

Some might say, in hindsight, that Ms. LaQuista Stewart would have been a success without the Summer Youth Employment Training Program, and if this were a perfect world I would agree with them. Unfortunately, this world is not perfect and those deserving of a chance to learn valuable job skills are not always afforded that opportunity.

I would like to stress the need to look at summer youth employment as an extension of the learning experience for those young people who would otherwise not have that opportunity. It is the best example that we can convey to disadvantaged youth the valuable lessons of work and responsibility.

I would like to see the funding for summer youth employment create a separate funding stream for this significant program. Most of our disadvantaged young people live in urban areas that can best be served by direct funding of these programs. The block grant approach is detrimental to summer youth employment because it may not leave States with the needed flexibility to assign funds based on the particular socioeconomic demographics of the various States.

This summer jobs program provides income that will generate spending, often in impoverished neighborhoods, the summer program helps generate economic growth. For each 1,000 kids employed, the program brings between \$1 and \$1.4 million to those community.

I would hope that the Congress can meet the administration's request of \$871 million for the next fiscal year's funding of our Nation's Summer Youth Employment Program. I would also ask that you keep in mind the full benefits of the Summer Youth Employment Program, both tangible economic benefits and intangible job learning experience benefits.

#### PROMISES MEAN NOTHING TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO PLACE TO LIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, it is now day 12, 12 days since Congress recessed without taking action on the disaster supplemental appropriations bill. It is the sixth week since an absolutely devastating flood, a flood of 1,000-year proportion, hit Grand Forks and inundated North Dakota's second largest city, a city of 50,000 people.

One of the things that as we saw the footage broadcast throughout this country and, in fact, across the world, as you looked at literally a city steeped in the Red River water, it was a horrible visage. But one of the things that I think we perhaps could not fully appreciate as we watched that horrible site and saw the fires ravaging the downtown in the middle of this floodwater is the extent of damage occurring in each and every structure that had that floodwater in it.

During the 12 days since Congress recessed I spent a good deal of that time in Grand Forks. The stories that I heard directly from the people impacted from this flood were among the most moving I have heard from anyone.

What I believe Congress failed to realize as it recessed and went home without taking action was that it left literally thousands of people in the area I represent utterly in limbo.

Some have suggested that the disaster did not need prompt attention, FEMA is operating, SBA is operating, the programs are in the pipeline chugging along happily, providing all the disaster relief anyone could ever require. That is simply wrong; they are simply wrong. In fact, the disaster bill hung up in conference committee contains in one of its most essential parts \$500 million of community development block grants. This funding is literally the linchpin of the Grand Forks' recovery effort because it will provide the funding for the expanded floodway, it will provide the buyouts that will purchase the homes in the floodway, giving their owners the capital they need to get on with planning where they are going to live next; do they build, do they buy? Whatever. Without that community development block grant funding, without the assurance, and the commitment of those resources to our area, people are utterly on hold.

Imagine having your home in the floodway, but with the city unable to determine exactly what funding will be available for home buyout purchase, the city cannot tell you whether or not to repair your home. Now your home has got about \$20,000 or \$30,000 worth of damage, and this is the case of hundreds of homes. You do not know whether to put in \$20,000 or \$30,000; you already lost most of your life's investment in the equity of your home. You do not know whether to put in that money without knowing whether you might be bought out and forced to move within a year again anyway. And so you wait, as hundreds of families are waiting in Grand Forks each and every day of the 12 days that Congress went out on recess without taking action. Your children may be living with grandparents or relatives, other relatives, maybe friends. Your family may be scattered. You may be commuting 90 miles one way to work because you do not have a place to live, and Congress recesses.

And during the recess, Mr. Speaker, Members traveled all over the world enjoying their time away from legislative business. Well, the people in Grand Forks would have liked to have taken time away from their business, their business of trying to pull themselves out of the floodwater and the mud of the Red River and get on with their productive lives. But they could not do it, and the reason they could not do it is because this bill was hung up in conference committee.

There was a tremendous constructive, bipartisan effort in building a good disaster bill. I personally have stood here on the floor of the House and expressed my appreciation to the Speaker, to the majority leader and to the other Members, both in the majority and the minority, who have worked

together to build such a meaningful relief package to our area. But it does not do any good if it is not passed. Simple as that.

Mr. Speaker, deed is in the enacting and getting the resources available. Promises at this point mean nothing to people who have got no place to live.

□ 1900

The conference committee reconvenes tomorrow. It is my urgent hope and request of the conferees that, as they come back into session, remember those in the flood-ravished areas I represent, put politics aside, and get about the business of getting people the help they so desperately need.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN SENGSTACKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American who recently passed away, one whose life has flowed and influence has flowed from his office on the near south side of Chicago to points across America and throughout the world, Mr. John H. Sengstacke. He spent 50 years as publisher of the Chicago Daily Defender newspaper, which was founded by Robert Abbott in 1905 and sold as many as 200,000 copies a week during World War II, when it championed desegregation of the Armed Forces and paved the way for Jackie Robinson to become the first black to play major league baseball.

John Sengstacke was born in Savannah, GA, educated at Hampton Institute in Virginia, and spent the rest of his life working for and building the Chicago Defender newspaper, a paper which under the leadership of Mr. Abbott had acquired a readership far beyond Chicago by being an early champion of the great migration beginning in World War I.

Mr. Abbott preached in his editorials that the destiny of blacks was in the north, where factories were desperate for workers. Pullman car porters acted as unofficial circulation agents by picking up copies in Chicago and dropping them off at barber shops and churches along their southern runs.

In the 1940's Mr. Sengstacke founded the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, now known as the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which has more than 200 members. He also acquired the new Pittsburgh Courier, the Detroit-based Michigan Chronicle, and the Tri-State Defender published in Memphis, TN. Out of the Defender has emerged a Chicago institution, the Bud Billiken parade. As an activity of the Defender charities, the Bud Billiken parade has grown to be one of the largest community celebrations in the Nation. Mayors, Governors, Senators and even Presidents have marched or ridden in this parade, which traditionally draws more than a