

This privately-owned rental housing was built under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's section 236 and 221 programs. In exchange for Federal mortgage insurance or interest subsidies, owners agreed to restrict the rents that could be charged on units in the building as long as the mortgage was insured or subsidized by HUD.

When owners choose to terminate these Federal assistance contracts, the tenants are faced with the prospect of losing their homes because their rents may soon become too expensive for them to afford. After a federally assisted mortgage is prepaid, residents are commonly faced with a dramatic increase in rent—often of \$300 per month or more.

To add further stress for tenants in this difficult situation, current Federal law requires that a building owner who intends to prepay a section 236 or 221 mortgage may provide only 30–60 days notice to tenants. Clearly, this is a very short period of time for anyone to find a new home. It is an even greater problem for low-income people who face an especially tight housing market. They deserve as much time as possible, and I believe the Federal Government should require a 1-year notice for these prepayments. By not doing so, we jeopardize the already inadequate affordable housing supply in the Twin Cities and the nation.

Today, Congressman VENTO offered an amendment to the FY99 VA/HUD Appropriations bill that would have required owners who intend to prepay a federally-subsidized mortgage on a rental property to give 1 year's notice to residents as well as to State and local authorities. Although the State of Minnesota has enacted such a requirement, it is preempted by Federal law.

While it would not alone address the growing shortage of affordable housing, a 1-year notice housing requirement for Federal mortgage prepayments would be an important first step to help at-risk tenants make a difficult transition. It may even provide the time necessary for state, local and non-profit organizations to work with tenants and owners to preserve the affordable rental housing units.

I am disappointed that Congressman VENTO's amendment was not approved. However, I am committed to working with him and others to maintain and improve our country's affordable housing stock. I will also continue to work with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to establish a 1-year notice on Federal mortgage prepayments. It is a simple, but significant step in preserving affordable housing in Minnesota and the Nation.

HUD, VA, AND INDEPENDENT
AGENCIES BILL (LEACH AMEND-
MENT)

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when we voted on the rule under which we are currently considering this legislation, the VA–HUD Appropriations Act, and specifically the Leach amendment, I voted against it. The process has been circumvented and I do not agree with that.

This is about more than process, however. It is ultimately, and more importantly, about people in need being abandoned—whether we

help those who are disadvantaged, or whether we turn our backs on them.

(The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities says the number of poor families receiving assistance each year will be reduced by up to 69%.) I cannot and I will not be a party to such a blatant wrong aimed directly at those who are most in need—low income families and individuals, including the elderly and persons with disabilities.

You'll get no argument from me that resources are scarce, and it is for precisely that reason I stand here today and say: Do in your heart what you know is right—do not jeopardize public housing assistance for poor and low-income working families. It is unfair. It is unjust. It is unconscionably wrong.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF UNUM CORPORA-
TION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate UNUM Corporation, headquartered in Portland, Maine, on its 150th anniversary. UNUM was founded as Union Mutual Life Insurance Company on July 17, 1848, which makes UNUM one of the 10 oldest insurance companies in the United States. UNUM has pioneered the development of long term disability as an insurance product and has continued its leadership and innovation with the creation of long term care, group life, employee benefit and other insurance and re-insurance products.

UNUM's leadership in the insurance business and its importance to Maine's economy is obvious. But what really distinguishes UNUM from other companies, and what really deserves recognition, is its dedication to UNUM employees. UNUM provides more than a good job with good pay; it provides employees with a family-friendly workplace, and serves Maine and other states in the U.S. as a good corporate citizen.

UNUM has received several awards recognizing its dedication to its employees. UNUM was named as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work for in America" by Fortune magazine; among the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" by Working Mother magazine; as one of the "Top 30 Family-Friendly Companies" by Business Week; and among the "Top 50 Employers" by Equal Opportunity magazine. It can certainly be said that UNUM is one of the country's most progressive employers.

UNUM is also a valued member of the communities in which it does business. To celebrate its 150th anniversary, UNUM planned a series of community activities that culminate today in a "Day of Sharing." This past Monday, UNUM Chairman and CEO James Orr rang the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange. UNUM sponsored a demonstration of wheelchair rugby in front of the Exchange. The event also included a demonstration of games and the coaching of children with disabilities. UNUM's day-long effort, "A Day of Sharing, A Lifetime of Caring," involved more than 3,400 UNUM employees working on 270 community service projects which will touch

the lives of over 1.2 million people in six countries. UNUM truly is an outstanding corporate citizen.

Mr. Speaker, UNUM is a business leader in the field of insurance, an employee and family-friendly employer, and a valued member of the community. I am extremely pleased and proud to have UNUM Corporation's headquarters in my district in the State of Maine. On behalf of the people of Maine, and all the communities that UNUM serves, I congratulate UNUM on its 150 years of service and wish it another 150 years of success.

TRIBUTE TO ZEDEKIAH LAZETTE
GRADY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 17, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Right Reverend Zedekiah Lazette Grady of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Grady is a pillar of the community who has served his church and family tirelessly.

Bishop Grady has served the African Methodist Episcopal Church well over forty years as a distinguished pastor, capable administrator, civic organizer, ecumenical leader, social reformer, teacher, presiding elder and a Christian gentleman. He served as pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Laurens, South Carolina; Walnut Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church in Ware Shoals, South Carolina; Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Anderson, South Carolina; Rocky River African Methodist Episcopal Church in Antreville, South Carolina; St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Georgetown, South Carolina; and Morris Brown African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

In addition to the above pastorates, Bishop Grady served as the Presiding Elder of the historically rich Edisto District of the Seventh Episcopal District South Carolina Conference. Under his leadership, membership in the District increased ten percent a year and the number of pastoral charges increased from 24 to 35.

In 1992, Bishop Grady was elected the 111th Bishop of African Methodist Episcopal Church and was assigned to the Sixteenth Episcopal District, which included work around the world. In 1996, he was assigned to the Ninth Episcopal District headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bishop Grady's civic and community service has also been extensive. He was a key negotiator in the hospital and garbage worker strikes of the late 1960s in Charleston, South Carolina. He has served as Chairman and Vice-President of the South Carolina Juvenile Parole Board and was a member of the Charleston Community Race Relations Committee and the Charleston County Housing Authority. He is a member and past president of the A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance and Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and has been a delegate to the World Methodist Conferences four times. Bishop Grady is married to the former Carrie Etta Robertson of Winnesboro, South Carolina. They have four children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring the Right Reverend Zedekiah Lazette