing, we will always throw another curve at them.

There are \$155 million of cuts in this bill, and GPO has already been dealt its fair share

of cuts as we seek to reduce the legislative branch. Let's leave GPO alone. I urge a "no" vote on the Klug amendment.

IN HONOR OF DR. WILLIAM
STEUART McBIRNIE

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today upon learning of the passing of Dr. William Steuart McBirnie. Dr. McBirnie established the United Community Church of Glendale in the winter of 1960 and served for more than 20 years as senior pastor. Dr. McBirnie was a well versed man who will be missed. He was a humanitarian who founded the World Emergency Relief, a nonprofit organization providing relief aid to the needy and suffering throughout the free world. Holding seven doctoral degrees, Dr. McBirnie was a knowledgeable man. As a professor of Homiletics, Church Architecture and Middle Eastern Studies, he was eager to share his wisdom. He is a man who was in touch with society. Not only was he author of over 1,200 books and other publications, Dr. McBirnie acted as a news analyst for "The Voice of Americanism" which aired over a nationwide radio network. He offered forthright and thought provoking commentaries to millions of listeners daily.

A man respected by many, he was the recipient of numerous honors. Dr. McBirnie has been knighted twice and received the George Washington gold medal of honor from the Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, PA.

Dr. William Steuart McBirnie was a personal friend of mine who will be missed. Yet it is comforting to know that he has entered into the rest which he so richly deserves.

HEALTH COST FIGHTER MOVING
ON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, at the close of this month, Tom Elkin will be stepping down from his position as assistant executive officer for health benefits for the California Public Employees' Retirement System. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom for the great work he has done for CalPERS and the people of California.

Tom's energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm are key reasons why the CalPERS board entrusted him to guide the system's health program. He has been instrumental in CalPERS' success in holding down health insurance costs for the nearly 1 million people who receive health benefits through CalPERS and

actually obtaining cost reductions in the last 2 years through hard bargaining with providers. Under his management, the CalPERS health program has maintained quality and choice for its participants while keeping providers honest and focused on those who come to them for care.

During the 103d Congress, CalPERS was used as a paradigm by many players in the health reform debate who sought to reproduce the system's savvy use of its market power to negotiate with health care providers. Tom Elkin's skill and diligence created this enviable record of quality and cost containment which has made CalPERS a model for health care management for the 21st century.

California will miss the service of this distinguished public servant, who is moving on to new challenges. I wish Tom the best for the future.

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Mr. FAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Christensen amendment. During the 13 years that I've managed the legislative appropriations bill, I can't count the number of times we have dealt with an amendment to cut elevator operators.

As a newcomer to our body, the gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. Christensen, lacks the perspective on this issue that many of his more senior colleagues enjoy. The fact is, over the last dozen years or so, the House has cut elevator operators from a level of 150 to just 22 today. Twelve of these operators work in the Capitol, 10 work in House buildings. The average salary of these full-time employees is below \$20,000.

Over the years, the Architect regularly has requested funds to modernize elevators. Because the committee has worked to make these funds available, and because this modernization has been carried out in many areas, we have been able to reduce the number of elevator operators dramatically. The fact is, we employ a minimum number now, and we use them where Member traffic and traffic from our visitors is heaviest, essentially only where it is absolutely necessary to expedite Members getting to votes.

I also think the gentleman forgets that these loyal employees are some of the best goodwill ambassadors in the House, responding tirelessly to thousand of questions from our visiting constituents each year and helping our visitors through the Capitol's bewildering and sprawling complex.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.