

VOUCHER PLAN RAISES UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, in anticipation of bringing a bill to the floor, the Republican majority is pouring thousands of dollars into ads for a voucher bill. But I challenge them to use that to send some of the 7,500 kids they want to help to parochial schools, as they claim they want to do.

This is a political exercise. It has become a political perennial, because it comes every year. This year it is an election year charade. We know it is a charade because the President has promised to veto. If the majority is sincere, I challenge them to sit down with me and write a bill that can be signed.

This year a bill of this kind is a real insult because we have a real shot at exponential improvement in the D.C. public schools, finally.

One good example is the Summer Stars program about to begin. We will become the first big city school system to eliminate social promotion and replace it not only with a remedial program but with a program in the summer that helps youngsters catch up so they do not fail in the first place. A rigorous academic program is going to be put in place. Our youngsters are going to have to read 25 books next year in order to pass the grade.

Want to help? There are ways to make a real difference for the many and not merely the few. It is cruel to raise the expectations of 75 youngsters for 2,000 school vouchers. It is cruel because there are two insurmountable barriers, and we know they are insurmountable. First is the veto, but, second, no serious constitutional scholar believes public school vouchers are constitutional.

As I speak, there are two injunctions on public school vouchers right now. Two courts in Wisconsin have stopped public school vouchers with injunctions on constitutional grounds. An appeals court in Ohio has stopped public school vouchers on constitutional grounds.

D.C. schools need help. If Members want to raise people's expectations and then let them fall, they should go do it in their own districts. Do not come in and do it to my folks. I challenge the majority, if they want to see D.C. kids go to parochial schools, I will join Members in raising private funds to send them to private schools.

Everyone knows what they are doing. They are preparing for a \$1 billion raid on the public Treasury to take money that would go to public schools and give it to private and parochial schools. We are not going to let them do it. Either the President will stop them or the courts will stop them. Meanwhile, they are playing with the lives of the people I represent.

I ask Members to stand back and instead come forward and join me in

truly helping youngsters who are crying out for help but cannot get it, as Members know they cannot, in the way they have chosen.

We can work together. No one has even come to me and approached me about this issue. They would not dare go into the district of another Member without even approaching her on the district. They have not asked me if there is an approach that we can agree upon.

I can tell them that the approach that they are depending upon, a starkly partisan approach that has nothing to do with the youngsters I represent, will in fact be turned down not only by me but by those I represent. And, for them, I resent Members coming forward to raise their expectations, knowing full well that they cannot meet them and having no intention whatsoever to meet them in yet another election year charade designed falsely to show what Members cannot show, and that is that public schools cannot be improved. Perhaps they cannot be. Neither, I assure the Members, will the courts of this great country allow us to empty the Federal Treasury of funds and put them into private schools.

If Members want to help my kids, understand that they want your help, need your help, and that their Member is willing to cooperate with others in order to get help. But I ask Members to cooperate with us, not to exercise their will on us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GREENWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL JAMES J. LYONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I have come to the floor of the United States House of Representatives tonight to talk about big news in a small town in Missouri's Ninth Congressional District. That town is Kirksville, Missouri. For those who do not know about Kirksville, it is the home of nationally-recognized Truman State University.

Tonight my good friend, Jack Magruder, the President of Truman State, and some of his colleagues have tuned in for this tribute, because it is time, Madam Speaker, to pay tribute to a man of honor.

Tonight I am here to salute a great countryman, Lieutenant Colonel James J. Lyons. His friends call him Jim. They also call him dependable. Lieutenant Colonel James Lyons has dedicated more than 29 years to Army service.

He entered the Army as a private in the Ohio Army National Guard in 1968, completed basic training, completed Advanced Individual Training-Infantry at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; and after a period of enlisted service with the Ohio Guard, he entered Officer Candidate School at Fort Hayes, Ohio. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1970 and assigned to C Company, 113th Medical Battalion, where he served as ambulance platoon leader and training officer.

Lt. Col. Lyons moved to Kirksville in 1972 and was assigned to the 5503d U.S. Army Hospital in Columbia, Missouri. He served in a number of staff officer positions, including assistant personnel officer, food service officer and hospital company commander.

In 1976, he was project officer for the First Army Reserve Medical Symposium. A year later, he led the quartering party which organized the 901st Medical Detachment which, Madam Speaker, was the first Army Reserve Medical Unit in northern Missouri. Subsequently, he served as that unit's training officer and executive officer.

In 1988, Lt. Col. Lyons helped establish the 303d Field Hospital in Kirksville. He also served as that unit's executive officer and deployable medical systems project officer.

Lt. Col. Lyons was selected to be the first commander for the newly formed