

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances affecting the health of a family member, I was not present for rollcall votes 385 through 389 on Thursday, July 15. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 385, "yea" on rollcall vote 386, "no" on rollcall vote 387, "yea" on rollcall vote 388, and "yea" on rollcall vote 389.

WELCOME TO BECKLEY, MR.
PRESIDENT**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, again I wish to discuss the Transportation bill. This time, I want to discuss this much-needed bill in light of President Bush's recent visit to my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia last Friday, July 16, 2004.

This week, Congress will again have to extend the authorization for the previous Transportation bill because we still do not yet have a reauthorization. The previous authorization originally expired almost a year ago. Now, we will be extending that previous authorization for the fifth time—that's right, the fifth time—because Congress still hasn't done its work and completed a new bill.

The reason Congress still hasn't done the Transportation bill is that the White House clearly does not want us to finalize this bill in an election year, and the Republican Leadership in the House and the Senate just follow the Administration's orders. As I have said repeatedly, we should complete the bill, and if the White House wants to veto it, it can go ahead; there are clearly enough Republican and Democrat votes to override a veto and get the Transportation bill finished. But by doing nothing, the House and Senate Republican Leadership are siding with the White House, and preventing Congress from carrying out its Constitutional role as a coequal branch of government.

As I said last week, here on the House floor, States like my home state of West Virginia have been waiting for far too long now to see just what, if anything, they could expect to receive from the Federal Government. This money will help finance important highway and transit projects such as the Beckley Intermodal Gateway, provide good-paying jobs that are sorely needed in this uncertain job market, and sustain our economic growth at this critical point in time.

Mr. Speaker, I have an editorial from a distinguished newspaper in my hometown, the Register Herald, which I would like to submit for the RECORD to accompany my remarks. This editorial from Friday, July 16, 2004, graciously welcomes the president to Beckley. Importantly, it also goes on to note how badly Southern West Virginia needs the highway funding that President Bush is blocking. The editorial reads as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—WELCOME TO BECKLEY

Today, for the first time in history, a sitting United States president will be in Beckley.

President George W. Bush is scheduled to make a campaign appearance around 4 p.m. today at the Raleigh County Armory Civic Center.

The city, Raleigh County and all of southern West Virginia are proud to have been chosen for a visit. We're happy to see him in person and are most interested to listen to his thoughts on the issues that face us as a Nation.

However, we want to ask Mr. Bush one thing in return. Soon to come before him will be a highway appropriations bill which he's threatened to veto if it carries a price deemed too expensive. Included in this bill is more than \$2 billion to help finance a number of projects that are crucial to the economic development of Berkley, Raleigh County and southern West Virginia. If the economy is to continue the turnaround that Mr. Bush says is gathering steam, we need this money to keep it running.

We trust Mr. Bush enjoys his visit here. We wish he could stay longer and enjoy the beautiful mountains we call home.

No matter which party you're supporting in the upcoming presidential election, partisan politics should be put aside when the president comes to town.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE PUTNAM

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor the distinguished career and legacy of Mr. George Putnam.

When asked what the most important elements in a newsman's character should be, Mr. Putnam replied, "an insatiable curiosity, objectivity, perseverance but, most of all, integrity." These are some of the sterling qualities that have guided his illustrious 70 year career as a broadcaster, reporter and commentator. In 1995, Mr. Putnam was awarded the prestigious Los Angeles Area Governors Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He has been the recipient of four Emmys, six California Associated Press Television & Radio Association awards, and eight annual Radio & Television News Club awards. Legendary radio commentator Walter Winchell called Gorge Putnam's voice "the greatest in radio and television."

From his first broadcast in 1934 at WDGY in Minnesota to his current show, Talkback, on KSPA-AM, George Putnam has earned the respect of his listeners and his peers. It is with great pleasure that I wish him a Happy 90th Birthday, and acknowledge his lifelong contributions to the journalism industry.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DIETHER
HAENICKE**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Diether Haenicke who today re-

ceived the 2004 Red Rose Citation for outstanding community service from the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo, Michigan. A dedicated and selfless individual, Diether has tirelessly served and greatly impacted the quality of life of countless individuals throughout the state of Michigan.

During his distinguished service as president of Western Michigan University from 1985 to 1998, Diether inspired and impassioned students and colleagues alike. For many years I have looked upon Diether not only as a voice of knowledge and insight, but also as a friend. Despite his retirement, he continues to be an active voice in the community.

Diether spent a career devoted to extensive charity and loyalty to local individuals and the community as a whole. Whether one looks at his service and leadership at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, as commissioner of the Education Commission of the States, or on the Board of Trustees for Bronson Methodist Hospital, Diether has a long history of benefiting the communities of Southwest Michigan.

Since 1945, the Rotary Club of Kalamazoo has annually presented the Red Rose Citation to outstanding members of the community, and I can think of no one more fitting to receive this great honor than Diether. I extend my very best wishes to Diether and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD
SAFE ACT OF 2004**HON. WALLY HERGER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2004

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Child Safety, Adoption, and Family Enhancement Act (Child SAFE) of 2004. This legislation would reform the Nation's child protection programs to ensure that children are safe and families are strengthened.

Like the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program before the historic 1996 welfare reforms, the Nation's child protection programs are broken. More than 500,000 children are in foster care today. Foster care should be a temporary, short-term placement for children until they can be reunited with their parents or placed with a safe, adoptive family. However, on average, children remain in foster care for almost three years. Unfortunately, too many of these children also will experience further abuse and physical and emotional scars that will haunt them for decades.

Every State's child protection program failed recent Federal reviews. Since November 2003, the Ways and Means Human Resources Subcommittee I chair has heard from more than 40 witnesses who have testified that the current child protection programs are ill-equipped to prevent abuse and keep children safe. In May 2004, after a year of study, the nonpartisan Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care proposed major changes to current financing rules for child protection programs. Many of the Pew Commission's recommendations are included in the Child SAFE Act. It is time to respond to the growing body of evidence demanding change and better accountability from our Nation's child protection programs.