

But it should not have to be a major battle. It is time for the post office to stop fighting this legislation. It is time for the post office to institutionalize with us to make sure that the Postal Service is a full partner for the next millennium of livable communities in America.

Mr. Speaker, this small step can lead the way for the Federal Government itself across the country to provide that sort of partnership for livability.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 416, FEDERAL RETIREMENT COVERAGE CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an announcement. I want to inform the House of the Committee on Rules' plans in regard to H.R. 416, the Federal Retirement Coverage Corrections Act. The bill was favorably reported by both the Committee on Government Reform and the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Rules will meet on Wednesday to grant a rule which may require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and which may limit amendments to the bill. In this case, amendments to be preprinted would need to be signed by the Member and submitted to the Speaker's table by the close of legislative business on Wednesday. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to assure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House. It is not necessary to submit amendments to the Committee on Rules or to testify as long as the amendments comply with House rules.

Mr. Speaker, a Dear Colleague letter announcing this potential amendment process was mailed to all Member offices yesterday.

COMMANDANCY OF THE ALAMO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, as is tradition by members of the Texas delegation. Today is Texas Independence Day, and today I would like to follow in the tradition that has been done for years, to read a letter that was written from Colonel Travis, who was the commandant, who was the head of the Texans who were in the Alamo that was written on February 24, 1836, from Bexar in Texas.

To all people of Texas and all Americans in the world:

Fellow citizens and compatriots, I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexi-

cans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, and our flag still proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of liberty and patriotism and everything dear to the American character to come to our aid with all dispatch. The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in 4 or 5 days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and to that of his country—victory or death.

Signed, William Barret Travis, Lieutenant Colonel Commander of the Texans in the Alamo.

P.S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight, we had not three bushels of corn. We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of cattle.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

AMERICAN CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE TERRITORIES MUST BE RECOGNIZED AS EQUALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that many of you saw the article "Talking About a Revolution" in Roll Call yesterday. The article highlighted the 45th anniversary of the attack perpetrated by a group of terrorists on the U.S. House of Representatives on March 1, 1954. Just like Russell Weston, Timothy McVeigh, Terry Nichols and others, the terrorists in the 1954 attack were also American citizens.

In commemorating such an anniversary, I wish that the same consideration to detail was provided on other issues concerning Puerto Rico. In our society it seems that it is the negative that consumes our attention, and it is a shame that this terrorist and cowardly act continues to be resurfaced without ever mentioning that the perpetrators were part of a small Fascist party then existing in Puerto Rico.

The article did not choose to highlight also that today, March 2, is the 82nd anniversary of the day when all Puerto Ricans and those born in Puerto Rico thereafter became U.S. citizens through an act of Congress and that it is also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Puerto Rico regiment of volunteers which later became the

65th Infantry Army regiment, one of the most decorated U.S. Army units of this century. Thus, 100 years ago today, our predecessors in this U.S. Congress were discussing the issue of Puerto Rico and voted on and approved the organization of the first body of troops on the territory which they called the Porto Rico Regiment of Voluntary Infantry, 18 years before we were granted citizenship. We have been equals in war and death, but we are discriminated against in peace and life.

Our rights to liberty and free speech are intrinsic rights of our democracy that have been defended since our Nation's inception. As troops from the United States have fought to ensure and maintain freedom and democratic values everywhere and anywhere that has been needed in this world in this century, 197,034 soldiers hailing from Puerto Rico have fought shoulder to shoulder with our fellow citizens from every other State.

When we consider the century that binds us together, it is clear that the interrelationship between the United States and its citizens in Puerto Rico is most evidenced in our participation in defense of democracy. Military leaders such as General Douglas MacArthur, the supreme commander for the allied power during the Korean War, described it best:

"The Puerto Ricans forming the ranks of the gallant 65th Infantry on the battlefields of Korea by valor, determination and a resolute will to victory give daily testament of their invincible loyalty to the United States and the fervor of their devotion to those immutable standards of human relations to which the Americans and Puerto Ricans are in common dedicated. They are writing a brilliant record of achievement in battle, and I am proud indeed to have them in this command. I wish that we may have many more men like them."

It is unquestionable that every one of the 197,034 soldiers who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces take the responsibility as U.S. citizens very seriously, willing to give their lives for American democratic values. But their sacrifice would not have been possible without the patriotism and honor to duty evidenced by the support of their families and all other American citizens in Puerto Rico. Who in my generation in America does not know the story of the Sullivan brothers in the Second World War? But how many Americans know that during the Korean War Mrs. Asuncion Rodriguez Acosta from the town of Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, was the only American mother who had five sons serving in the Korean front at the same time?

Despite this brilliant record of gallantry and courage, the policy of the U.S. Government sets apart its 4 million American citizens in Puerto Rico and the territories. We are good enough