would give them to him. He knew they were talented musicians and he put them on the air and teenagers all over the Pittsburgh area wanted to hear more and more of them.

In fact the story is told of when Porky did a live show at the Stanley Theater. An hour before he went on the air, 500 people crowded around the Stanley Theater. Before the show was over, 10,000 people were crowded around the Stanley Theater. Downtown Pittsburgh came to a screeching halt. Kids were stuck on buses in the logjam created by Porky Chedwick. They got off the buses, crossed the bridges on foot to get to the Stanley Theater to see Porky Chedwick.

As a disk jockey, he saw the highest recognition of his career before the Beatles. In 1963, the Beatles came to America. A lot of performing artists saw their careers go downhill and a lot of disk jockeys that had that signature type of music similarly saw music change a great deal. But still, many of the great disk jockeys in America today credit Porky Chedwick with beginning it all.

As Porky said, ''I had more lines than Bell Telephone. I was the original rapper.'' And he probably was.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Porky, ''We are honored for you and your 50 great years in radio. We are honored that you are in the disk jockey portion of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and we hope you are still playing that music for 50 more years. God bless you.''

□ 2100

THE DEATH OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN D. FRENCH SLAUGHTER, JR

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

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned of the death of a former House colleague, D. French Slaughter, Jr., who represented Virginia's Seventh Congressional District from 1985 until his retirement due to illness in 1991. He died on Friday, October 2.

French Slaughter was a very able public servant whose friendship I highly valued. During much of the time I served in the Senate of Virginia, French Slaughter served in the Virginia House of Delegates. Among his proudest accomplishments was introducing the legislation in 1966 that established Virginia's strong system of community colleges.

As a Member of the House of Representatives, French and I often worked together on projects and I am proud to say that today I represent several localities that were formerly a part of the old Seventh District served by French Slaughter.

French Slaughter attended public schools in Culpeper, VA, and attended Virginia Military Institute from 1942–43, until he left to serve with the 84th Infantry Division in World War II. He was seriously wounded during the Battle of the Bulge and earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

In post-war years, French Slaughter received a bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Virginia. He later served on the university's Board of Visitors and as its Rector.

French Slaughter was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1958 and remained a member for the next 20 years. When Kenneth Robinson of Winchester retired from the House of Representatives, French Slaughter succeeded him. His legislative achievements include expanding the boundaries of the four major Civil War battlefield sites in the Fredericksburg, VA region.

French Slaughter was a quiet, reserved man of high intelligence. He had a dry wit and low-key charm that made him a favorite with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the state legislature and in Congress. It was my great pleasure to have worked with him in both Richmond and Washington, and to have had him as a friend. During his 73 years, French Slaughter served his State and Nation with distinction and courage. He will long be remembered.

French Slaughter is survived by a son, a daughter, nine grandchildren and a brother. He will be laid to rest alongside his late wife, Kathleen Rowe Slaughter, on Tuesday, October 6 at the Mitchells Presbyterian Church in Mitchells, VA.

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

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

BUDGET POLICY IN THE CONGRESS AND AMERICA'S FARM ECONOMY

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I rise to address two subjects which I think are of great importance to our Nation and deserve emphasis here on the floor of the House.

The first is the question of our budget policy in Congress and in the United States. The new Federal fiscal year started October 1, 1998. We are 5 days into the new fiscal year. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we do not have a budget resolution in place for this fiscal year to provide guidance to Congress. Unfortunately, the deadline for adopting a concurrent budget resolution was April 15, 1998, almost 6 months ago.

Unfortunately, we have had a failure of leadership in Congress when it comes to budget policy. We essentially have punted. We are talking about the budget being balanced. I submit that is because we do not understand the budget laws that we have adopted in this body. The budget is not balanced. We are still depending on at least $30 billion in the Social Security Trust Fund to offset other Federal spending. We are depending on the Social Security Trust Fund to establish a fiction that we have balanced the budget. We are talking about tax cuts, but we do not have a budget resolution.

This is the first time in the 24 years that we have had budget legislation on the books that establishes a budgeting procedure and calls for a budget resolution to provide guidance to us as a Congress that we have failed in this respect. Mr. Speaker, I submit that this is a grievous mistake in this body, to simply ignore the budget process that we have developed and assume that the American people will overlook it. We have a responsibility to ourselves, to the people of this Nation and to the Federal agencies to establish budget policy as we move ahead into this fiscal year.

The second subject I would like to briefly address is the state of the American farm economy. Last week I had the opportunity to travel back to my district, rural Minnesota. I went to the Cargill Elevator at Litchfield, Minnesota, and visited with farmers as they hauled in soybeans and corn. I asked them about their yields, what the current prices mean with respect to their ability to operate next year; what they think we ought to do.

There were two comments that I heard that were repeated. One was: Where is the marketing loan program that we have talked about and we have pleaded for? Uncap the loan rates. The second was: What has happened to the crop insurance program? We have had a disastrous loss on our farms, but we are finding there are no benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that one of the tragedies of the 1996 farm bill is that we did not use these tools that farmers can access to manage their risk as a cornerstone for Federal farm policy. Instead, they were placed in the second rank of importance. Instead, we had automatic cash payments that we provided that would go out to farmers year by year, whether it was a good year or a bad year, whether they had good crops or poor crops. Now, we are paying the price.

I would like to emphasize that the President is currently working with the Senate in hopes that we can restore these programs to the important function that they could play. I call upon my colleagues to join with me in emphasizing that these tools that farmers in this great Nation can use to manage their risk and to stabilize prices ought to be available to them.

We ought to be investing our budget resources for agriculture in tools such as this. We ought to revisit the 1996 farm bill and be willing to ask where can improvements be made, make those improvements, and enable agriculture to move ahead proudly in 1999 with the prospect that agriculture can again be successful in America.

HMO REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New