

kids, and; therefore, he cannot even use chapter 13. Being forced to use chapter 11 may very well put that farmer out of business because chapter 12 is not available.

Another dairy farmer that I am aware of struggles to make a go of it with a 100 head herd which, Mr. Speaker, was about the size of my own herd right before I decided to get out of the dairy business and come into Congress. Because this particular farmer has more debt relative to assets than a lender will tolerate, he needs to restructure. Under chapter 12, he could rewrite his notes. If chapter 12 is not there, again, this farmer may very well be forced to sell his property and go out of business.

The enactment of chapter 12 has, according to testimony cited by the commission, reduced family farm failures. The commission concluded, and I would quote here, "The test of time has revealed that chapter 12 generally provides financially distressed family farmers with an effective framework within which to reorganize their operations and restructure their debts."

Now, although this provision was originally created as a temporary one, the commission recommended the Congress made it permanent. That is what our Committee on the Judiciary did in the full bankruptcy bill.

I urge my colleagues to move this forward, to move it to the Senate. I would urge that the Senate immediately consider the importance of this. Farmers have been without this provision since last July. This legislation simply extends it 3 months until June, a temporary extension which is so important.

Bankruptcy courts and bankruptcy judges are trying to hold in abeyance some of those farmers cases that need chapter 12 to survive. I hope we can move ahead quickly. I thank, again, the Committee on the Judiciary for moving this bill so quickly.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his support for H.R. 256, which extends chapter 12 bankruptcy for family farms and ranches until June 1, 2001. In fact, this legislation makes chapter 12 retroactively effective as of July 1, 2000, which is the previous expiration date. This legislation is very important to the nation's agriculture sector. It should have been enacted last year.

First, this Member would thank the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) for introducing this legislation (H.R. 256). This Member would also like to express his appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his efforts in getting this measure to the House floor for consideration.

This Member supports this extension of chapter 12 bankruptcy since it allows family farmers to reorganize their debts as compared to liquidating their assets. Using the chapter 12 bankruptcy provision has been an important and necessary option for family farmers throughout the Nation. It has allowed family farmers to reorganize their assets in a manner which balances the interests of creditors and the future success of the involved farmer.

If chapter 12 bankruptcy provisions are not extended for family farmers, it will be another very painful blow to an agricultural sector already reeling from low-commodity prices. Not only will many family farmers have no viable option but to end their operations, it will also cause land values to likely plunge. Such a decrease in value of farmland will affect the ability of family farmers to earn a living. In addition, it will impact the manner in which banks conduct their agricultural lending activities. Furthermore, this Member has received many contacts from his constituents supporting the extension of chapter 12 bankruptcy because of the situation now being faced by our Nation's farm families—it is clear that the agricultural sector is hurting.

In closing, for these aforementioned reasons and many others, this Member urges his colleagues to support H.R. 256.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill to extend for 11 months chapter 12 bankruptcy for America's small farmers. I also want to thank the Chairman, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, of the House Judiciary Committee for moving so expeditiously in passing H.R. 256 out of committee and bringing it here to the floor today.

Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code allows farmers the option to reorganize debt over 3 to 5 years rather than having to liquidate their assets when they declare bankruptcy. It also encourages responsible efforts by farmers facing bankruptcy by requiring them to designate income not needed for farm operations or family costs to pay off their debt. As these payments are made, chapter 12 prevents foreclosure on the family farm.

And we are talking about family farms here. To qualify for bankruptcy protection, these farmers will have to have at least 50 percent of their gross annual income coming from farming, no less than 80 percent of debts resulting in farm operations, and total debts not more than \$1.5 million.

It saddens me that this legislation is necessary in order to save family farms around the nation. But while most Americans have been enjoying the benefits of an unprecedented prosperous economy, family farmers have suffered from prolonged, depressed commodity prices. And most recently, farmers are confronting rising input costs for energy and fertilizer.

We are taking action today to make sure that small farmers can stay on their land and work through these hard times. With signs pointing to a possible slowdown in the American economy as a whole, I believe we should permanently extend the chapter 12 farmer bankruptcy provision. Small farmers should have one less worry every morning when they get up to harvest America's bounty that each of us enjoys every day.

I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation that we will be passing today and thank the bill's managers for their efforts to see it enacted into law. I strongly support this legislation on behalf of the hardworking, God-fearing farmers of North Carolina's Second District and across America.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 256.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1030

EDWARD N. CAHN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 558) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 558

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting day for this subcommittee and the full committee. I think this Congress already has passed 10 pieces of legislation and this will be the second and third piece of legislation that has come out of this hard-working subcommittee and the full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, headed by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

I also, on a personal note, am excited about the opportunity that presents itself in this Congress to work with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr.

COSTELLO). Unlike some matters we may take up in the 107th Congress, the work of this subcommittee will be bipartisan, nonpartisan, and will help with the business of building America.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 558 designates the Federal building and United States courthouse in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the Edward N. Cahn Federal building and United States courthouse. Judge Cahn was born and raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Allentown, High School. He went on to attend Lehigh University, graduating magna cum laude in 1955. In addition to winning a high school basketball championship with Allentown High, Judge Cahn was the first Lehigh University basketball player to score 1,000 points during his collegiate career.

After graduating from Yale Law School, Judge Cahn returned to the Lehigh Valley. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves until 1964 and in the private practice of law until 1974. In 1975, President Ford appointed Edward Cahn to Pennsylvania's Eastern District Federal Court; and for 23 years Judge Cahn fairly and expeditiously administered the law from the Federal bench in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He is the only judge in the third circuit to work out of the Allentown courthouse. In 1993, Judge Cahn was appointed the court's chief judge until his retirement in December of 1998.

This is a fitting honor to an exceptional jurist and a local Lehigh Valley hero. I support this bill and encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First, let me thank the chairman of the subcommittee. I look forward to working with him in this session of Congress, not only on these bills but on economic development efforts that the subcommittee will undertake in this session.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 558 is a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the Edward N. Cahn Federal building and United States courthouse.

Judge Cahn has served the citizens of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Lehigh County for 4 decades. He is a native of Allentown and attended Lehigh University graduating magna cum laude in 1955.

After graduating from Yale in 1958, Judge Cahn was admitted to the Lehigh County court in 1959. In 1975, President Ford nominated him for the Federal bench in Pennsylvania's Eastern District Court. Judge Cahn worked from the bench for the next 24 years in Allentown.

Throughout his long distinguished legal career, Judge Cahn was known for his attention to detail and his fairness. He has been a mentor to others, impressing on other lawyers that all cases

are important and deserving of attention.

It is very fitting that we acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Judge Cahn by designating the courthouse in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Allentown, Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me this time.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 558, a bill that I introduced to name Allentown's Federal courthouse for retired judge Edward M. Cahn.

As we have heard, Judge Cahn is a native of Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, and he has really honored our community over many years with his distinguished service as a judge in the district court of eastern Pennsylvania. In fact, if it were not for Judge Cahn's substantial efforts and commitment, Allentown might not even have this courthouse, which we badly needed and which now serves a very important purpose. It is only fitting this courthouse would bear his name.

The outpouring of community support to name Allentown's courthouse after Judge Cahn has been overwhelming and bipartisan. I have been approached by judges, prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys, and many others asking that Judge Cahn be honored in this way. His childhood friend and former colleague, Judge Arnold Rappoport, once said, "Whether it is being captain of the basketball team in Lehigh University or being in the Marines, he has a pioneering will to achieve. The energy and drive never changed for Judge Cahn."

As we have heard, he is a graduate of Lehigh University in the Lehigh Valley, a graduate of Yale Law School, and Judge Cahn practiced law in Allentown for 16 years before President Ford appointed him to the District Court. Judge Cahn then served on the Federal bench for 23 years, including 5 years as chief judge. As a jurist and public servant, he practiced fairness and equality under the law.

Judge Cahn is widely credited with helping the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania garner the respect and recognition it deserves within the Federal legal community. One of Judge Cahn's former law partners, John Roberts, said of Judge Cahn's retirement that "the Federal bench has lost a star." And although he is recently retired, Judge Cahn is already missed on the Federal bench. Perhaps naming the courthouse after him will serve as an enduring reminder of the contribution he has made to the administration of justice in Pennsylvania.

I would like to take a moment to extend some special thanks to some people who have helped: my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) for his efforts in helping to pass this bill. I would also like to thank the members of the Pennsylvania delegation who agreed to cosponsor this legislation and honor someone who has done so much for Pennsylvania.

I would like to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management; the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as the ranking members, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

I would also like to thank briefly the gentleman from Texas, the majority leader, for helping to bring this legislation to the floor so expeditiously; and I want to urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 558 and bestow this well-deserved honor on Allentown's courthouse and the man who made it possible.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), a member of the full Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of this legislation.

The gentlemen from Ohio and Illinois and my neighbor from Pennsylvania have already elaborated in great detail about the distinguished career that lasted 23 years for Judge Cahn on the Federal bench. He certainly did serve with distinction not only the Lehigh Valley but all of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and, really, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during that tenure.

I would just like to add for the record that during part of Judge Cahn's tenure on the bench, I served as sheriff of Schuylkill County for 7 years, and I had the great pleasure of being in his courtroom on several different occasions and had my deputies in his courtroom on many, many more occasions. I would just like to say that he was well respected. His reputation for being honest and sincere and hard working was beyond question.

I think it is all together fitting and proper we name this beautiful courthouse in Allentown after Judge Cahn for his outstanding service of 23 years. And maybe after that, I say to my friend from Lehigh Valley, we can get a judge in the Lehigh Valley and we can get one to the vacant courthouse in the city of Reading, as we fill these vacancies that are so desperately needed in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

But I think this is good legislation. Judge Cahn is certainly deserving of it. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 558.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

JAMES C. CORMAN FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 621) to designate the Federal building located at 6230 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the "James C. Corman Federal Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 621

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building located at 6230 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, shall be known and designated as the "James C. Corman Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James C. Corman Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 621 designates the Federal building in Van Nuys, California, as the James C. Corman Federal building. Congressman Corman was born in Galena, Kansas, and was a graduate of Belmont High School. He earned his undergraduate degree from UCLA, his juris doctor from USC, and his LLD from the University of San Fernando Valley School of Law. He was appointed to the California bar in 1949.

Congressman Corman first served his country in the United States Marine Corps during the Second World War and later as a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserves. In 1957, Congressman Corman was elected to the Los Angeles City Council. He served on the council

until being elected to the 87th Congress in 1960 and was reelected to the House of Representatives for 10 succeeding terms.

He served on the Committee on the Judiciary, where he was instrumental in fighting for the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and on the Committee on Ways and Means, where he was a leading advocate for the poor and the disadvantaged working on tax and welfare reform.

Congressman Corman was also proud to serve on President Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders to investigate the causes of multi-city rioting in 1967. As many of us are aware, former Congressman Corman passed away at the age of 80 last January.

I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 621, a bill to designate the Federal building located at 6230 Van Nuys Boulevard in Van Nuys, California, as the James C. Corman Federal building.

Congressman Jim Corman represented the 21st Congressional District in California for 20 years, from 1961 until 1981, the years which saw the Vietnam War, urban riots, Watergate, and the first manned flight to the Moon.

Jim Corman was born on October 20, 1920, in Galena, Kansas. In 1933, after his father died, he and his mother moved to the Los Angeles area.

During World War II, Congressman Corman served in the Marines. After the war, he worked his way through UCLA and USC Law School. He began his public career in 1957 when he was elected to serve on the Los Angeles City Council.

In 1961, he was elected to Congress and was named to the Committee on the Judiciary. In addition, he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Congressman Corman was named by President Johnson as one of the 10 people named to the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, formerly known as the Kerner Commission. During his tenure on the commission, he was optimistic about finding the causes and developing solutions for racism in America.

In 1968, he became President Johnson's point man on welfare reform. Having been close to poverty as he was growing up, Corman displayed a particular energy and devotion to solving welfare problems.

□ 1045

During his 20 years of service, his concern for senior citizens and the poorest members of our society became his trademark and part of his legacy. Jim Corman saw the fruition of his efforts in the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which he considered

the greatest accomplishment of his political career. Jim was well liked, a hard worker, a first-rate legislator. It is fitting and proper to honor Congressman James Corman with this designation.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member of the full committee.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank our ranking member for yielding me this time and compliment the gentleman from Illinois on managing his first two bills as our new ranking member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management and our new chairman, the gentleman from Ohio, on his new and fitting chairmanship which I know he will discharge with great distinction as he has always done in all of his service in the Congress.

It is really with a full heart that I come to the floor with this legislation to name the Federal building for Jim Corman.

Congressman Corman was my friend and in a way a mentor on decency and civility and dignity from the time I began my service in the House as a member of the staff of my predecessor, John Blatnik, with whom Jim Corman was very close. And through work on the Democratic Study Group, through work on civil rights, especially the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which largely was shaped in the office of John Blatnik, who with the then Kennedy administration staffers and Justice Department, Jim Corman was a solid, unyielding, unbending voice for the strongest possible language and the most comprehensive framing of that legislation to address the wrongs of our society.

Jim Corman was born in poverty, raised without a father, whom he lost while Jim was still very young, his father also young, and resolved to overcome poverty and distress. He like so many of his generation served voluntarily in World War II as a member of the United States Marine Corps. He came out battle hardened, tough, but still filled with compassion for the greatest needs in society. He constantly referred to those memories while speaking on legislation considered in this Chamber known as the Great Society programs for which he was a passionate advocate. His service on what was popularly known as the Kerner Commission, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, was along with his advocacy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 surely one of the highlights of his career. He embodied civility, decency, dignity of bearing, respect for the institution, appreciation for the traditions of the House and for the civility that is necessary in floor debate. He was the very model of decorum.

But it is also fitting that at this time we take up the naming of a public building and Federal building in his