

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2267) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Hyde amendment to the Commerce-Justice-State appropriation.

In Committee there was a provision added that would have allowed Members of Congress and their staffs to be reimbursed for legal costs in cases where they were the prevailing party against the Federal Government, unless a court found that the Government's case was "substantially justified or that other special circumstances would make an award unjust."

Under this provision, the burden of proof would be placed on Government prosecutors who would not only have to prove that there was probable cause a crime had been committed, but also that they were substantially justified in bringing the case to trial.

It was my intention to vote for an amendment to completely strike the committee language from the bill. Unfortunately, the Congress was not given an opportunity to vote on such an amendment.

Instead the Congress considered the Hyde amendment. This amendment took a questionable approach to a handful of cases involving Congress and sought to apply it to all cases prosecuted by the Government. This would open the Government up to a flood of litigation every time it lost a case, regardless of the circumstances.

It was a bad idea for cases involving Congress and it's an exponentially worse when it's extended to everyone else. The fact is that if this provision were to become law, the Department of Justice would choose not to pursue difficult, but legitimate, criminal cases such as those involving rape and child molestation.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
DYSTONIA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate October 12-19 as National Dystonia Awareness Week.

Mr. Speaker, I became interested in the efforts of organizations that promote public

awareness and research into dystonia when one of my constituents, Larry Bienstock, brought to my attention his long-term battle with this devastating disease. After receiving his law degree from New York University, Larry was a leading figure in bringing people together who were concerned about dystonia and in establishing a strong collective voice for advocacy.

Dystonia is a rare neurological disorder characterized by severe muscle contractions and sustained postures that afflict an estimated 300,000 people in North America. The three major types of dystonia are primary, focal dystonia, and secondary dystonia.

Primary dystonia, also known as idiopathic torsion dystonia, causes spasms that affect different parts of the body and often starts in childhood.

Focal dystonia affects one specific part of the body, distinguished in five categories: blepharospasm, cervical dystonia, oromandibular dystonia, spasmodic dysphonia, and writer's cramp. Blepharospasm causes eyelids to rise tightly for seconds to hours. Cervical dystonia is the contraction on neck muscles turning the head to one side or pulling it forward or backward. Oromandibular dystonia—also known as Meige's Syndrome—is a combination of blepharospasm and oromandibular dystonia in which the muscles of the lower face pull or contract irregularly to cause facial distortions. Spasmodic dysphonia affects the speech muscles of the throat, causing strained, forced, or breathy speech. Writer's cramp is characterized by muscles in the hand and forearm contracting.

The final type of dystonia, secondary dystonia, is caused by an injury or other brain illness.

Unfortunately at this time, there is no definite test for dystonia and many primary care doctors have only minimal knowledge of the symptoms of this disease. The medical profession has found this particular neurological disorder difficult to detect, and therefore it is difficult to correctly diagnose individuals suffering from dystonia. Dystonia affects six times more Americans than other better known disorders such as Huntington's disease and muscular dystrophy.

Those who suffer from dystonia, their families, and their friends have benefited from the creation of the Affiliated National Dystonia Association [ANDA], which is comprised of the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, and the National Spasmodic Torticollis Association. I applaud their work, and support their outstanding efforts.

ANDA provides outreach education regarding the various types of dystonia to both the medical and lay communities, including school systems, government, and the media. It also provides for medical grants to promote research into the causes of and treatment for dystonia. Finally, ANDA sponsors patient and family support groups and programs.

Many citizens react to the physical manifestations of dystonia by avoiding those who

have this disorder, causing them to experience isolation and suffer grave psychological harm. Greater recognition and understanding of dystonia, both in the medical and the lay communities, is highly desirable. Individuals can obtain more information about dystonia on the world wide web. The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation has created a web page that not only offers information about the various forms of dystonia, but also details meeting places and dates for those who are or have a family member affected by dystonia. The web address is <http://www.ziplink.net/users/dystonia/>. You can also learn more by visiting an Internet news group dedicated to dystonia research at "alt.support.dystonia." The toll-free number is 1-800-377-DYST (3978).

Today, as we celebrate National Dystonia Awareness Week, I stand with those who have suffered with dystonia and those who have been their advocates. We must continue to increase public awareness of this disease and ultimately, to search for a cure.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY LEROY
AND JEANETTE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, in an era when many are concerned with the demise of the institution of marriage and the family unit in the United States, I rise today to honor Leroy and Jeanette Linck. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Leroy and Jeanette on their 50th anniversary. Leroy and Jeanette were married on September 5, 1947 at the Methodist Church in Bartonville. The Linck's joyously celebrated their 50th anniversary with close friends and family on September 6 at an intimate reception in the Spillertown Baptist Church Educational Building for all to share in this wonderful occasion.

Leroy has been an active volunteer in the political arena and through his work experience he is a jack of all trades. Leroy was a Democratic Precinct Committeeman for 32 productive years. His fervor for community involvement was intoxicating and is personally responsible for letting the people in the surrounding areas become aware of the political process. Jeanette dedicated 12 years to her career as a nurse at a local doctor's office until she decided to retire when the practice closed.

Mr. Speaker, in a day where marriages are too often short lived, it is a real treasure to be a witness to a couple that has endured the daily trials and tribulations that cause many couples to fail. The Linck's have proven that they can work things out and muddle through their struggles. This family is no stranger to life's hardships.

Leroy and Jeanette have been blessed with a large, loving family and a strong marriage.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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