

TRIBUTE TO HON. WILLIAM GOODLING, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I seek the opportunity to join my colleagues in saying a word for our party member, the retiring gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

I have had the opportunity to serve with him for a number of terms as he has led the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. His work in regard to improving the life skills and life chances of millions of young people, and in particular his work in developing the Even Start Program and his support for additional resources to be provided in terms of special education, are of particular note.

I join with my colleagues from the State of Pennsylvania and many of us who served with him on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce in wishing the gentleman God speed in his retirement.

THE FIRST LADY SHOULD PUT TAXPAYERS' INTERESTS AHEAD OF PERSONAL AMBITION

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there appears to be a double standard at the White House. At last count, the First Lady's campaign for the U.S. Senate has cost the taxpayers well over \$1 million. She is flying around the Empire State in grand style using military aircraft, full-time Secret Service protection, not only for herself but also for her campaign aides, and continues to drag her feet in reimbursing the taxpayers.

She has reimbursed the Treasury just over \$6,000 for one 4-day campaign trip in August, but in reality, this trip cost about \$60,000 as they flew around in an Air Force C-20. So far she has only reimbursed the taxpayers \$185,000, about 5 percent of what she owes.

As First Lady, Mrs. Clinton should get the same security and security measures that previous First Ladies have had, but the taxpayers should not be footing the bill for a political campaign for public office.

The First Lady should put the American taxpayers' interests first above a personal desire for power.

ILLEGAL DIAMOND SALES SUPPORT BRUTAL REBEL GROUPS IN SIERRA LEONE

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very serious situa-

tion in Africa, the situation in Sierra Leone.

Last week, under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who serves as chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, we had a special meeting or hearing at which we heard from victims of the violence in Africa.

Just as an example, there were two 4-year-old children, both of whom had had an arm chopped off, when they were 2 years old, by the rebels. We also saw a student who had said, please, don't chop off my right hand; I am a student and I have to write with it. They chopped off his right hand. Another gentleman had both arms chopped off. This is the type of violence taking place.

But this is not a political revolution, this is a revolution of bandits who wanted to get control of the diamond mines, and in fact, they have achieved that. They are financing their war with the revenue from the mines.

These so-called "conflict diamonds," which I call bloody diamonds, are fueling the conflict over there, and many of those diamonds are being sold in the United States. We must stop the importation of those diamonds.

Our State Department has to enforce international law, and bring pressure on Charles Taylor of Liberia and others to stop their meddling in the affairs of Sierra Leone. Above all, we must end the conflict.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AT CARL VINSON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5139) to provide for the conveyance of certain real property at the Carl Vinson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5139

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AT THE CARL VINSON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, DUBLIN, GEORGIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE TO STATE BOARD OF REGENTS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall convey, without consideration, to the Board of Regents of the State of Georgia all right, title, and interest of the United States

in and to two tracts of real property, including any improvements thereon, at the Carl Vinson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia, consisting of 39 acres, more or less, in Laurens County, Georgia.

(b) CONVEYANCE TO COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD OF MIDDLE GEORGIA.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall convey, without consideration, to the Community Service Board of Middle Georgia all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to three tracts of real property, including any improvements thereon, at the Carl Vinson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dublin, Georgia, consisting of 58 acres, more or less, in Laurens County, Georgia.

(c) CONDITIONS ON CONVEYANCE.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the condition that the real property conveyed under that subsection be used in perpetuity solely for education purposes. The conveyance under subsection (b) shall be subject to the condition that the real property conveyed under that subsection be used in perpetuity solely for education and health care purposes.

(d) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the real property to be conveyed under this section shall be determined by a survey or surveys satisfactory to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The cost of any such survey shall not be borne by the Secretary.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyances under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5139.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5139 provides for the conveyance of certain real property at the Carl Vinson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Dublin, Georgia.

Due to changes in the way health care is delivered, the VA has consolidated its health care in the central part of this large campus in Dublin. However, it continues to spend hundreds of hours and tens of thousands of dollars each year to maintain vacant buildings and grounds on this campus.

The State of Georgia has identified two uses for part of this campus. One part would be used to expand the Middle Georgia College, a State-run institution of higher learning. The other