

In 1954, his popularity in his state as a leader led him on to defeat the favored incumbent, George O'Brien. He then became the Democratic candidate for Congress from the Thirteenth District. Arriving in Washington as a federal legislator, he found it relatively easy adjusting to what he described as "the way of life on Capitol Hill." He also found time to utilize his literary skills, serving as radio commentator on a program sponsored by the House of Diggs, Inc., and their insurance company. He was the owner and president of the House of Diggs, which was recognized as the state's largest funeral home.

As a Congressman, he identified himself with the problems of the Southern Blacks. This association resulted in his being described as the "Mississippi Congressman-at-large." In 1955, as a freshman Congressman, he was propelled across the international scene by his attendance at the Emmitt Till murder trial in Mississippi, next to Issaquena County where his father was born and grandfather, Reverend James J. Diggs, founded the Woodland Baptist Church. Charles was a staunch supporter of the Civil Rights Movement and wrote legislation supporting the movement. During his first four years in Washington, he was assigned to the House Veterans Affairs Committee. He also served on the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee promoting Statehood for Alaska and Hawaii. In 1959, he became the first Black Member of Congress to serve on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. One of the prime considerations at the time was to authorize establishment of the Peace Corps. Because of his strong support, he later became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa.

Congressman Diggs attended all the Democratic National Conventions beginning in Chicago in 1957. He traveled throughout the U.S.A. speaking on behalf of the Kennedy/Johnson ticket. In 1969-1970, he was the founding Member and first Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1973, he became the Chairman of the House District Committee and in less than a year, he persuaded Congress to grant District citizens the right to elect their own Mayor and City Council for the first time in over a century. Home Rule, the establishment of the University of the District of Columbia, the Frederick Douglas Home designation as a National Historical Site are all chiefly the results from that Committee and his Chairmanship.

Congressman Diggs is a double life member of the NAACP, and a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, East Coast Chapter and, has received numerous awards and recognitions. His congressional papers were given to Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. In Detroit, he was a member of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. In 1986, he became a member of Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland, where he accepted Christ as his personal Savior and maintained strong religious ties until his death.

Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr., is survived by his wife of 15 years, Darlene Expose Diggs; six children: Charles C. Diggs, III, Denise Diggs Taylor, Alexis Diggs Robinson, Douglass J. Diggs, Carla Diggs, and Cindy Carter Diggs; 13 grandchildren: Charles IV, Nicole, Diamond, Dorian, Dominic, Itta, Juanita, Marshall, Alexandria, Ryan, Evan, Jonathan, and Jacqueline; and a host of relatives and friends.

VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly condemn the ongoing violence in Cambodia and to express my support for the brave Cambodian citizens opposing the tyranny and oppression of the Hun Sen government.

In the last week's violence in Cambodia, government forces have senselessly killed, maimed and harassed peaceful street demonstrators who are protesting allegations of election fraud. This has to stop. Hun Sen and his government must understand that his violent actions are not without consequence. The violence must stop, fundamental human rights must be restored, allegations of election fraud must be investigated and an equitable power sharing agreement must be found.

I call upon the Clinton Administration to provide leadership in the cause of democracy and human rights. The administration's absence on this issue has been felt.

To the forces of democracy in Cambodia, be assured that the world is watching. You do not stand alone in your quest for justice, for human rights and for freedom.

CONGRESS MUST RENEW FAST-TRACK

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, shortly the House may help bring around a better future for American agriculture when we vote to extend fast-track negotiating authority.

The best way to secure a better economic future for agriculture is to expand our export markets overseas. With just 4 percent of the world's population, U.S. agriculture must export in order to remain a viable industry. Nearly one-half of the wheat produce in this country is exported. Thirty percent of the feed grains and cotton is exported. There are estimates that 47 percent of our soybean crop will be exported. One out of every three acres we plant in this country is dedicated to exports.

That is why Congress must dedicate itself to step boldly into world trade negotiations next year. Congress must work with the administration to get lower foreign tariffs for agriculture goods; stop or limit the use of foreign trading enterprises used to block or undercut our U.S. exports; stopping the use of sanitary and phytosanitary measures to block U.S. exports; and to increase foreign tariff rate quotas.

Mr. Speaker, fast-track is a no-brainer for American agriculture. Pass fast-track.

AMERICAN FAMILIES NEED MEANINGFUL TAX RELIEF

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the strength of this country lies in its families, not in its bureaucracy back here in Washington, D.C., yet the current Federal Tax Code penalizes a husband and wife for jointly filing their tax return. It also penalizes seniors over 65 who earn more than \$15,500 by withholding their Social Security benefits. Also, the self-employed can only deduct 45 percent of their health insurance premiums, instead of 100 percent, which is the same tax deduction for anyone who does not have employer-subsidized health insurance.

Unfortunately, many of our colleagues on this side of the aisle believe that enacting tax cuts would be equivalent to throwing money away.

Mr. Speaker, hard-working families are losing touch with their children because they must work two and three jobs just to pay the bills. Why should American families have to apologize to Washington bureaucrats for keeping some of their hard earned money? Most Americans would agree that buying groceries, paying the house mortgage payment, taking a family vacation or just saving for their family's future, is not throwing money away.

Let us give American families a meaningful tax break. Let us give them the opportunity to use their money on their family.

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF NEEDED FOR SYRACUSE AND CENTRAL NEW YORK

(Mr. WALSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, Monday morning, Labor Day, about 1 a.m., my family and I awoke to a storm of such magnitude and destruction that I have not witnessed in my 50 years in my hometown of Syracuse. When it abated, two were killed, dozens were injured, with millions of millions of dollars of property damage to homes and businesses.

The next morning I toured the city with Governor Pataki, Mayor Bernardi and County Executive Pirro, and was absolutely amazed at the power and the breadth and the destruction of the storm. That morning also I spoke with James Lee Witt, the highly competent director of FEMA, who had been in discussions with our State Director, Mr. Jacobi, and I urged him, as I did President Clinton in a letter the following day, to please hurry as quickly as possible to make the determination necessary to declare Syracuse, central New York and nine other counties a Federal disaster area.

FULFILLING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, today we took the first vote in what may be a series of votes on how we deal with our constitutional responsibility. It was an important vote, because it was a vote to be fully inclusive, not only of every Member of the House, but to be as inclusive as possible of every American.

At this critical time for our country, being open with the American people, giving them a report that they paid the bill to produce, letting them reach their conclusions, as we reach our constitutionally required conclusion, is an incredibly important thing to do.

The job of the Congress is to do what the Constitution requires. The job of the Congress is to do what the Constitution requires and what is best for the country. As the American people enter into that job with us, I know we want to be prayerful, not only for Members of Congress, but we want to be prayerful for President Clinton and his family and for the United States as we do what the Constitution requires. We are a system of law.

OPPOSE PROPOSED REMOVAL OR BREACHING OF DAMS

(Mr. NETHERCUTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I want to again voice my opposition to the proposed removal or breaching of dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers in Washington State. Some advocate that these dams be destroyed in an effort to restore wild salmon runs.

I am concerned about recovery of wild salmon runs, but I also believe that we must not destroy our multiple use river system that has been created over the past 40 years. I seek to implement a salmon recovery plan that is science-based, maintains a healthy environment for other fish and wildlife species, but balances the needs of our local economy and our rural way of life in the Northwest.

There are serious environmental effects of replacing hydroelectric power with fossil fueled generation. Dams are a clean and renewable energy resource. To replace this source of electricity with natural gas fired turbines would add thousands of tons of pollutants and chemicals into the atmosphere annually.

We must examine all sources of fish loss. Ocean conditions, predator populations and over-harvesting on the river have yet to be fully addressed. Salmon recovery can be accomplished using developing technology and sensible harvest limits. Dam removal will irreversibly remove jobs, harm the economy and the environment, while the benefits to the salmon would remain uncertain.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS 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 California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SOLEMN CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED UPON CONGRESS

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the greatest responsibility that a Member of Congress can face is the question of whether or not to go to war, to commit men and women of this country to armed conflict. The next greatest responsibility after that is the matter of impeachment of the President of the United States. With the delivery of the report by Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, to this body, that process of deliberation began, so a new set of rules, a new stage is set for the 435 Members of this House of Representatives, and it is every bit as solemn and every bit as important and every bit as somber as those deliberations that this body has had to make in matters of war. Remember, it has only been several times in our Nation's history that we have been to this stage.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know at this moment what are the allegations in the report that Mr. Starr delivered to the Congress. To my knowledge, perhaps just a few people know, and no one in this body knows. Soon the world will know via the Internet. We will all be reading and reviewing.

I do know that what the President has admitted to is wrong and distressing. I do know that the allegations in the report, which I have not seen, may be even more disturbing. There is no excuse for the already-admitted errors in the President's personal conduct, and that is something I think that all Americans, including the President of the United States by his very statements today, as well as in previous days, concur in.

That is not going to be the issue in front of this Congress and in front of this House of Representatives. The issue will be somewhat the President's personal conduct. The issue though, more significantly, is whether it is grounds for impeachment of the President.

So impeachment is the proceeding that this body goes about beginning today. It is not about polls, it is not about partisanship, it is not about personal opinion. It is about whether a standard has been crossed, a threshold has been reached, that requires this body, the House, to issue articles of impeachment, that then begin in effect a trial in the United States Senate.

With the resolution that passed today, and which I voted for, to receive the report, to make it public, I now and 434 other Members of this House become in effect grand jurors, because our responsibility is to determine whether there is probable cause to vote articles of impeachment that the Senate then takes up. That requires under the Constitution that we weigh all facts and we measure whether the offense is indeed grounds for impeachment.

I support making these documents public. The first report will be made public this afternoon, and then subsequent reports after review by the Committee on the Judiciary. I would have preferred, yes, that indeed the President had been granted an opportunity to review what is in the report, in the same manner that this body has permitted review by other officials that have been in similar situations in disciplinary actions.

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If the choice is between making public and not making public, it should be made public. I just ask that all of us remember that this report is not a guaranteed statement of fact; it is allegations by the special counsel, and that the hearings that will be held will flesh that out further, the extent to which they are valid, the extent to which they can be challenged, and that no one should be rushing to snap judgment in a serious moment like this.

This is the second time this century that this process has taken place. This cannot be a rush to judgment via polls or talk shows or whatever the public whims are.

So we approach this carefully and seriously with due deliberation and reflection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The Chair must remind Members to avoid personal references to the President. It is no longer permissible to debate the information addressed by House Resolution 525.

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

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