

unique and caring men and women who as the Sikeston Standard Democrat noted, "accomplish good deeds quietly. (Who) never sought/(seek) the spotlight—though are/(were) proud when projects are/(were) successful."

Mr. Speaker, the author of this article had it right, "Leroy's reward was a smile on a kid's face. And he brought ample smiles through the years." Thank you Leroy—for the lives you touched—then and today.

IN HONOR OF EDDIE BLAZONCZYK

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. KUCINICH, and I rise today to honor Mr. Eddie Blazonczyk for his contributions to the American polka tradition. He was recently recognized for his achievements by the National Endowment for Arts during a White House ceremony where he was presented with the prestigious 1998 National Heritage Fellowship Award. Mr. Blazonczyk is a bandleader who has set the standard for Chicago-style polka, a sound that defines "polka" music for millions of Americans.

Born in 1941, Mr. Blazonczyk was raised surrounded by the sounds of polka. His mother directed a Gorale, a southern Polish music and dance ensemble, and his father played the cello for that group. His parents also owned a banquet hall where he was exposed to some of the great polka musicians of that time. Influenced by his childhood experiences with the Polish heritage, he decided to form his own polka band, the Versatones. He worked to forge a new polka sound that incorporated more raucous, "honky" sounds.

Throughout his career, Mr. Blazonczyk has developed quite a following, not only among the tens of thousands of polka dancers in Polish-American communities, but also among younger musicians in Polish polka bands. His interpretation of old folk music and his ideal singing voice for Polish songs have made him a star in the polka music community. He has appeared more than 4,800 times since he began his band in 1963, and he still keeps a schedule with over 175 performances a year. His tireless zeal for his art was recognized when he received a Grammy for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences in 1986.

My fellow colleagues, please join us in congratulating Mr. Eddie Blazonczyk for receiving the 1998 National Heritage Fellowship Award in recognition of his revolutionary and outstanding contributions to polka music. His singing and more than 50 recordings will be enjoyed by polka lovers for years to come.

SALUTE TO JACK CORRIGAN: MR.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. SHERWOOD H. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 13, 1998 it was my privilege to share in

a special retirement ceremony for one of the finest, most decent, most caring, sharing individuals I have ever known.

On that day, in Philadelphia, local, state, and national leaders joined in honoring Jack Corrigan upon the occasion of his retirement after Nearly 30 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

There is so much to be said about Mr. Corrigan's superb public service. It can best be summed up by noting that in 1995 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in the field of economic development from the National Council on Urban Economic Development for his innovative economic development, thought, and leadership.

One of the old pros in the economic development field is a long-time good friend, Dave Rally, currently Legislative Advisor to the Public Works and Economic Development Association.

When I mentioned to Mr. Rally that I would be participating in the salute to Jack Corrigan, he immediately recalled what he termed "one of the best speeches ever" on the subject of economic development. Guess who gave it? Jack Corrigan. Mr. Rally was so impressed by the speech that he kept it at the ready and quickly retrieved it more than three years after it was given.

I, too, was greatly impressed, so much so that I append it here to my remarks with the thought that a reading of this "insider's look" at the role of the Federal Government—an historical perspective—will be enlightening, instructive and inspiring for all.

Jack Corrigan brings credit to the title public servant. His dedication and good work enriched the lives of literally hundreds of thousands of Americans and helped transform areas of distress into zones of opportunity. What a magnificent legacy!

EDA AND THE FEDERAL ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

(Address by John E. Corrigan, Director, Philadelphia Regional Office, Economic Development Administration, EDA Regional Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, February, 1995)

This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA). Yet what should be a year to celebrate the effectiveness and contribution of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) may become a year when EDA faces the most serious threat to its very existence. In the weeks and months ahead there will be a national debate that will challenge the validity of concepts that are the reasons why EDA was created and sustained for the past 30 years.

We, the true believers, must not simply dismiss those who see no reason for our existence as simply mean spirited heretics but rather in the coming months we must engage them in a discussion of ideas. As Peter Drucker observed: "Every person and institution operates on the basis of a theory whether they realize it or not." EDA is a response to a specific theory about development. Those who seek our elimination have a very different theory of development.

There is little disagreement within our United States that the existence within our country of hundreds of areas of very low income and of persistently high unemployment is a national concern. The question which is in dispute is whether the Federal government ought to make efforts to alter the productive structure of such areas so that they may

maintain their level of population, balance their trade with competing regions, and achieve a rate of growth in their per capita incomes which approximates the national rate by making those areas more competitive. There are two quite distinct theories on this. Proponents of the National Demand approach, also known as the Market approach, assert that over the long term the competitive forces of the market do create an optimal spatial distribution of economic activity. The private sector will locate where costs are least and profits greatest. Therefore if any area does show persistent symptoms of severe distress this should be interpreted as a clear warning that the nation has a declining need for this particular part of national space. We can let it deteriorate. The alternative thesis, which can be called the theory of Planned Adjustment, assumes that local economic problems persist precisely because competitive forces do not create an optimal spatial distribution of economic activity. Thus the lagging regions suffer not only because of the internal misuse of their resources but also because external investors, who are unaware of the favorable opportunities for investments in such areas, continue to pour funds into the overexpanded metropolitan areas within growing regions. These areas are lagging, in part, because they are not able to invest in infrastructure, both human and physical, which would make the area economically profitable to the private sector. Such deficiencies in the market system, it is argued, can be overcome by planning for the adaption of the supply characteristics of the lagging regions (investing in infrastructure, including capacity as well as bricks and mortar) so that they become self-sustaining, retain their population, and attract investment from the oversized metropolitan areas.

Because he believed in the first theory of development, the National Demand model, the Market model, President Nixon in 1972 called for the termination of EDA and stated boldly: "There is no need for a national development policy". And in 1980, President Jimmy Carter's White House Conference on Balanced National Growth and Economic Development, much to our surprise, recommended that the solution to the problem of distressed areas was for the federal government to provide assistance so that citizens could move to more prosperous areas reflecting clearly a belief in this first theory of development—vote with your feet. And President Reagan after recommending the elimination of EDA in this State of the Union message in January 1981, explained his position further by stating: "The administration intends to deal with economic development at the subnational level by improving the national economy."

In response we need to loudly proclaim that this theory of economic development espoused by President Nixon, by President Carter's Balanced National Growth Conference and by President Reagan is wrong, that it has no historic basis in fact and that it has not been our national economic policy for the past 150 years.

In a Senate Speech in 1981, defending EDA, Senator George Mitchell outlined that history.

In 1850, when it became apparent that the success of the Eastern States in building their rail networks promised an increase in wealth for the entire eastern seaboard, Congress enacted the Railroad Land Grant Act—truly landmark legislation—to encourage, by Federal subsidy, the expansion of the rail network in the South and West. And for 21 years thereafter, Congress continued to grant rail land rights. One Hundred Thirty One million acres to land were granted for that purpose—a Federal subsidy for Western