

As a member of the State house in 1972, I was enthusiastic about the creation of the ombudsman's office. I had gone from political science student to state legislator and was beginning to appreciate the value of government oversight in the practical world. It is one thing to study political theory and have a concept of how things should work. It is another thing to represent citizens as their elected representative and see how things really work. The Federal constitution Framers knew what they were doing when they built in checks and balances among the three branches of government.

The decision to create a State ombudsman wasn't unanimous. The house vote was 70 to 28, the Senate vote 30 to 20. Then, as now, those who perform government oversight might have been seen as skunks at a picnic, fueling fears of those who might abuse their investigative powers or among agencies, rein in their power. Inspectors general and whistleblowers at Federal agencies are regularly eyed with suspicion or targeted for retaliation. I run into this at the Federal level all the time. Sometimes the executive branch tries to stifle inspectors general or Federal employees who have reports of wrongdoing. Yet those people are very often heroes who expose waste, fraud, and abuse, and by putting themselves on the line, get problems fixed and strengthen government. They deserve honor and protection, which I work to provide. And I conduct oversight of Federal agencies, just as the voters oversee my performance as their elected representative.

By all accounts I have heard, Bill Angrick served his oversight role with the honor, diligence, and integrity envisioned by those of us who created the State ombudsman's office.

His retirement provides a good opportunity to reflect on his work and on the role of an entity that exists to listen to citizens, investigate concerns, and render findings in the spirit of fixing shortcomings for public benefit. The office exists to perform oversight of State and local government agencies. Sometimes it initiates investigations upon a citizen phone call of concern or complaint. It receives thousands of inquiries every year. Occasionally, my staff in Iowa adds to the workload, referring cases to the ombudsman that deal exclusively with State and local government. I appreciate the careful consideration given in those instances. Other times, the ombudsman's staff sees the need for an investigation of an agency's interaction with a citizen over a particular case or multiple agencies' handling of a State matter that is either complex or has fallen through the cracks. As a third party, the ombudsman's office is charged with the responsibility of examining the facts as impartially and thoroughly as possible and rendering findings and recommendations in a thoughtful, constructive way. The office is removed from the emotions and biases of the

people involved and proceeds without a predisposition toward a certain outcome.

The workload can involve an issue with broad implications, such as State and local governments' treatment of prison inmates, and response to child abuse cases. Mr. Angrick's office reviewed whether inmates were held too long in restraining chairs and whether government procedures were adequate to protect children in violent circumstances. The office has given special attention over the years to State and local governments' treatment of mentally ill and disabled citizens. Mr. Angrick recognizes that some challenges are interwoven among segments of society and government and merit a comprehensive response. For example, he has given needed understanding of and exposure to the fact that State prisons have become de facto housing for mentally ill citizens in many cases. He is right that government has to address this situation and give appropriate treatment to those who can't advocate for themselves.

The ombudsman's workload also involves cases with a more narrow focus. A recent investigation covered a city street superintendent accused of using city equipment on his own property and retaliating against a citizen who complained while local elected officials stood by. The resolution of that dispute might not resonate statewide, but it is meaningful for the residents of a community who expect their city employees to function aboveboard and expect their elected officials to enforce city rules and regulations. The office serves as a check-and-balance backstop on potential abuse of power.

However, the ombudsman's office doesn't only conclude that the government is wrong. Sometimes it affirms that government agencies acted properly, as in 2004 when it concluded that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' investigation of three Asian markets for unlawful fish sales was fair and reasonable.

The citizens aide office is open to everyone, regardless of position and station in life. That equal voice for everyone is critical to its purpose and its success. Under Mr. Angrick's leadership, a prison inmate's call is taken respectfully and with care for the facts, the same as a mayor's call. Mr. Angrick recognizes that a prisoner should not be abused and is entitled to humane, compassionate treatment and certain rights as he pays his debt to society. This is not only the right way to treat our fellow human beings, but it also contributes to a stronger civic structure. If the prison inmate feels heard, he may leave his service with a greater regard for society and the rule of law than he did going into prison. He might not commit a crime the second time.

By holding the government accountable, the ombudsman's office builds faith in State and local civic institutions. A well-functioning government

in which citizens have a voice, are heard, and affect change is the best antidote to cynicism about government. My strong impression is that Bill Angrick and his staff accomplished the simple slogan of their office: "Dedicated to Making Good Government Better." I thank Bill Angrick for his 32 years of service to the people of Iowa.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GREENVILLE SCOTTISH GAMES

• Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, this year marks the fourth annual celebration of the Greenville Scottish Games in my hometown of Greenville, SC. South Carolina's upstate boasts one of the highest concentrations of Scots-Irish descendants in the country and these games pay tribute to that rich Celtic heritage.

Since their inception in 2006, the Greenville Scottish Games have received international acclaim from the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs which has recognized them as one of the finest games in the world.

This year's event brings with it yet another historic milestone, with His Royal Highness, The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, in attendance. This is the first known time a senior member of the British Royal Family has attended a games outside of Scotland, and it is my great honor to extend an official senatorial welcome to His Royal Highness. I am confident he will experience the finest of Palmetto State hospitality as the first member of the Royal Family to ever visit Greenville.

These tremendous distinctions have been achieved under the tireless leadership of Dee Benedict, president of the Greenville Scottish Games. With Dee's vision and tenacity, along with the help of local officials, businesses and countless volunteers, no detail has gone untouched, ensuring that every part of this exciting weekend will evoke a feeling of authentic Scottish clan life.

I am immensely proud that my hometown is the site of this celebration and I am honored to congratulate everyone who has partnered together to make the Fourth Annual Greenville Scottish Games a sure success. •

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAYNE STATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I recognize the 75th anniversary of the School of Social Work at Wayne State University. Since 1935, this fine institution has provided students in Michigan and across the Nation with the skills necessary to tackle some of the toughest challenges we face as a society. The theme of the anniversary celebration is "Advancing Knowledge, Community Engagement,

and Social Justice,” and it aptly characterizes the school’s mission and legacy. The achievements of its many distinguished graduates and the impressive research the school has produced over the years have served to inform and improve public policy on a number of social welfare issues.

Located in the heart of metro Detroit, the School of Social Work’s principal focus is on diverse urban populations. The school combines applied research with concrete field work to produce graduates who are highly skilled and ready to serve successfully in their chosen field. Under the leadership of Dr. Phyllis Ivory Vroom for nearly a decade, the School of Social Work is well positioned to address the increasingly complex problems on a city and state level and beyond.

Housed within the School of Social Work is the Center for Social Work Practice and Policy Research. This center, established in 2008, seeks to facilitate rigorous debate and to expand our understanding of the issues affecting disadvantaged individuals, families, and communities. The list of research topics is extensive, from health and human rights issues in the Middle East, to women’s reproductive health in Africa, to substance abuse treatment and prevention within our own communities, to name only a few.

In recent years, the undergraduate degree program has gained prominence, ranking first in the nation among social work programs for the last four years by the Gourman Report. The graduate program also is highly regarded. The School of Social Work’s graduation rate is among the highest in the university, which speaks to the commitment of the faculty and staff and the hard work and dedication of its student body.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in recognizing past and present faculty, staff, and alumni of the Wayne State University School of Social Work. These individuals have contributed mightily to the tremendous success of the school over the past 75 years. I look forward to another 75 years of inspired leadership and continued educational excellence.●

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13303 OF MAY 22, 2003—PM-55

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the

President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, continuing the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq. This notice states that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, and Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2010.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to this threat and maintain in force the measures taken to deal with that national emergency.

The Iraqi government continues to take steps to resolve debts and settle claims arising from the actions of the previous regime. Before the end of the year, my Administration will review the Iraqi government’s progress on resolving these outstanding debts and claims, as well as other relevant circumstances, in order to determine whether the prohibitions contained in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as amended by Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, on any attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process with respect to the Development Fund for Iraq, the accounts, assets, and property held by the Central Bank of Iraq, and Iraqi petroleum-related products, should continue in effect beyond December 31, 2010, which are in addition to the sovereign immunity ordinarily provided to Iraq as a sovereign nation under otherwise applicable law.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 12, 2010.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:53 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5051. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the “Zachary Smith Post Office Building”.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution; without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 62. A concurrent resolution congratulating the outstanding professional public servants, both past and present, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 2802. An act to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5148. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to clarify the instances in which the term “census” may appear on mailable matter.

H.R. 5160. An act to extend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, to provide customs support services to Haiti, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1121. An act to authorize a land exchange to acquire lands for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1442. An act to provide for the sale of the Federal Government’s reversionary interest in approximately 60 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, originally conveyed to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association under the Act of January 23, 1909.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5051. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23 Genesee Street in Hornell, New York, as the “Zachary Smith Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3347. A bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program through December 31, 2010.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5788. A communication from the Administrator of Cotton and Tobacco Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Cotton Research and Promotion Program: Designation of Cotton-Producing States” ((Docket No. AMS-CN-10-0027)(CN-08-003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.