CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3194, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF HON. DAVID D. PHELPS OF ILLINOIS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Omnibus Appropriations Bill of 1999. This is massive bill put together at the last minute with very little chance for Members to study its contents. It combines five appropriations bills as well as two very admirable but totally unrelated pieces of legislation. In addition, it contains countless budget gimmicks in order to label it "balanced." In short, it is dishonest.

I cannot in good faith support this agreement which was completed outside the regular budget process, includes untold pork, relies on numerous budget gimmicks and raids the Social Security Trust Fund.

The final bill relied on numerous budget gimmicks as offsets: a pay shift for all military and civilian employees by one day at the end of the fiscal year, to prorogue Congress so that the already passed appropriation bills will carry with them throughout their lives the promise of Social Security and Medicare. In addition, the budgetary gimmicks utilized will only make next year's budget even more difficult.

Congress could have chosen to keep their promise to pass all appropriations in regular order by September 30th. They could have worked with other Members to ensure the final product did not spend any of the Social Security trust fund. Instead, they chose to delay until the eve of Thanksgiving and force a massive and dishonest spending measure on the House. As such, I will oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY BURKHART

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR OF OHIO IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 22, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District.

For more than thirty years, Larry Burkhart has dedicated his life to ensuring that our children are prepared and ready to face their lives. While growing up in Northwest Ohio, Mr. Burkhart first realized the difference that teaching can make in the lives of our youth while attending Miller City High School.

Lobby East door before his retirement in 1997, died suddenly on Veterans' Day at his home on Capitol Hill. Tim was only 54 years old, and he is greatly missed by the friends he leaves behind.

Mr. Speaker, Tim Donohoe leaves many friends. Tim served the Congress for 25 years, most of them for the Doorkeeper and Sergeant-at-Arms, so he knew most everyone who worked on and around the House floor. It was Tim's job as a doorman to know every Member of Congress, including the Senators, for which the Speaker's Lobby looking for news. All who worked with or around Tim appreciated his wit, his good humor, and his reliable information about what was really going on in the House. When the House was in legislative session, Tim was at that door—we could count on it. He always did his job diligently and magnificently, in the grandest traditions of the House.

Everyone who had the good fortune to know Tim Donohoe well agrees that he was one of the kindest, most selfless people one could ever meet. Though these traits may have resulted from a classical Catholic education, for which Tim culminated in a master's degree in theology from St. Paul's College in Washington, I suspect they were innate, simply a manifestation of Tim's character. He cared about others more than himself, and it showed.

Mr. Speaker, our world would be a far better place if there were more like Tim Donohoe. Our world is a better place for Tim's having been here. He is, and will continue to be, sorely missed.