

Pop Stricklin exemplifies what it is to be a great citizen and a great American. He has always worked hard to make his community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Our community is a better place because of his presence. He is someone you can always count on and I am proud to call Pop Stricklin my friend.

INTRODUCTION OF CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION TO DEDICATE
BUDGET SURPLUS FUNDS TO
PROTECT FEDERALLY HELD
AMERICAN INDIAN TRUST FUND
ACCOUNTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution calling for Congress to dedicate a portion of the budget surplus to fulfill the moral and legal responsibilities of the United States by ensuring proper payment and management of all federally held tribal trust fund accounts and individual Indian money accounts.

Since 1820, the United States has held monies in trust for American Indians. At first for Indian Tribes and later for individual Indians as well. Funds mostly derived from the lease or sale of trust lands and other resource assets including timber stumpage, royalties from oil, gas and coal development, and agriculture fees are added to these trust fund accounts. Currently, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), which is charged with maintaining the accounts, controls approximately 390,000 individual Indian money accounts (IIM), and 1,500 tribal accounts. Each year over \$1 billion passes through these accounts.

The historical and legal record demonstrates that the U.S. government has failed miserably at its fiduciary responsibility to manage these accounts. Horror stories include years of royalty checks being stuffed in desk drawers instead of deposited, and piles of documents thrown away, destroyed or lost. Reams of reports by Congressional investigators, spanning several Administrations, document the often careless and incompetent manner in which these accounts have been managed. Beginning in 1991 Congress funded BIA to reconcile the accounts but after 5 years and \$21 million we were told that volumes of documentation of transactions and investments simply no longer exist.

As far back as the Reagan administration, the Indian Trust Funds were listed as one of the top federal financial liabilities. Currently, a class action suit of Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders is pending in federal court and the BIA is working to ensure that similar accounting problems do not occur in the future.

In the meantime, I am deeply concerned that Congress is paying inadequate attention to the very substantial financial debt the federal government owes to Native American account holders. In particular, in making sweeping decisions about allocation of the budget

surplus, it is essential that we reserve sufficient funds to ensure our ability to meet our fiduciary responsibilities to Indian tribes and individuals.

These are real debts we owe to fellow American citizens; just as we cannot spend the surplus needed for Social Security and Medicare solvency, so, too, must we reserve sufficient amounts to meet our obligations to the Indian Trust Funds.

My House Concurrent Resolution calls upon the Congress to fulfill our moral and legal obligations to Native Americans by reserving adequate funds to address the problem. I will push for swift consideration and approval of this legislation and urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO CARL AND JUDY
RUDD

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a family in the district I represent that has brightened the holiday season for generation of Southwest Ohioans.

For the last 30 years, Carl and Judy Rudd have put on a remarkable Christmas display at their farm near Blue Creek, Ohio. Rudds' Christmas Farm is the largest free outdoor Christmas display in the state of Ohio, with over one mile of pathways covering two hill-sides on the farm property. With more than one million lights and a 62-foot-wide Christmas wreath, Rudds' Christmas Farm is truly a sight to behold. And the overall effect is complemented by the sound of Christmas music echoing from the hills.

The Rudds started their Christmas display as a testimony to their deep and abiding Christmas faith. Throughout the farm, there are life-sized religious figures, paintings and slide projections that tell the story of Christmas. They have never asked a penny for admission, and for many years they would take out a loan to finance the display.

This year, Carl and Judy Rudd will welcome the public to their wonderful Christmas Farm for the last time. They have decided that the time has come to retire after organizing their Christmas display for 30 years.

All of us in Southwest Ohio wish to share our appreciation to Carl and Judy Rudd for the Christmas joy they have brought to entire generations. And we wish them the best for a healthy and enjoyable retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL MONETARY STA-
BILITY ACT OF 2000

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the International Monetary Stability Act of 2000. This bill would give coun-

tries who have been seriously considering using the U.S. dollar as their national currency the incentive to do so. When a foreign country grants the U.S. dollar legal tender in replace of its own currency, that country dollarizes. This bill would serve to encourage such dollarization.

Up to this point, the United States has been missing one of the best opportunities to correct chaotic currency markets, especially in the Western Hemisphere. Sound currency policies, such as dollarization, that focus on exchange rate stabilization would put an end to the debilitating and periodic collapse of developing countries caused by haphazard devaluation.

Congressional leadership in exchange rate policies would protect our own economy. Every devaluation affects our economy through international trade and through the equity markets. American companies need reliable currencies to make investment decisions abroad; and American workers need to know countries cannot competitively devalue in an effort to lower foreign worker wages. The ramifications of an Asian-style economic collapse in Latin America, our own back yard, call for legislation that will help these countries embrace consistent economic growth.

Today, several countries are already considering dollarization. They realize that by either linking with the U.S. dollar, legalizing competing foreign currencies, or scrapping their currency altogether and replacing it with the dollar, they will encourage long-term economic stability through lower interest rates, stable exchange rates and increased investment.

Official dollarization, such as is encouraged by this bill, is not a new idea. In fact, it is becoming an increasingly popular answer to currency stabilization in emerging markets. Argentina is seriously considering such a currency reform. Mexico, Ecuador, and El Salvador have also considered dollarization.

Enacting this legislation would set up a structure in which the U.S. Treasury would have the discretion to promote official dollarization in emerging market countries by offering to rebate 85 percent of the resulting increase in U.S. seigniorage earnings. Part of the remaining 15 percent would be distributed to countries like Panama that have already dollarized, but the majority of the 15 percent would be deposited at the Treasury Department as government revenue. Additionally, this bill would make it clear that the United States has no obligation to serve as a lender of last resort to dollarized countries, consider their economic conditions in setting monetary policy or supervise their banks.

I strongly believe that strengthening global economies, especially those in the Western Hemisphere, by encouraging dollarization is in America's best interest.

RECOGNIZING LEXMARK INTER-
NATIONAL'S EXCELLENCE IN EN-
VIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Lexmark International, an excellent

corporate constituent headquartered in my District, that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit as well as the environmental consciousness required by a global corporation.

Lexmark received the Kentucky Governor's Environmental Excellence Award on November 9, presented by Lt. Gov. Steve Henry and James E. Bickford, Secretary of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, at the Governor's Conference on the Environment.

Lexmark International was selected to receive this year's Environmental Excellence Award for Industrial Environmental Leadership because of the many steps it has taken to prevent pollution and encourage recycling. Since 1991, Lexmark has increased the amount of materials it recycles by about 70 percent. Last year, this Lexington-based company recycled more than 4.3 million pounds of paper and one million pounds of scrap metal.

Lexmark encourages its customers to recycle by offering them an incentive to return their empty laser printer cartridges through its Prebate program. Since the incentive began, Lexmark says that returns of empty toner cartridges have tripled, saving them from ending up in landfills.

As we recognize America Recycles Day this week, I urge my colleagues and our constituents to help encourage environmental protection both at home and at work. I offer my congratulations to Lexmark International for setting such a positive example for others to replicate.

COURAGE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting this statement regarding my constituent, Gordon D. Ladd, which shows the courage and perseverance he displayed in organizing the first union in northern Vermont in the 1940s, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe the views of this person will benefit my colleagues.

GORDON D. LADD—FIRST PRESIDENT OF IAM LODGE IN DERBY LINE VERMONT ORGANIZING A UNION IN VERMONT IN THE 1940'S

In 1943 I requested an interview with the superintendent of management at Butterfield Corporation in Derby Line Vermont to request a wage increase and my request was denied emphatically. I informed him that I would return.

I met a friend of mine who used to be a coach, a hockey coach, and he had relatives in the plant. This guy I met, Bert, you could call him, he was a machinist for the railroad in Island Pond, and he belonged to the machinist's union. So he asked if we had a union up there and what the wages were. We were good friends, he was coach for a long time, but anyway, I told him that wages were very low at my workplace, and he said "Well, do you think they would be interested in the union?" I said "Well, yeah I'll talk to a few." So, I did.

When I went up to see the boss that first time he asked me what I was making. I told him "65 cents an hour". I had started at 45

cents and worked three years—I got a 10 cent raise each year. And it was 65 cents, and he, ah, he's a rough little character, he slammed his fists down on his desk and he says "by god," he says, "that's the highest we will ever pay at this plant". So then I got up and said "We'll see about that, and I'll be back."

So now I went to the shop, talked to several guys, they were all interested, all enthused about it, and said they would support a union. So then I get back to Burt at Island Pond, and told him to send us up a representative. It was then less than a week and the Machinist representative had arrived from Albany, New York. And he talked to me, he came to the house a few times, and then we called a meeting, and, more and more, one meeting after another, at first it was a small amount, a few men, but then they got bigger and bigger crowds.

Management of course fought us tooth and nail. Well, one thing I can remember in particular. The general foreman, he was under the superintendent, he was putting something on the union representative's car, on the front end of it, come to find out, spikes on a rope. And he was seen doing that, and we called him on it, but he denied it of course. You see they hit just right and they could blow the tires.

They did little annoying things. They'd send us one of these, what we'd call suckers down, always coming down and talking to me, trying to find out things, you know. I just told them I knew nothing. Another one of these superintendents came down one day and says "We know you're the head of the union," and I said "I've got a perfectly good right to according to the laws". And he didn't have too much more to say.

We also learned that the company had hired an electrician for the purpose of organizing against the union, see he was a company plant. So he got up and threw a scare, said that if we had a union we would lose our bonus, a 10% bonus every six months. So that killed the first drive right there, see. And they tried every little trick, they sent the people down that I knew, they'd come down and fish around, try to get information from me. Then they called me, offered me 10 cents an hour more, if I'd stop the union organizing. "We'll give you 10 cents an hour raise, but I want you to keep it quiet, I don't want you to tell anybody." Then they'd say, "If you tell me the guys that are dissatisfied in the shop, give me their names, we'd give them 15 cents an hour more." And I said "Just a minute, if everybody gets 15 cents and hour we'll go along with it, but other than that," I said, "no way". You can pick out a few, that would just start trouble.

So then we call the meeting, the machinist's union, and we get a hall and call the meeting, and that was the one where we lost the election the first time.

I don't remember the exact vote total but it was close. But then comes the good part. We later learned that the company sent down foremen and group leaders and had them vote too. But the fact is they shouldn't have been able to vote because they were management. They even sent down 3 or 4 women down from the office to vote, and the vote was for production workers and these were office workers. They shouldn't have been able to vote either but management wanted more to vote in the ballot box.

So we petitioned for another election. And once again during the vote the company starting sending down foremen and group leaders to vote. But this time our union representative said no way. The Labor Board Representative was there and we challenged

the right of these supervisory men to vote. The Board Representative put those votes, I think there were 26 of them, in a special envelope. This time we won the election by a pretty good margin. That was in 1944.

Another little thing here. I was in a barber shop and the big shot manager from the venier mill came in. My barber was my landlord, we were renting the house, and he asked me something about the union. And this management guy from the mill, he says "That union" and he used a few cuss-words "won't last six months!" Well it's a 55 year later and the union's still there. But the funny part is, in about a year and a half, they plopped the union in at the venier mill.

Well, the main thing at my plant was wages, because plants in the state, we checked around a little bit and some of the plants were paying, at that time, double what we were getting. We checked around, because some of the guys, neighbors in Newport were working down in the Springfield machine shops, at places like Jones-Lampson. When we heard what they were getting, we thought "Well, we should be getting about the same."

I was elected as the first president of the union lodge in 1944 and served for seven years. We did pretty good with improving wages and getting benefits—we got health insurance, a pension plan. I've collected from the pension plan for 19 years now, and we got pretty good medical. We didn't have either before the union. It definitely pays to be union.

A BAD WEEK FOR ISOLATIONISTS

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, for those who might have missed it, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a piece by David Ignatius from Wednesday's Washington Post.

As a strong supporter of free trade, I share Mr. Ignatius's optimism at the agreement reached earlier this week for China to join the World Trade Organization. As foreign trade becomes increasingly important in the developing global economy, we must work to ensure open access to the emerging Chinese markets, especially in the areas of financial services and telecommunications. This agreement will give that access to American companies. I salute Trade Representative Barshefsky on her hard work at achieving this agreement under difficult circumstances.

I also agree with Mr. Ignatius's view that the agreement does not go far enough. As a member of the congressional delegation to the WTO Ministerial in Seattle later this month, I will work to restore some of the more favorable aspects of the agreement rejected by the President in April.

I commend Mr. Ignatius's article to my colleagues' attention.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 17, 1999]

A BAD WEEK FOR ISOLATIONISTS

If you believe that international engagement is America's best hope for the future, then this is a week to savor. For beyond the headlines, you can see the possibility for a restoration of the confident, outward-looking U.S. consensus that our history teaches