

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, March 16, 1999

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 16, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CONSTANCE A. MORELLA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) for 2 minutes.

IN HONOR OF JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, today I join the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) in paying tribute to the late James C. Kirkpatrick. The memory of Jim Kirkpatrick will be honored this week with the dedication of a library named for him at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Missouri. This is certainly a fitting tribute to a great Missourian who served our neighbors so well through the years as Missouri's Secretary of State.

Actually, I inherited my friendship with Jim Kirkpatrick, as he was a close friend of my father's through the years. Back in 1932, when my father ran for Attorney General, Jim Kirkpatrick, then editor of the Windsor newspaper, endorsed him.

When I served in the Missouri State Senate, I had close contact with Jim Kirkpatrick, who was then serving as Secretary of State. Filing for election and reelection with him was always a memorable occasion.

America is always in need of role models for those who enter public serv-

ice. Jim Kirkpatrick was such a role model, putting the people's business first, running an efficient office, and having a warm greeting for all with whom he came in contact. He was a model of integrity.

We all miss Jim Kirkpatrick, but his name and his example will live on with the building being named in his memory at CMSU.

IN HONOR OF JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, there are many memories that come to mind when I think of Missouri's longest serving Secretary of State, Jim Kirkpatrick, of Warrensburg, Missouri. There was the quick laugh and sparkling eyes that often calmed a political confrontation. There was the always present Irish green tie, the green jacket, the green stationery, the green ink, the green furniture. In fact, everything in the Secretary of State's office when I had the privilege to follow him there was some shade of green.

It is a privilege for me today, the only Republican elected Secretary of State in Missouri in the last seven decades, to join with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) as we honor the memory of Missouri's "Mr. Democrat" as its most Irish politician this week of Saint Patrick's Day.

Many Missourians remember Jim Kirkpatrick working to establish statewide voter registration, directing two winning campaigns for better roads, and championing the establishment of a records management and archives division in State government.

Jim Kirkpatrick instinctively understood Tip O'Neill's axiom that all politics is local, as he crisscrossed the State for two decades eagerly meeting with citizens wherever he went.

Others remember Jim Kirkpatrick and his newspapers. He worked his way up to be the editor of the Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal. He then moved to edit the Jefferson City News and Tribune. He was the publisher of the Windsor Review and Lamar Daily Democrat. It was Missouri Governor Forrest Smith who first brought him into State government as his administrative assistant in 1948.

What I remember most about him was he put "service" in public service.

When he left office after five terms, his commitment to the people of Missouri and to the job done by the Secretary of State's office was as strong as ever. He continued to dedicate himself to the efforts of his office during his last week as a State official with the same concern that I am sure he had during his first week.

In 1985, Jim retired to Warrensburg and to the campus of Central Missouri State University, where he graduated, served on the Board of Regents and led in effort after effort.

His office in the Ward Edwards Library was the replica of his office in the State capitol. His lectures to the students were high points for them and him. Jim and his wife traveled with campus groups, went to hundreds of campus events, and were involved in the community as a great team until Jim's death.

Next week, the campus and the community will officially dedicate the new James C. Kirkpatrick Library at Central Missouri State University. Jim Kirkpatrick's legacy of service continues.

ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PUERTO RICAN CITIZENS

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. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning with a heavy heart. While I congratulate my colleagues for the fine manner in which they debated the deployment of American troops to Kosovo on the floor, I must also point out a great injustice in our American democratic system.

Last Thursday, throughout the discussion on the floor, precisely at this podium where I now stand, what my esteemed colleagues debated was the reaffirmation of the Congress' power as the sovereign representative body of all Americans.

On a bipartisan level, the debate reflected important concerns about the authority that Congress exercises on the issues that affect our Nation and our standing in the world. It is to this House's great credit and a decision that in my estimation marks a significant turning point in Congressional relations that my colleagues overcame party differences and acted in unison to enable our troops to join NATO forces in Kosovo.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.