

That way the public and the judge presiding over the grand jury investigation can decide whether the prosecutor is following the rules.

Last February Mr. Starr claimed that he was investigating whether his office was leaking information. Given the allegations about Mr. Starr's and Mr. Bennett's background conversations with reporters, one wonders how thorough that inquiry could have been.

Now, Mr. Starr has no choice but to ask for an independent investigation to determine what, if any, information his office revealed to the press and whether that information violated any rules. Unless action is taken quickly, it will appear that the Independent Counsel's Office is above the law.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
REORGANIZATION

**HON. JOE SKEEN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, last month I introduced legislation to reorganize the United States Forest Service in an attempt to bring reform to that troubled federal agency. Today, I introduce legislation to further the goal of streamlining government and save additional money for the taxpayers of this nation, without decreasing services.

Continuing what Congress began in 1995, my legislation would dissolve the Department of Interior's (DOI) Minerals Management Service (MMS) and transfer the two major functions to other locations in DOI. By this transfer, the Department would realize significant savings by elimination of the administrative support component of the current MMS.

Under this legislation, the Minerals Management component of MMS would be transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. The Royalty Management component would be transferred to the office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. Day to day operations of these two divisions would go on, almost totally undisturbed by this legislation.

I would point out that the MMS was established in 1982, following an internal reorganization of the Department of Interior. Expectations for the new federal agency were high. The MMS took components that were formerly located elsewhere in the Department and placed them under one roof, headed by a director appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing program was expected to be the real centerpiece of this new agency. Leasing activities were to be expanded from small areas in California, the Gulf of Mexico and in Alaska to large areas off the entire East and West Coasts as well as the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. Industry interest was extremely high and energy self sufficiency was just around the corner.

However, something happened along the way and public support for this effort never materialized. In fact, in spite of an outstanding safety and environmental record, widespread and rabid opposition to expansion of the program developed and continues today. Therefore, the grand plans of 1982 never materialized. In fact, just last week, President Clinton called for extending the current Congressional

moratorium on oil and gas activities in these new areas for another 10 years. For all practical purposes, the OCS program today remains active in the Gulf of Mexico and in Alaska waters. The program remains a vital component of our energy supply. This is especially true for natural gas.

In terms of the royalty management program, the lack of expansion of federal oil and gas leasing and production, coupled with technological advances, have diminished the need for widespread expansion of this component of the MMS. With Congressional interest in new Royalty-in-Kind proposals, MMS royalty management could well downsize even further.

The American taxpayers, who in essence are government's stockholders, are demanding a leaner government. This legislation is a step towards that goal. We cannot wait for this Administration to do the right thing. It is time for Congress to act.

HONORING DR. THOMAS P.  
GRISSOM, JR.

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and achievements of Dr. Thomas P. Grissom, Jr.

Dr. Grissom has earned two Doctorate degrees, and it was his desire to teach before retiring.

Dr. Thomas P. Grissom, Jr. has a vast amount of experience as a pastor. He began his ministry 49 years and 9 months ago. He first became the Associate Pastor of St. Mark United Methodist Church in Manhattan. From there he went to Janes United Methodist Church in Brooklyn. After this position, he moved to Taylor Memorial Church in Oakland, California. He later returned to New York in October 1980 to pastor Salem United Methodist Church in Manhattan. He remained at Salem until the end of June in 1990. On the first Sunday of July 1990, Dr. Grissom became the Pastor of Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church, where he has served until the present time.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Dr. Thomas P. Grissom, Jr. for his tremendous devotion and dedication to his profession.

THE STRATEGIC TRANSITIONAL  
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Strategic Transitional Employment Program Act or STEP, and I thank Senator WELLSTONE, who will introduce the bill in the Senate today, for his leadership. The unemployment rates in many parts of this region are so low that almost anybody can find a job. Yet in the District and other large cities and in rural areas, unemployment rates remain unaffected by the excellent Clinton economy. Entire sections of our society scratch their collective heads at daily reports of the splendid economy.

The STEP Act seeks to link long-term unemployed Americans with the roaring economy. It provides the three indispensable elements that most often are missing: job readiness, job experience and job placement. STEP is tightly structured. The program would be available only for individuals who meet three criteria: individuals unemployed for 15 weeks or more, whose families are at or below the poverty line, and who live in communities of concentrated poverty and unemployment.

Clearly, individuals who face all three of these conditions are walled off from self-sufficiency. If they have not found jobs after 87 months of an exceptional economy, we cannot expect jobs for them to appear miraculously. They obviously need our help. Transitional jobs that provide work experience while some transportation and child care services are provided can make the vital difference. Unlike some job programs, at the end, STEP would come with vital job placement for those who had not found work in 12 months. Moreover, paid part-time participation in education and training, including college, would insert a vital missing link to decent employment sadly lacking in last year's welfare bill.

I am also preparing an Omnibus Welfare Reform Amendments bill that will incorporate amendments from members of the House to last year's welfare reform statute, in the hope that one or the other provision might be pulled out for passage. However, STEP hops over welfare reform and confronts the missing ingredient for all the long-term unemployed—a realistic way to get them to a real job that pays a liveable wage.

STEP's \$20 billion cost over four years, creating 1.8 million entry level jobs, would be money well spent from a budget that now boast a surplus. The challenge to those who have no plan for the hard core unemployed is, if not this what? The challenge to those who do not want to spend the money is, if not in this roaring economy, when?

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT EDWARD  
BATES, JR. & STANLEY K. WIL-  
LIAMS

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 19, 1998*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Edward Bates, Jr. and Stanley K. Williams who will be honored as Men of the Year by the Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. on Sunday, June 21, 1998.

It has been my privilege to have known Robert Bates for many years. He has been a member of Shiloh Baptist Church since his youth. He is the son of the late Deacon and Mrs. Robert E. Bates, Sr. He was a member of the Fund-raising Committee for the Henry C. Gregory, III Family Life Center and currently serves as Chairman of the Family Life Center Foundation Board.

Active in the civil rights movement, Mr. Bates worked as an aide to Senator Edward Kennedy early in his career and went on to a successful career with Mobil Oil Company. He was one of the first African Americans to represent a major company on legislative matters on Capitol Hill. While secure in his own position, he established the Second Wednesdays