

league gave me during his tenure as President. I wish only the best for Ed, his wife, Marion, their children and grandchildren.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today, May 29, I was not present to record my votes on the Omnibus Civilian Science Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997 [H.R. 3322]. I was absent due to the arrival of my adopted son, Scott Kirby Pomeroy, from Korea.

I would like to emphasize that, had I been present, I would have strongly supported two important amendments: The Zimmer amendment to eliminate funding for the space station, and the Cramer amendment to reinstate the certification requirement for closing a National Weather Service office. I have submitted statements in support of these amendments that will appear at the appropriate point in the RECORD.

STATEMENT BY SARAH SNIDER AND STEPHANIE PETROLITO REGARDING POST-HIGH SCHOOL JOB TRAINING AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by Sarah Snider and Stephanie Petrolito, high school students at the People's Academy in Vermont. They were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

(Alternated speaking):

We represent the U.S. History class at People's Academy in Morrisville.

As high school students, we worry every day about our post-secondary plans, such as college, a vocational or trade school, or perhaps even joining the workforce directly after graduation.

As a class we've done some research on the subject, as a result we have lots of questions. We have more questions than answers, because many of us have not been through the financial aid process. Our questions begin with average students, from average families in average American towns.

Most American students are average, who don't get straight A's, and who aren't necessarily gifted in athletics or the arts. This is especially true in other larger states, where student-teacher ratio's are higher, and less attention is given to the student as an individual, and their talents. Also, the majority of American families belong to the middle class, and are not particularly wealthy or incredibly poor.

A major part of financial aid is based on students' academic and extracurricular achievements, as well as their families' income. Many of these students have incredible potential that is not expressed in their high school transcripts. Most of the students in the class that I represent fall into this

category. I know that I do. We'd like to know what can be done to insure that we receive a college education.

The idea of spending 20 years paying off a debt is very discouraging, and although we are told that it is worth the money, most students are hesitant. As average students in the middle class, what kind of scholarships or financial aids, if any, are available to us? Many students are left so discouraged at these prospects that they decide, instead of furthering their education, to join the workforce. Education is a right for every American student, not a privilege.

Congressman Sanders: That is an incredible presentation. You've raised a lot of very important questions. I certainly don't know all the answers. But if basically what you're saying—let's say you have a middle class family making \$20 or \$30 or \$40,000/year, and it costs \$20-30,000 for one year to send one kid to college. That equation doesn't make sense, right? You can't do it.

Answer. Right.

Congressman Sanders: Further, I think you've made the point that if you don't have a college education, you won't make it into the middle class. So let me throw it back to you. If you were sitting in my seat in Congress, what would you do?

Answer. I would probably be inclined to * * * have the government be more involved. Like, what the girl from Brattleboro said about other countries where the government is more involved in college, and it costs less. And I totally agree that's the way it should be in this country, and that the government should spend less money on the military.

Congressman Sanders: Okay, as it happens I agree with you. But what is the other argument that is being made? What do you hear a whole lot of about the government lately? What do some people say about the government? Have you heard much?

Answer. Not much.

Congressman Sanders: Does everybody agree with your point of view?

Answer. No, not everybody. A lot of people think * * * that there is enough financial aid out there, and that there are other things that we need to worry about also. * * * But I just think really that education is incredibly important, and everybody thinks that.

Congressman Sanders: And a lot of people think, in fact, that the government should play *less* of a role.

Answer. Right.

Congressman Sanders: There's a whole line of thought out there, in which probably a majority of members of Congress now believe in exact contradiction to what you're saying. They're saying the government should get out of the issue. That Americorps—you mentioned Americorps—there's an effort to defund Americorps completely, not put one penny into Americorps.

Answer. But these are the people who've already been through college, and are not worrying about it now. There are three children in my family, and there's no way unless we each get a job during college, and try to go to college and do extracurricular activities, that we're going to be able to go to college.

Congressman Sanders: I agree with you. But when you hear the discussion going on in Congress about the role of government, what they have advocated, if I'm not mistaken, is that government should play a strong role in assuring that the middle class is able to send their kids to college, okay? Okay. So * * * they are defining a role of government. Right now in Congress there are many who strongly disagree with what they are asserting. I happen to agree. Thank you very much for your excellent presentation.

SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER G. TORKILDSEN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time to speak on this important small business issue.

The Small Business Job Protection Act is a package of tax incentives aimed at increasing the productivity of small business by promoting the opportunity for expansion. The bill contains a number of small business tax provisions. But, most importantly, there is a provision to increase expensing for small business.

Part of the Contract with America, this provision will increase from \$17,500 to \$25,000 the amount of money a small business can deduct for the purchase of equipment, such as computers, cash registers, or office furniture, for example. By increasing the deduction, small businesses will not only be able to modernize, giving their workers the tools they need to remain competitive, but they will also be in a stronger financial position to do business and interact within their communities.

Specifically, the bill phases in over 8 years a \$7,500 increase in the amount a business may deduct from their tax liability for capital investment. As I stated before, current law allows a maximum amount of \$17,500—bringing the new total deduction to \$25,000.

In closing, I strongly support passage of this long overdue legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

WHITEWATER VERDICT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 29, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's verdicts in the Whitewater trial is about more than just the Madison Savings and Loan. The investigation does not stand or fall on any one person, one transaction, or one trial. Whitewater is about the arrogance of power. It is about public officials using their office for personal gain and not telling the truth about it.

The White House is spinning the verdicts already, repeating the lead prosecutor's closing argument that the President was not on trial. Yet, the total vindication the White House claims is premature. At the very least, these indictments prove just how poor the President's judgment is. Since coming to office, one of his advisors has been sent to prison; two of his close friends and business partners were convicted yesterday; and the sitting Governor of Arkansas—the President's hand-picked successor to the governorship—was also convicted. The people the President chooses to surround himself by present yet another credibility problem.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps now we will get down to the bottom of the Clintons' involvement in the scandal. A new trial focusing on the financing of Governor Clinton's 1990 campaign will begin next month—and many questions remain unanswered ranging from Mrs. Clinton's billing record to alleged jobs-for-contributions trades in the 1990 Clinton campaign.