

Under his leadership the agency became a major provider of housing to residents of California and is considered one of the highlights of Governor Deukmejian's term. Today Hodge is a vice president at Salomon Smith Barney.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Karney Hodge on his remarkable service to the community. Mr. Hodge has served well in both the public and private sector. I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking Karney Hodge for a job well done and wishing him many years of continued success.

HONORING EMILIA CONOLLY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Emilia Conolly, a committed health professional in the borough of Brooklyn.

Emilia is a native of Honduras who immigrated to the United States over 20 years ago. She was educated in the New York City public schools, including Ft. Hamilton High School, where she received her high school diploma. Emilia began her nursing career as a student in Interfaith Medical Center's School of Nursing where she made the Dean's List, received three honorary awards and ultimately graduated as a registered nurse.

As part of her professional growth and development, she joined the nursing department at Brookdale University Medical Center. Presently, she specializes in nursing care of critically ill newborns (the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). In addition, Emilia serves as a nurse preceptor for new graduate nurses. She strives to maintain and to develop her clinical expertise by teaching neonatal resuscitation classes to both doctors and nurses.

Emilia is an active member of Interfaith's Nurses Alumnae Association. As a member of the Mid-Brooklyn Civic Association, she helps to organize and to participate in voter registration, fundraising and the selection of candidates for outstanding community service. She has also been recognized for her strong negotiating abilities on behalf of nursing contracts within the bargaining unit of Local 1199. Emilia is married to James Conolly and they are the proud parents of two daughters, Taryn and Thalia.

As stated on one of her awards, Emilia has demonstrated "compassion, empathy and personal interests" in striving to make a difference in the lives of others. Mr. Speaker, please join me in presenting the achievements of Emilia Conolly to my colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO BILL BENTON

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, among the most thoughtful constituents in the Colorado district I represent in Congress is Mr. Bill Benton of Fort Collins.

He recently composed a letter to me regarding the agenda of the House of Representatives. I'm grateful, Mr. Speaker, the Repub-

lican budget proposal moves the country dramatically in the direction proposed by Mr. Benton.

Moreover, Mr. Benton's sentiments are representative of a great many Americans concerned about the country's future. As such, I hereby commend the remarks of Mr. Benton to the House and urge my colleagues to consider these observations as we proceed in accomplishing the nation's business in Congress.

WILLIAM (BILL) M. BENTON,
Fort Collins, CO, February 24, 1999.

Hon. BOB SCHAFFER,

Fourth Congressional District of Colorado,

DEAR BOB: This problem of Republican leadership in both the house and the senate has been weighing heavily on my mind since we lost so much ground in the last national election.

After a lot of thought, and praying about it too, reading Cal Thomas, Thomas Sowell, Tony Snow and listening to Rush Limbaugh (as well as other "conservative" talking heads), studying what conservative leading magazines and newspapers (damn few, but available) have to say on this subject, I think I've boiled this very complicated knot down to—we've lost our soul in the party and we are running scared because of it.

Despite almost sixty years of a mass media trying to convince the general populace that we ought to be "a kinder, gentler" nation as a whole and feeding them huge amounts of liberal philosophy, we still, by and large, are a culture deeply rooted in conservative principles. I.E, less government, minimum governmental intrusion in our private affairs, minimum government "hand-outs" (let the churches handle the welfare needs), low taxing policies, States rights rather than Federal control, etc. etc. In other words, the backbone of what made The United States of America a unique entity among all the governments of the world past and present.

In eight short years, Ronald Reagan's administration started to get the Republican party, with its "rock ribbed" conservative tack, back on the path that the majority of our peoples felt "worked" and were comfortable with. My feeling is the voters didn't give him a Republican majority to work with is because the Republican leadership in both houses simply failed to lead! Robert Dole and his cohorts were on that appeasement road even then.

But he had a Judas Goat within the folds of the administration by the name of George "read my lips" Bush. Most of us didn't recognize this at the time and probably a lot of the leadership of our party will, even now, deny this fact. But former president Bush's capitulation to appeasement with the Democratic Majority was the beginning of the end of the conservative movement in the country as it should be practiced! (Gospel according to Benton?)

The rhetoric that came out of the February 23rd meeting between the senate leadership and President Clinton turned my stomach! These guys are from the Neville Chamberlain school! We know well that "sleeping with the enemy" only gets you beat up and bloodied.

After forty plus years of ever-increasing Democratic liberalism, Republicans don't know how to win! The House is better than the Senate and because of the House's "Contract With America," that the Senate promptly botched, it showed Republicans can win if the conservative message is packaged correctly. The loss we suffered in November can be laid directly at the Republican Senator's doorstep. Unfortunately, because we blew it, the Coach got fired (or plain tired) and our fire left the field of fight. Put that House loss in the Senate's column too.

If we are to salvage the Republican majority in both legislative bodies, we need a group of firebrands to step up and be counted—and we need it now! Our history and our soul is conservative principles. Being "nice guys" is stupid and dangerous. I don't mean we shouldn't have compassion for any who need a helping hand. But there are a multitude of ways to help people than through government intervention and the sooner the "moderates" realize this fact, the better off all of our citizens will be.

Both parties have been corrupted by foregoing their ideals. The Democrats have been taken over by the liberal faction of their party. My parents were rock ribbed anti-Roosevelt (both Franklin and Eleanor). They were Democrats who recognized the dangerous path that was starting to be followed by the New Deal Democrats. Government run pension a.k.a. Social Security that only made our oldsters dependent on the Federal octopus and our young workers drawn into one of the biggest Ponzi schemes of all time. And I remember my father saying that was only the tip of the governmental interference iceberg. In the twenties, my Dad was elected by the Trainmen's Union to be one of the board members of the Railroad Retirement Fund. I remember full well how he mustered the members of that board to resist the take over of their pension plan by the Social Security board. His faction won and that fund is one of the strongest pension plans in the world today. It is independently run on a solid actuarial basis and it hasn't loaned one damn dime to the Federal Government to hide deficit spending!

Springboarding from that background, I switched from being a Democrat to a Republican at about age twenty-five because I was very uncomfortable with the direction of the Democratic Party. Just about as uncomfortable as I am today, at age sixty-seven, with the Republican Party's inclination to forego conservatism in favor of "getting along."

Now that I'm getting close to the end of my life, I guess I shouldn't be so passionate about these things. However, I have children and grandchildren who deserve better from the Republican leadership than simply rolling over and playing footsie with the Liberals.

Now, Bob, I'm not about to go down shouting at the wind without offering a plan of action. This is something I proposed in 1965, on the editorial pages of the now-defunct Colorado Springs Free Press newspaper, and I think it is viable today as a conservative cause. Permanently "fix" the Old Age Retirement System by taking it out of the hands of the Feds per se. Much like the Railroad Retirement plan, I fashioned and envision a system that sets up a government sponsored board to make annual recommendations as to what financial institutions would be approved for investments. Coupled with this would be the requirement by each wage earner that they choose one of these financial houses and their payroll deductions go to one of the approved money warehouses. In addition, they would be required to furnish a certificate of deposit to be reported annually with their IRS filing. This way they controlled, to a certain extent, their own retirement fund but monitored by this governing board's staff. There would have to be provisions for disablement problems, but this could be tied down very stringently through the proper legislation. This way such a fund would be actuarially sound, private enterprise would be fostered, and the sorry savings rate of our citizens would be greatly improved. Plus, there would be all manners of funds available to help businesses grow, mortgages funded, etc. If done right, the Federal Government couldn't lay their grimy mitts on a single dime—not even in the form of taxation!