



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1997

No. 62

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SUNUNU].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 13, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS] for 5 minutes.

### VOTE "NO" ON MOVING NUCLEAR WASTE TO NEVADA

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I come here after reading an early morning report in the Congressional Quarterly that a House bill moving nuclear waste to Nevada is rapidly moving to the House floor for consideration of passage. Before House Members consider this bill, I would like to address two issues, the first being that the Senate companion bill to this, Senate bill 104, was narrowly passed in the Senate and will be vetoed by the President under his promise.

Second is the issue that I ask both sides of the aisle to consider, and that is the issue of safety; safety in that they should not vote on a bill that is going to move nuclear waste through their communities, endangering the lives, the health, and the safety of their constituents; throwing away a vote on that issue, throwing away the lives and the health and safety of their constituents, just to prove a point.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge both sides of this House to vote no on moving nuclear waste to Nevada, House bill 1270, and I would issue this proclamation: that the Members should consider that their constituents should come first, that their safety and their lives are at issue here.

### WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning, and certainly to ask the President to disallow portions of the State of Texas welfare reform plan that includes the Texas Integrated Eligibility System, TIES, or which would allow the State to privatize the eligibility determination for social services.

All of us remember very vividly the vigorous debate on welfare reform that this Congress engaged in. At the crux of that issue was the ability to help Americans move from welfare to work. It was a recognition, as I recognized in my own 18th Congressional District, that many of those on welfare wanted to move from welfare to work, and looked forward to the additional job training and opportunity to be able to work and contribute to their own livelihood.

In the State of Texas alone, it has 690,000 recipients of its Aid to Families

and Dependent Children, and 1.4 million recipients of food stamps as well. The process that we presently use in the Texas Department of Human Services. Many professionals, social service professionals and social workers, have worked in that effort for many, many years. In the process of welfare reform, not only does Congress but the State itself and the legislature and the Governor recognize that we could do it better. We do not disagree with that, that we could make it more efficient, more effective, and certainly more responsive.

The TIES Program does not do that. It puts in a profit mode with a private company the whole concept of eligibility determination. That means when a mother or a dependent who needs welfare comes to an office, they deal with a cold and uncaring professional, someone whose basic motive is profit, and may be given incentives for how many individuals you deny in getting the need that they have to have.

In the 18th Congressional District alone, there are 109,596 women, infants, and children who receive WIC services, a basic nutrition program that has proven itself to be supportive of the early growth of our children. This means that in Harris County, TX, there are 12,917 pregnant women, 5,259 breastfeeding mothers, 9,448 postpartum mothers who have recently given birth who may be in need of these social services, and 29,000 infants and 52,000 children. It is inappropriate to leave their destiny in the hands of a computer.

Even just recently the Legislature in the State of Texas said that they were concerned that the executive branch might have gone too far in implementing what we authorized in the welfare reform bill. This legislation makes it clear that the legislature retains authority to make these decisions, and makes it clear in statute that the intention is to pursue privatizing only

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H2491

the automation part, not the intake part, not the sensitivity part, and not to, overall, castigate the thousands of State employees who over the years have been particularly sensitive to the intake process, asking the hard questions and trying to find solutions to those who have problems and who need welfare.

Finding out eligibility is not only in numbers and statistics, it is funding out the problems, the source of the need, why this person is in your office, who else can help them, why do they need to be on welfare. Maybe they only need to be on for a short period of time. A machine and a private company with an incentive for profit only cannot make this system work.

There may be some effort this week to add to the supplemental appropriations bill an amendment to approve this privatized system under the Texas welfare reform package. This should not be approved, for we should have a vigorous debate on the best way to provide efficient, safe, and productive services to the least of those who are in need in our country. Welfare reform, yes, but a totally incentive-based program profit-motivated, to the detriment of women and children and the elderly who need our care and consideration, that is absolutely wrong.

I would hope, first of all, that my colleagues will vote against any amendment that would offer to approve this system, and I would ask the President to disallow this particular provision, for it does not answer the question of efficiency in automation, but it really responds to the question of profit and profit incentive, and it eliminates, as I said, thousands of very valuable State employees who are trained professionally to answer these questions and concerns of the most needy.

We can have welfare reform. Let welfare reform be the kind of welfare reform that responds to the needs of all Americans.

#### CONGRATULATING FORT BENNING FOR BEING NAMED 1997 ARMY COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize Fort Benning, GA, the "home of the infantry" and the Army's premier installation, for being named a 1997 community of excellence.

On May 2, Fort Benning was awarded the Commander in Chief's Award for the third time in the last 4 years. This award is given annually to recognize the best Army installation in the world. Additionally, on May 1 Fort Benning was awarded the Chief of Staff Army Award for the fifth consecutive year. This award recognizes the best Army installation in the Continental United States. Fort Benning is also the

sole nominee of the 1997 Presidential Award for Quality as the Best Agency in the Federal Government.

These awards are indicative of both the ability and professionalism of the tens of thousands of soldiers that pass through Fort Benning's gate each and every year, and of the successful partnership that has been developed over the years between Fort Benning and the Columbus, GA, and Phenix City, AL, districts.

No military facility can be fully effective without developing a positive relationship with the local community. Fort Benning has accomplished this, and has developed a military-civilian team that is unmatched in efficiency and effectiveness.

In spite of the fact that the military population of Fort Benning is in a continuous state of transition, the installation has been able to maintain its high standards of quality. This is, in large part, thanks to nearly 7,000 civilians who work behind the scenes to advance Fort Benning's mission. These are individuals, like Sarah McLaney, Fort Benning's Army Community of Excellence coordinator, who has seen the facility receive the Commander in Chief Award under three different commanding generals. Dedicated workers like Sarah have been instrumental not only in achieving Fort Benning's military mission, but also in development of strong ties that bind Fort Benning with the Columbus and Phenix City communities.

General Ernst and his able staff have further reinforced Fort Benning's longstanding commitment to military quality, focusing on the watchwords "First in training, first in readiness, and first in quality of life." Fort Benning soldiers constitute a cornerstone of our Nation's Armed Forces.

Since 1918 Fort Benning has operated the world's foremost military institutional training center. As the home of the infantry, Fort Benning's mission is to produce the world's finest combat-ready infantrymen, to provide the Nation with a power projection platform capable of rapid deployment, and to continue the Army's premier installation and home for soldiers, families, civilian employees, and military retirees. This mission is achieved with distinction on a daily basis.

While the infantry remains the central focus of activity at Fort Benning, a number of other types of units have been added over the years, enhancing the ability of the installation to accomplish its mission.

In addition to being home of the infantry, Fort Benning now houses the Airborne School, the Army Ranger School, the 29th Infantry Regiment, a training unit for the Bradley fighting vehicle, the 36th Engineer Group, and the U.S. Army School of the Americas. Each of these units work tirelessly to defend our national interests around the world and to serve our communities at home.

To the military and civilian personnel of Fort Benning, I offer my sincere

thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER TALICOLEMAN, FORMER GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA AND PACIFIC ISLAND LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997 the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Peter Tali Coleman, former Governor of American Samoa and highly regarded Pacific Island leader who passed away on April 28 and was buried last Saturday in Hawaii. He was 77 years of age.

He served as the first popularly elected Governor of American Samoa, was elected again in 1988, and also had the distinction of being Samoa's first and only federally-appointed native-born Governor in the 1950's. His appointment by the Eisenhower administration made him one of the first islanders to serve as the head of a government anywhere in the Pacific, along with Joseph Flores from Guam.

After his appointive term in American Samoa ended, the Governor spent nearly 17 years in the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands where, as the first Pacific Islander to head the governments of what are now the Republic of the Marshall Islands from 1961 to 1965, and now the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, 1965 to 1969, he is believed to be the only Pacific Islander to have headed 3 of the 21 governments of what is now considered the modern insular Pacific. He was also the first U.S. citizen ever to have been awarded an honorary Marshall Island citizenship, an honor accorded to him by a special act of the Nitijela, the Marshalls' Parliament.

During the Nixon administration Governor Coleman was appointed deputy high commissioner of the Trust Territory, the second-ranking position in the central Government of Micronesia. While in Micronesia, he and his wife were the only Americans invited to participate in a private ceremony sponsored by the Japan-based Association of Bereaved Families, in recognition of his efforts to repatriate to Japan the remains of World War II servicemen who died in action on Saipan.

□ 1245

Upon the resignation of the High Commissioner, Coleman was appointed as his successor in an acting capacity. A widely recognized regionalist, Governor Coleman was active in numerous Pacific organizations throughout his public career. He was a member of either the United States or American Samoa delegations to the South Pacific Conference nine times between 1958 and 1992 and was head of the delegation to the Conference annually between 1980 and 1984, except for 1982