

Dreier added some members of the institution itself to the list of groups responsible for creating hostility toward Congress.

"Many of the problems that are out there, I think have been caused by members in Congress . . . who have made a career of attacking the United States Congress," he said.

CNN correspondent Candy Crowley said public apathy represents a more serious threat to the institution's ability to engage in discourse and pass laws.

"I don't think the anger is a problem," she said. "The idea that it's not relevant is a problem."

The speakers had little time to come up with specific solutions for what ails Congress or for how to restore the Public's confidence. That daunting task will be left to future forums, said Ted Kaufman, a Duke law professor and former Senate staffer who is the center's co-chairman.

Pollster Peter Hart actually had some good news for the two members of Congress taking part in the discussion. His latest poll showed a 48 percent approval rating for the job Congress is doing, one of the highest in recent memory. A booming economy and the lack of a national crisis are two of the big reasons.

However, as if to illustrate that opinion surveys can show just about anything, Hart said the public's confidence in Congress as an institution is still rock-bottom: Only 21 percent say they have a "great deal" of confidence.

"That's the difference between performance, which will fluctuate up and down, and the other element, which is, 'How do I feel about the institution as a whole?'" he said. "Only the national news media fall below the Congress in confidence."

HONORING HELEN WRIGHT OF
ZANESVILLE, OH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues.

Helen Wright of Zanesville, OH will be retiring on December 19, after 10 years of employment from the Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority. Ms. Wright served as the secretary of the Port Authority where she displayed much commitment and devotion to the region.

An achievement of this magnitude requires a great deal of hard work and dedication. Ms. Wright has diligently served mid-eastern Ohio for 10 years and deserves to be commended. It is precisely people like her that makes our community a better place to live and grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Helen Wright for her service to the Zanesville-Muskingum Port Authority. I wish her continued health, success, and prosperity in her retirement. Congratulations Ms. Wright.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CONTRACTING PRACTICES

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the revitalization of our Nation's capital will require the

participation and commitment of both the public and private sectors. Public-private partnerships will be the anchor of any economic revitalization. This goal will be successful only if all participants are assured that this is a sincere effort, with a level playing field, and not simply an extension of the two decades of poor policy decisionmaking that helped spiral Washington, DC, into its recent situation.

The Congress has no desire to run the daily affairs of the city. However, the Congress does have a unique constitutional responsibility to the District of Columbia. Without micro-managing the affairs of the city, the Congress does need to ensure that as a matter of Federal policy, it will: support public-private efforts designed to assist in the Capital's revitalization; support creative, imaginative, and unique approaches; support the streamlining of the Federal and District review and regulatory processes, where appropriate, to encourage revitalization; and exercise appropriate oversight to ensure that the District honors all of its contractual and financial commitments.

It is well understood by the Congress that the District of Columbia continues to suffer from past financial problems. For example, the District of Columbia has experienced issues with a number of its current vendors as a result of its prior reputation of poor payment performance. A recent newspaper article documented that one of the reasons for schools not having textbooks was " * * * twelve textbook companies refused to ship books because the District still owes for previous orders."

Prior negligence in these matters created a ripple effect that has a broad and negative reach. Vendors have been discouraged from responding to D.C. RFP's because of concerns over the selection process. Congress can assist in eliminating this perception without direct intervention. Congress can also assure all current and prospective private sector partners and their respective lenders that it will monitor and respond appropriately to any failing by the government of the District of Columbia to meet acceptable government contracting practices.

PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION

HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a belated recognition of the efforts of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in their continuing effort to remind all Americans of the importance of the U.S. Constitution. This year, in honor of Constitution Day, the DAR published a series of Constitution Sidelights, which I am honored to submit to the RECORD.

These sidelights demonstrate that the Founders were real human beings with individual idiosyncrasies. This forces us to remember that they rose above their individual quirks to develop a political system that led to the freest, most prosperous, and most tolerant society that the world has ever known.

The Constitution's balance of powers, rights, and responsibilities provide the groundwork for

this society. But it is only when citizens know their freedoms, rights, and duties that the promise of our Constitution can be realized in our daily lives.

It is groups like the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution that have put in the time and energy to remind our citizens of this. They deserve all of our support and praise for the fine work they do.

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CONSTITUTION SIDELIGHTS 1997-1988

1. Author-historian James McGregor Burns characterized the delegates to the Constitutional Convention as "the well bred, the well fed, the well read, and the well wed."

2. The final form of the Constitution was put to a vote on September 17, 1787. Thirty-nine of the delegates present voted in favor; three were opposed. Thirteen delegates were absent and of these, seven were believed to favor the Constitution.

3. As acknowledged leader in Pennsylvania and one of the world's most recognized savants, it was Benjamin Franklin's part to entertain the delegates. He wrote to his sister that his new dining room would seat twenty-four. He had a generous hand with the port.

4. During the entire summer of 1787 Washington was a guest in the home of Robert Morris. The Morris family had bought as their summer residence a large mansion on a wooded hill above the Schuylkill river. They had an ice house, hot house, stable for twelve horses, and lived in splendid luxury.

5. A rule of secrecy existed during the Convention, for which there was some criticism. It seemed impossible to keep old Dr. Franklin quiet. It has been said that a discreet delegate would attend Franklin's convivial dinners, heading off the conversation when one of the Doctor's anecdotes threatened to reveal secrets of the Convention.

8. The Statehouse was comparatively cool when entering from the baking streets of an unusually hot summer. The east chamber was large, forty by forty with a twenty foot ceiling and no supporting pillars to break the floorspace. Tall, wide windows were on two sides, covered by slatted blinds to keep out the summer sun. Gravel had been strewn on the streets outside to deaden the sound of wheels and horses passing.

7. During an especially difficult week when agreement seemed impossible, Benjamin Franklin suggested that a chaplain be invited to open each morning meeting with prayer. North Carolina's Hugh Williamson bluntly replied that the Convention had no money to pay a chaplain. The state budgets in 1787 were exceedingly slim, and the finances of the delegates were constantly changing.

8. On Monday, May 28th, the last of the eight delegates from Pennsylvania arrived. Jared Ingersoll was to remain silent for the entire four months of the Convention. This was an extraordinary feat for the man often described as "the ablest jury lawyer in Philadelphia."

9. Washington was not a facile speaker. "He speaks with great diffidence," wrote a foreign observer, "and sometimes hesitates for a word...His language is manly and expressive." He was rarely seen to smile and his manners were uncommonly reserved. It was felt, however, that power would not turn his head, and he was never overbearing.

10. The fourth of Delaware's five delegates arrived on May 28th. Gunning Bedford, Jr., was tall, sociable, corpulent, and known as an impetuous speaker who did not hesitate to make trouble if trouble was in order. Bedford, attorney general of his state, came to

Philadelphia as a champion of the small states.

11. Convention rules were simple and took into account courtesy as well as convenience. It was an age of formal manners. George Wythe of Virginia, chairman of the rules committee, had a keen eye, a deeply lined forehead, and at age 60 resembled a sinewy old eagle. "Every member," read Wythe, "rising to speak, shall address the President, and whilst he shall be speaking, none shall pass between them or hold discourse with another, or read a book, pamphlet or paper, printed or manuscript."

12. Seven states were to make a quorum, and all questions to be decided "by a greater number of these which shall be fully represented." There was an excellent rule providing for reconsideration of matters that had already been passed on by a majority. Young Richard Dobbs Spaight of North Carolina suggested it: "The House may not be precluded, by a vote upon any question, from revising the subject manner of it when they see cause."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
APPROPRIATIONS ACT—H.R. 2607

SPEECH OF

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 12, 1997

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, once again the U.S. Congress has exhibited a double standard toward the people of Haiti. The District of Columbia appropriations conference report provides a badly needed resolution to the District's financial problems. This conference report also contains certain immigration policy provisions that are intended to counteract a provision in the extreme, mean-spirited immigration reform legislation passed by the Republican-led 104th Congress. I commend the efforts made by House and Senate conferees to stop the potential deportation of hundreds of thousands of Central American and Eastern European immigrants; however, they specifically left thousands of Haitian immigrants out in the cold. This is tragically unfair and must not be overlooked. The only discernible difference between Haitians and these other refugees is that Haitians are black. I cannot believe that in 1997 the U.S. Congress has chosen to make critical policy decisions in this irrational manner.

The United States Government helped create conditions in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador that resulted in great numbers of people from these countries fleeing their homelands and searching for relief on our shores. In spite of this, Republicans in Congress have attacked immigrants on all fronts, including those from these Central American nations. In addition to cutting back on the types of social services and benefits immigrants could apply for, the ill-conceived Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 created new rules for Central American refugees which would effectively disqualify the vast majority of these immigrants from attaining citizenship and set them up for deportation. Before the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 was passed, these immigrants were permitted to apply for suspension of deportation and then apply for permanent resi-

dence if they met several rigorous requirements. They had to follow a painstaking, labyrinthine process to become American citizens. American citizenship is so prized by our Central American neighbors that they were happy to play by these complicated rules. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 changed the rules for these immigrants midstream and would have forced many of them to return to their homelands even though many have established themselves as productive members of our society. The District of Columbia appropriations legislation treats all these groups with compassion.

The conference report even provides relief for refugees from certain Eastern bloc countries in which we did not become involved to create a refugee situation. Inexplicably, Haitians were not afforded the same treatment, even though their plight was just as terrible and their desire to become American citizens is just as great.

The United States must acknowledge that its support for previous Haitian regimes has forced thousands of Haitian refugees to seek relief here in America. Since the military coup in Haiti, the United States has allowed thousands of these refugees to apply for citizenship. Haitians are still endangering themselves, risking death in order to reach our shores. Clearly, the situation in Haiti is not that much better than it is in Central America and the former Eastern bloc countries. The Haitian Government continues to be in disarray. The country's infrastructure continues to decay at a rapid rate while more than \$1 billion in foreign assistance remains unspent. More than half the population eligible for work is estimated to be jobless at the same time that the cost of living is rising at an alarming rate. The situation in Haiti clearly calls for more compassionate action by the United States. Unfortunately, a proposal by Congresswoman Carrie P. Meek and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus [CBC] to provide relief for Haitian immigrants was not included in the District of Columbia appropriations conference report. This CBC-backed proposal would simply grant Haitians the same treatment given to Nicaraguans under the District of Columbia appropriations conference report. Like Central Americans and Eastern Europeans, Haitian immigrants have a powerful desire to become American citizens. They have established families and provided American businesses with skilled, dedicated workers. In my district in particular, Haitians are a vital part of the local economy and culture. Why are they not afforded the same treatment by American policy makers? It is unthinkable that Haitians were treated differently solely because they are black; however, the circumstances leave me no choice but to conclude that this Congress considers the suffering of black people to be of less importance.

We have settled in this country refugees from many war-torn nations. The people of Haiti have suffered long enough from the excesses of their former despotic leaders and the shortsightedness of our foreign policy. I plan to dedicate the second session of the 105th Congress to working with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and other Members of Congress to ensure that equal treatment of Haitian immigrants is achieved. I challenge the House leadership and the administration to make justice for Haitians a pri-

ority in 1998. It is time that we settle this moral debt that we owe the people of Haiti.

EAST TIMOR—NEED FOR A
POLITICAL SOLUTION

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, there have been disturbing developments in East Timor, which was invaded and illegally occupied by Indonesia in 1975 and is an area that has long been of concern to me and many of my colleagues. On November 14, the Roman Catholic Bishop, Carlos Ximenes Belo, stated that Indonesian security forces had acted with "incalculable brutality" against students at the University of East Timor. The security forces are said to have burst into the university, opening fire on a group of students and injuring about five seriously. Six others are still in custody as a result of this incident. Amnesty International has asked that those in custody have proper access to legitimate legal advice, and has also called for an investigation into this incident, involving the excessive use of force by Indonesian military and policy.

This is only the latest in a series of violent incidents since Bishop Belo returned last December from Oslo after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. Only in the past 2 months, there have been brutal actions by security forces or those connected to them, near the towns of Viqueque and Ossu. Paul Moore, Jr., the retired Episcopal Bishop of New York, who recently visited East Timor for the second time since 1989, reports that one paramilitary group under Indonesian control throws rocks nearly every night at the home of Bishop Belo's mother and sister in the town of Baucau. I share Bishop Moore's view that such actions are intolerable. And if they can be directed at the family of someone as prominent as a Nobel Peace Laureate, how many can really be safe?

Bishop Moore attended some of the religious festivities that took place around East Timor's highest peak, Mount Ramelau, on October 6-7. As Bishop Moore puts it, "What I saw was an entirely peaceful gathering of tens of thousands of people motivated by their faith. But many in the clergy in East Timor affirm that provocateurs under the control of the Indonesian military have dedicated themselves to marring such events at every opportunity."

This is apparently what happened on Mount Ramelau on October 7, when the stabbing of a young man led to the cancellation of a long-awaited religious procession. As Bishop Moore stated, "This incident is seen by senior clergy, rightly or wrongly, as a deliberate attempt by those under the control of Indonesian authorities to thwart the aspirations of the East Timorese people—in this instance, ruining a day of piety and peace."

However, it is clear to Bishop Moore, and especially to Bishop Belo, that the problem in East Timor is not a religious problem but is political in nature, just as the recent incident at the University of East Timor was rooted in the heavy-handed, illegal Indonesian military occupation. The pattern is one of conscious use and creation of violent incidents, religious and otherwise, by security forces. If such incidents