

toward repeal of all abortion rights. Columnist John Leo of U.S. News & World Report says that is akin to the gun lobby's argument that a ban on assault weapons must lead to repeal of the Second Amendment.

In a prophecy born of hope, many pundits have been predicting that the right-to-life "extremists" would drastically divide the Republican Party. But 73 House Democrats voted to bar partial-birth abortions; only 15 Republicans opposed the ban. If the ban survives the Senate, President Clinton will probably veto it. The convention that nominated him refused to allow the Democratic governor of Pennsylvania, Bob Casey, who is pro-life, to speak. Pro-choice speakers addressed the 1992 Republican Convention. The two presidential candidates who hoped that a pro-choice stance would resonate among Republicans—Gov. Pete Wilson, Sen. Arlen Specter—have become the first two candidates to fold their tents.

In October in *The New Republic*, Naomi Wolf, a feminist and pro-choice writer, argued that by resorting to abortion rhetoric that recognizes neither life nor death, pro-choice people "risk becoming precisely what our critics charge us with being: callous, selfish and casually destructive men and women who share a cheapened view of human life." Other consequences of a "lexicon of dehumanization" about the unborn are "hardness of heart, lying and political failure." Wolf said that the "fetus means nothing" stance of the pro-choice movement is refuted by common current practices of parents-to-be who have framed sonogram photos and fetal heartbeat stethoscopes in their homes. Young upscale adults of child-bearing age are a solidly pro-choice demographic group. But they enjoy watching their unborn babies on sonograms, responding to outside stimuli, and they read "The Well Baby Book," which says: "Increasing knowledge is increasing the awe and respect we have for the unborn baby and is causing us to regard the unborn baby as a real person long before birth . . ."

Wolf argued for keeping abortion legal but treating it as a matter of moral gravity because "grief and respect are the proper tones for all discussions about choosing to endanger or destroy a manifestation of life." This temperate judgment drew from Jane Johnson, interim president of Planned Parenthood, a denunciation of the "view that there are good and bad reasons for abortion." So, who now are the fanatics?

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2099,  
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS  
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND  
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank my colleague from California [Mr. LEWIS] the Chairman of the VA/HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, for his work on this bill under difficult circumstances. His diligence and hard work are to be commended.

As a veteran myself, I am particularly sensitive to the importance of keeping our promises to our veterans.

Shortly before the House of Representatives was to consider the conference report on the

VA/HUD and related agencies bill, I learned the Clinton administration, in a "statement of administration policy," had failed to mention the lack of a VA replacement hospital at Travis Air Force Base as a reason for a potential Presidential veto. Earlier in the month, the administration had pledged its support to the hospital in a letter from Office of Management and Budget Director Alice Rivlin to the chairman of the House of Appropriations Committee, ROBERT LIVINGSTON.

In light of this apparent reversal of administration policy, I feel that I have no choice but to support the fiscal year 96 VA/HUD Appropriations Bill. It contains \$25 million for a new state-of-the-art VA outpatient clinic at Travis Air Force Base, in addition to a \$400 million increase in the VA medical accounts. This is especially important since every other account in the bill, except those pertaining to veterans, was significantly reduced.

The Travis outpatient facility will meet the immediate health care needs of most Solano County and northern California veterans. I feel a moral obligation to do what is right for my fellow vets and to support any measure that will have a positive impact upon the region.

I was dismayed that the conference committee provided only \$25 million for the outpatient clinic at Travis. I had worked to secure additional funding in light of the Veterans Administration's recommendation of \$39.5 million in funding for the outpatient clinic.

With a projected 85,000 annual outpatient visits, the new facility will meet the needs of most veterans who require ambulatory care. However, I still believe there is the urgent need to attend to the acute medical needs of northern California's veterans.

The very survival of the outpatient facility was placed in jeopardy due to a November 29 stalling tactic that sent the conference report back to committee. I was told by VA Chairman Lewis that the motion could have jeopardized the clinic if the committee had been forced to reallocate funds among competing accounts.

Further delay in enacting the VA/HUD appropriations bill could force the legislation to be integrated into a full-year continuing resolution. Under that scenario, virtually all programs, including veterans' medical care and construction projects, will receive less than under the conference agreement. This would leave the veterans of northern California at a severe disadvantage. Those individuals who could delay or defeat this appropriations bill would be putting their political whims before the needs of our veterans.

By no means should my support for this bill signal that I am abandoning the long-term goal of building a replacement hospital at Travis Air Force Base.

It has become clear to me that full funding for the proposed replacement hospital is not possible this year. I cannot ignore present fiscal realities. Rather than contribute to budget gridlock, I must do what is best for northern California veterans and support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND JOHNSON  
OF FORT WALTON BEACH

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell this Chamber a story of remark-

able heroism, a story I recently heard about a World War II veteran who resided in my district and who, in a time of crisis in our Nation's history rose to the defense of his country. I relay this story, because it lets us know that, at a time when cynicism and pessimism seem pervasive, we need to be reminded that we are a nation of heroes and that we can rise to meet the challenges before us. Mr. Raymond Johnson was just a hero, and in the best tradition of the American spirit he rose to the challenges before him for no other reason than that he loved his country.

Raymond Johnson was like any other young American boy growing up before World War II. He enjoyed the innocence of playing baseball, climbing trees, fishing, and the other simplicities of a young life. But when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into World War II, Raymond Johnson did his duty and went off to serve his country as an infantryman in the U.S. Army. In April 1942, Raymond and hundreds of other young men traveled to Inniskillan, Northern Ireland, for specialized training as an Army scout. After further training in Inverary, Scotland, Raymond and his comrades found themselves in North Africa with the 168th Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division. Their enemy—Field Marshall Rommel's vaunted Afrika Korps.

Soon enough, the 34th Infantry Division received their baptism of fire during the Allied invasion of North Africa on November 17, 1942. Raymond served gallantly in battle during two major campaigns in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. After being bombarded both day and night by German artillery fire for over 1 month, the 34th Infantry found themselves divided and in disarray. One morning, just before dawn, Raymond and his comrades found themselves encircled by German tanks and infantry. Those American soldiers who were not machine gunned immediately found their positions overrun and themselves taken prisoner. That morning marked what would become 2½ years of hell for Raymond Johnson in Nazi prisoner of war camps in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, and ultimately the heart of the German interior.

Meanwhile, Raymond's family had no word of their son's fate. Reported missing, probably killed in action, the family feared for the worst. Then, a Canadian ham radio operator monitoring Vatican City Radio recorded the names of American prisoners of war that a Vatican City envoy had visited in a Nazi-controlled camp near Mount Vesuvius. Hearing the name Raymond Johnson and his home town broadcast over the radio, the ham radio operator contacted the Johnson family, giving them the first word that their son was alive. Despite his capture, the Johnson family, steadfast in their Roman Catholic faith, thanked God that their son was alive and that a priest had visited the men, giving them the sacrament of communion. Faith in God and confidence in their country were all that the Johnson family had to sustain them for some time to come.

Department of State Cables 446, 464, 579, and 649 mentioned Raymond Johnson as being sighted in Nazi POW Camps 7A and 3B near Furstonberg along with other prisoners, but the family was told nothing more than that their Raymond was a prisoner of war and that his fate was uncertain. Forced to labor on German public works projects and later on German farms, Raymond, like his fellow