

State and the Congress in the best development of public relations programs in the foreign relations of the United States.” I strongly believe this policy remains relevant today more than ever.

Currently, the advisory commission has a budget of less than \$500,000 and it has returned an average of \$75,000 to the taxpayers in each of the last three years. Certainly, American taxpayers are getting their money's worth. For more than 50 years, the advisory commission and its predecessor bodies have issued several intelligent and thoughtful reports in which relevant public diplomacy issues have been examined and recommendations delivered to the American public, the Congress and the U.S. Information Agency, which will be merged into the Department of State later this year.

For example, the advisory commission helped USIA expand its research and program evaluation to target information to women's and labor groups abroad during the 1960s and 1970s. Furthermore, it helped improve Voice of America programming and signal delivery, in addition to direct broadcast satellite research. Without question, the advisory commission's contributions in these areas have gone a long way to help the United States communicate its message to the rest of the world regarding democracy, human rights, free market principles, as well as other traditional American values.

In the 1980s, the commission broke new ground when it released a special report entitled “Terrorism and Security: The Challenge for Public Diplomacy,” which recommended ways to make the difficult and delicate balance between the need to protect our diplomats and overseas installations and the need to reach out to overseas publics. It has done so again in the 1990s by focusing on a new diplomacy for the information age.

Mr. Chairman, our country enjoys a considerable “edge” in public diplomacy, both in reaching publics through advanced technology and in communicating our message of democracy, human rights, free markets as well as ethnic and cultural diversity. Clearly, it is to our advantage to use that edge. In the post-Cold war era of instant global journalism and people power, foreign public opinion is critical to the success of American foreign policy initiatives. The advisory commission's reports illustrate how the increase in global communications and technology makes foreign publics far more important than ever and why we should use our advanced skills in these areas to inform, understand and influence those foreign publics.

For instance, last year's report—entitled “A New Diplomacy for the Information Age”—explains how Saddam Hussein used public diplomacy to his advantage when he shifted the focus of the world media from his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction to the tragic suffering of Iraqi children, a campaign that did nothing to help the United States build the same coalition in 1998 as assembled against Saddam's sinister regime in 1991. The advisory commission's report, which can be accessed via USIA's web page, also includes intelligent and thoughtful recommendations on how to deal with such problems in the future. I believe this represents one of the most im-

portant advisory functions of the commission, and I encourage my colleagues to read the report.

Mr. Chairman, the new State Department we have created since enacting the reorganization bill last year must be a responsive and flexible diplomatic institution that can deal as effectively with foreign publics as with foreign governments. We need the insight and experience of the advisory commission to make this transition successful and to achieve our foreign policy goals. In this age of information and democracy, of globalized free markets and the Internet, foreign publics are far more important than ever. As we are developing a new diplomacy for the 21st Century, the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy is of even greater constructive value to the Congress and the Administration.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for his supporting remarks and for his working with the majority in trying to work out this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) having assumed the chair, Mr. KOLBE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the following three bills that were considered today: H.R. 1033, H.R. 31, and H. Con. Res. 121.

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

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

□ 1802

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. J.C. WATTS, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable J.C. WATTS, Chairman of the House Republican Conference:

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE,
Washington, DC, July 19, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to inform you that pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X, Representative Michael P. Forbes is no longer a member of the Republican Conference.

Sincerely,

J.C. WATTS, Jr.,
Chairman.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

THE SPEAKER'S ROOMS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 19, 1999.

Hon. C.W. BILL YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative MICHAEL P. FORBES' election to the Committee on Appropriations has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X effective today.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

THE SPEAKER'S ROOMS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 19, 1999.

Hon. JAMES M. TALENT,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that Representative Michael P. Forbes' election to the Committee on Small Business has been automatically vacated pursuant to clause 5(b) of rule X effective today.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule