

every fiscal problem that arises. The Secretary should be looking at reprogramming money within the department so the public and the media can be served.

So, Mr. Speaker, we expect agencies to look for reprogramming funds. We also expect the appropriations committees to take this up piece by piece as to how well the agencies are dealing with serving the public in the freedom of information area.

I would hope that all parties in the legislative and executive branches take this matter seriously. In the coming year we will be watching the degree to which the backlog is reduced through the oversight conducted by our Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3802, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have two legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3802, the bill just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONFERRING HONORARY U.S. CITIZENSHIP TO MOTHER TERESA

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 191) to confer honorary citizenship of the United States on Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 191

Whereas the United States has conferred honorary citizenship on only three occasions in its more than two hundred years, and honorary citizenship is and should remain an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred nor frequently granted;

Whereas Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, better known through out the world as Mother Teresa, has worked tirelessly with orphaned and abandoned children, the poor, the sick, and the dying;

Whereas Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950, and has taken in those who have been rejected as "unacceptable" and cared for them when no one else would, regardless of race, color, creed, or condition;

Whereas Mother Teresa has deservedly received numerous honors, including the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize and the 1985 Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Mother Teresa has worked in areas all over the world, including the United States, to provide comfort to the world's neediest; and

Whereas Mother Teresa through her Missionaries of Charity has established within the United States numerous soup kitchens, emergency shelters for women, shelters for unwed mothers, shelters for men, after-school and summer camp programs for children, homes for the dying, prison ministry, nursing homes, and hospital and shut-in ministry; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa, is proclaimed to be an honorary citizen of the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN] and the gentleman from California [Ms. LOFGREN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 191, the joint resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 191, legislation which I introduced that confers honorary U.S. citizenship upon Mother Teresa.

Mr. Speaker, Mother Teresa is a living saint. Her work has affected people around the globe. She has worked tirelessly for the sick and the dying, giving them comfort and care. Mother Teresa has always, through her Missionaries of Charity, taken in those who are "unacceptable," and thus unwanted, and cared for them when no one else would. Her commitment to humanity is unwavering.

Born on August 27, 1910, Mother Teresa has worked for over 65 years for the betterment of mankind. She began her religious studies in Ireland in 1928. Later that same year, she went to Calcutta, India, where she has so nobly performed countless acts of faith and devotion.

Mother Teresa's caregiving has reached beyond creed, nationality, race, or place. She has extended her service to those who are poor and those who are unwanted around the world. Aside from her work in India, Mother Teresa has touched the lives of many in Ireland, Venezuela, Tanzania, Australia, Jordan, her own Albania, and of course, right here in the United States, to name but just a few of the more than 90 countries where Mother Teresa and her order have been active.

Bestowing such a prestigious tribute as honorary U.S. citizenship does not come easily. There have been only three other occasions on which this privilege has been awarded. Only four individuals have received honorary citizenship. They are, first, Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War II, America's greatest ally, second, Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who, during World War II, saved the lives of thousands of Jews, and third, William Penn and his wife, Hannah Callowhill Penn, were honored for their role in the colonial days of our great country.

Honorary U.S. citizenship does not grant any legal rights or obligations. It does not give the recipient any voting privileges. This has been a concern in the past. It is crystal clear from the legislative history of the Churchill, Wallenberg, and Penn bills that conferral of honorary citizenship is purely a symbolic gesture. It is recognition of their outstanding commitment to their fellow man and to America.

There is no question that Mother Teresa is a worthy recipient of this prestigious honor. She has established numerous soup kitchens, women's shelters, shelters for unwed mothers, religious education programs, nursing homes, orphanages, after school and summer camp programs for children, homes for the dying, prison ministry, family counseling programs, and missionary work in the United States. She has also been awarded the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize for her work as well as the 1985 U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom and countless other honors. It would surely take up the rest of the day to list them all.

The Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's order, was founded in India in 1950. The order was established in the United States in 1971. There are approximately 4,500 sisters affiliated with the congregation. It is represented in the United States in the Archdioceses of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Newark, Philadelphia, San Francisco, St. Louis, and Washington. Also in the Dioceses of Baton Rouge, Brooklyn, Dallas, Fall River, Gallup, Lafayette, Lexington, Little Rock, Peoria, Phoenix, and Memphis. It's very possible that more have been added since the last official report. God only knows where Mother Teresa's influence and good works may turn up next.

Mother Teresa is a woman of simple, yet eloquent, faith. This is best illustrated by an observation she once made. She said:

We do not accept any government assistance or church subsidies, salaries or fixed income. The birds of the air and the flowers of the field do not have an income, but God takes care of them. Therefore, will not God also take care of us, who are more important than flowers and birds?

But, it is Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity who, through their good works throughout the world have, in some way, shape, or form, taken

care of us by touching our lives. We should all be honored that we have had the privilege to have lived in her lifetime.

To those who sometimes ask the question, "Why is there so much evil in the world?" I ask the converse question, "Why is there so much good?" The answer is that there are humble people like Mother Teresa and those who work with her. Malcolm Muggeridge entitled his biography of Mother Teresa, "Something Beautiful for God." I would simply add to that, that Mother Teresa is also something beautiful for the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we recognize and reward the actions of this living saint. Mother Teresa is undeniably a worthy recipient of honorary citizenship and I ask my colleagues to join with me in bestowing this high honor and distinction upon Mother Teresa.

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Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FLANAGAN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN] for bringing this measure to the floor and to pay proper respects for this saintly servant of God who has done so much good for so many throughout the world. It is with a great deal of pride and pleasure that I join with the gentleman in honoring Mother Teresa in this manner.

Mr. FLANAGAN. I thank the distinguished chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. As the gentleman from Illinois has mentioned, this bill would provide honorary citizenship to Mother Theresa and that is a symbolic gesture, it does not provide for voting, citizenship and the like, but it is an honor that I feel ought to be conferred upon Mother Theresa. I would note that this measure has come up late in this Congress, but the Committee on the Judiciary did consider it last week and on voice vote did unanimously approve the measure.

As the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN] has indicated, there have only been three other occasions when honorary citizenship has been conferred by the United States, and they are all amazing people, Winston Churchill, Raoul Wallenberg, and William Penn. Certainly Mother Theresa belongs in this group of honored citizens of the world.

I note that Mother Theresa was actually born in Yugoslavia, of Albanian parents. She has received an honor from India, the Jewel of India, as well as the Nobel Peace Prize, and the Order of the British Empire. Adding honorary U.S. citizenship would add our country's honor to her which she so richly deserves.

I would note, as my colleague from Illinois has, that what she has done in her life deserves the admiration of all of us here in the United States and all around the world. Like many here in America when she fell ill a short while ago, I offered up a small prayer that she might be left here with us a little while longer to continue her good works. We do not know how long the Lord will see fit to leave her with us, but I hope that this bill bestowing honorary citizenship does pass in time for her to know that we call her our own as well. She embodies all the things that we believe is best for our country: hope, and reaching out to those in need.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN] for introducing the bill.

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Ms. LOFGREN. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California [Ms. LOFGREN] for her excellent remarks and her endorsement of the bill. It is worthy of her endorsement and her endorsement certainly is most helpful.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to observe quickly that the gentlewoman remarked she was born in Yugoslavia, this is true, in Skopje, but at the time she was born, she has been with us so long, Skopje was in the Ottoman Empire at the time she was born. That is how long she has been with us, out doing her good works. That is an amazing fact in and of itself.

Ms. LOFGREN. It certainly is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER].

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding me this time. Obviously no one, no one on this planet dare ever question Mother Theresa's good works and her qualification for this.

The only reason I rise is to say I certainly hope that we are not trying to cloak some of the things that we have done to the less fortunate in our society by conferring this on Mother Theresa. I am not too sure she would not have preferred a little different outcome in some of the things that this body did this year. In fact, I am almost sure she had almost rather have that done in her name rather than this.

I keep thinking if we look at the real character of Mother Theresa, she would have been horrified by probably many provisions of the regressive welfare bill. And, in fact, if she were here, because she is not a real citizen, she could not qualify, even though she has taken vows of poverty, for any of those benefits.

I think she would be saddened by many of the debates we have had about the poor children in this country and the poor people in this country. I cannot help but point out we have an im-

migration bill where she could still not come to this country to live even with this honorary citizenship unless she had a relative that was 200 percent over the poverty line willing to sponsor her. And if she got here and then she wanted to bring some of her relatives here to be with her in her last few days, she could not do that, either, because she has taken a vow of poverty and she would fit under our immigration bill.

So I have to say as we get close to election time and all of that, let us not try to take her tremendous good works and hope that that reflects on us when I think we have a record that she really would not particularly want her good works being used to cloak. I certainly do not come out against this bill. Obviously this woman deserves honors from every country, from every person anywhere. But I really wonder if she would not have preferred us spending this time to do something about the people who have fallen through the cracks in our society that are Americans and especially those who are least able to do anything, the young children, those who are terribly sick, those who are elderly and disabled. Those have been the people she has spoken for. And too many times in these last 2 years, we have had more of a motto of trying to keep hate alive, where we have politically preyed on the backs of the poor and the people who are defenseless.

So, yes, of course everybody is for this bill. But let me just say, I am not sure that the record of this body would qualify many of us for the kind of good works she has gotten. And I certainly hope none of us use this bill to try and cover up some of the votes that Mother Theresa would have never have made—never have made—had she been a Member of this body. I think to say, well, I cannot defend those votes but guess what I did, I tried to honor Mother Theresa, would make her very, very angry.

So as she has reentered the hospital, and we are all very saddened by that, I think it is also terribly important to be very serious about what her life message was to each and every one of us, and, that was, to do good things and to not ever attack those among us who are least able to fight back, whether I look at the welfare bill, nutrition bills, things that have been done in jobs bills, things that have been done in immigration bills, things that have been done in English only. Again she would be in trouble because she does not speak English well. I must say, I am sure she would kind of wonder why we did not try to correct some of those in her good name and follow her good works rather than just honor it. I am sure she would prefer we followed her good works first, and that would be the best way to honor her.

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join the gentlewoman from Colorado in her desire not to have Mother Theresa's name used for a crass

political purpose. Certainly that is not the intention of this side. I hope it is not anywhere in the body.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just add that clearly there are few if any Members of this body as saintly as Mother Teresa. And we should not only honor her with honorary U.S. citizenship, but use her faith and the action that her faith has led her to us as a model for each of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. FLANAGAN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, House Joint Resolution 191, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

FEDERAL COURTS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3968) to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3968

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1996".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

Sec. 101. New authority for probation and pretrial services officers.

TITLE II—JUDICIAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 201. Duties of magistrate judge on emergency assignment.

Sec. 202. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts.

Sec. 203. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk.

Sec. 204. Removal of cases against the United States and Federal officers or agencies.

Sec. 205. Appeal route in civil cases decided by magistrate judges with consent.

Sec. 206. Reports by judicial councils relating to misconduct and disability orders.

Sec. 207. Consent to trial in certain criminal actions.

TITLE III—JUDICIARY PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, BENEFITS, AND PROTECTIONS

Sec. 301. Refund of contribution for deceased deferred annuitant under the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System.

Sec. 302. Bankruptcy judges reappointment procedure.

Sec. 303. Technical correction related to commencement date of temporary judgeships.

Sec. 304. Full-time status of court reporters.

Sec. 305. Court interpreters.

Sec. 306. Technical amendment related to commencement date of temporary bankruptcy judgeships.

Sec. 307. Contribution rate for senior judges under the Judicial Survivors' Annuities System.

Sec. 308. Proceedings on complaints against judicial conduct.

TITLE IV—JUDICIAL FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 401. Increase in civil action filing fee.

Sec. 402. Interpreter performance examination fees.

Sec. 403. Judicial panel on multidistrict litigation.

Sec. 404. Disposition of fees.

TITLE V—FEDERAL COURTS STUDY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Sec. 501. Qualification of Chief Judge of Court of International Trade.

TITLE VI—PLACES OF HOLDING COURT

Sec. 601. Place of holding court in the Southern District of New York.

Sec. 602. Place of holding court in the Eastern District of Texas.

TITLE VII—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 701. Participation in judicial governance activities by district, senior, and magistrate judges.

Sec. 702. The Director and Deputy Director of the Administrative Office as officers of the United States.

Sec. 703. Removal of action from State court.

Sec. 704. Federal Judicial Center employee retirement provisions.

Sec. 705. Abolition of the special court, Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973.

Sec. 706. Exception of residency requirement for district judges appointed to the Southern District and Eastern District of New York.

Sec. 707. Civil justice expense and delay reduction plans.

Sec. 708. Venue for territorial courts.

TITLE I—CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE AMENDMENTS

SEC. 101. NEW AUTHORITY FOR PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.

(a) PROBATION OFFICERS.—Section 3603 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (8)(B);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

"(9) if approved by the court, be authorized to carry firearms under such regulations as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may prescribe; and"

(b) PRETRIAL SERVICES OFFICERS.—Section 3154 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (13) as paragraph (14); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the following new paragraph:

"(13) If approved by the court, be authorized to carry firearms under such regulations

as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts may prescribe."

TITLE II—JUDICIAL PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 201. DUTIES OF MAGISTRATE JUDGE ON EMERGENCY ASSIGNMENT.

The first sentence of section 636(f) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out "(a) or (b)" and inserting in lieu thereof "(a), (b), or (c)".

SEC. 202. REGISTRATION OF JUDGMENTS FOR ENFORCEMENT IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1963 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows:

"§1963. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts";

(2) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking out "district court" and inserting in lieu thereof "court of appeals, district court, or bankruptcy court"; and

(B) by striking out "such judgment" and all that follows through "Trade," and inserting in lieu thereof "the judgment"; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new undesignated paragraph:

"The procedure prescribed under this section is in addition to other procedures provided by law for the enforcement of judgments."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 125 of title 28, United States Code, relating to section 1963 is amended to read as follows:

"1963. Registration of judgments for enforcement in other districts."

SEC. 203. VACANCY IN CLERK POSITION; ABSENCE OF CLERK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 954 of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§954. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk

"When the office of clerk is vacant, the deputy clerks shall perform the duties of the clerk in the name of the last person who held that office. When the clerk is incapacitated, absent, or otherwise unavailable to perform official duties, the deputy clerks shall perform the duties of the clerk in the name of the clerk. The court may designate a deputy clerk to act temporarily as clerk of the court in his or her own name."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, relating to section 954 is amended to read as follows:

"954. Vacancy in clerk position; absence of clerk."

SEC. 204. REMOVAL OF CASES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND FEDERAL OFFICERS OR AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1442 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting "**or agencies**" after "**officers**"; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking out "persons"; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by striking out "Any officer of the United States or any agency thereof, or person acting under him, for any act under color of such office" and inserting in lieu thereof "The United States or any agency thereof or any officer (or any person acting under that officer) of the United States or of any agency thereof, sued in an official or individual capacity for any act under color of such office".

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 89 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by amending the item relating to section 1442 to read as follows: