

February 15, 2000

FEDERAL COURT ASSIGNMENT OF  
CRIMINAL CASES

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2000*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues and submits for the RECORD this February 12, 2000, editorial from the Omaha World Herald regarding Federal court assignment of criminal cases concerning President Clinton's friends. Our colleague, Representative HOWARD COBLE (R-NC), recently discovered frequent use of a special rule allowing the chief judge to bypass the random assignment system for certain "protracted" cases; in this instance, fund-raising cases involving friends of the President that have been assigned to judges appointed by the President. This situation certainly should be investigated. It's little wonder that increasingly Americans are wondering if one can get justice from the Justice Department.

JUDGING A JUDGE'S JUDGMENT

The Washington, D.C. panel of federal judges that oversees judicial conduct there has reopened what had looked like's closed controversy. The judges were right to do so. The situation involved the chief judge's prior practice—it might reasonably be characterized as a habit—of naming judges who were appointees of President Clinton to preside over criminal cases involving his friends.

That particular federal judicial district has a computer system to assign almost all criminal cases randomly. The idea of putting the system in place was to avoid both the appearance and the reality of favoritism. But there was a special rule, which was recently eliminated, allowing the chief judge to bypass the system for "protracted" cases.

Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson used the rule with what might politely be called enthusiasm. It was revealed in recent months that five Democratic campaign fund-raising prosecutions and a tax-evasion case against Clinton confidant Webster Hubbell went to Clinton appointees. Now, appeals court Judge Stephen Williams has been ordered to look into the circumstances of these and other case assignments.

The decision to revive the inquiry was made after the revelation by Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C., of additional non-random assignments in fund-raising cases, including one involving a former fund-raiser for Vice President Al Gore.

Coble, one of the most conservative members of a mostly conservative congressional delegation from a conservative state, is no friend of Clinton or Gore. He probably has an agenda behind his quest. But that shouldn't matter. The facts are the facts: Judge Johnson by-passed the system and has never said why, although she denies that there were political considerations.

It may all be on the up-and-up, but it smells funny. If Johnson in fact did nothing wrong, she deserves to have that publicized. Conversely, if some level of cronyism is involved, some sort of disciplinary action might be appropriate. Getting to the bottom of this is, plain and simple, a good idea.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF MULLER

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2000*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note for our House colleagues the loss of a fine community leader and dedicated public servant, Fred Muller of Acme, Mich., who died at his home on Dec. 21, 1999.

At the time of his death, Fred was chief of the Grand Traverse Rural Fire Department. He was also an arson investigator whose probes and seminars took him all over the nation, and he was an instructor at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. Most important to me, Fred Muller was my friend.

I am challenged, Mr. Speaker, to sum up this man's life in a few brief remarks. My anecdotes are only small windows on the career of a man who so loved firefighting from his youth that at age 13 he formed a junior volunteer fire brigade in his hometown of Brighton, Michigan. We can only glimpse the strength of his dedication to his community in such acts as coming out of retirement in 1985 after 24 years with General Motors to assume the post of rural fire chief in one of the most heavily populated counties in my district.

Our view of Fred Muller comes into better focus when we learn that he served eight years as a city council member and two years as mayor pro tempore of Brighton, and held various leadership positions, including president, of such professional organizations as the Northern Michigan Fire Chiefs, Michigan Fire Chiefs and International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Fred was a leader, and as his deputy chief Bill Sedlacek was quick to note in a news story on Fred's death, he led his volunteer force to a position of being rated among the top five in the nation.

In his public role, Fred's greatest test was a fire that broke out in late 1995 at a tire retreading facility in the small Michigan community of Grawn.

When the black clouds began climbing from the site and soot began turning snow around the site black, Fred ordered homes evacuated and a local school closed.

But the fire, which burrowed deep into a field of hundreds of thousands of tires, sometimes piled 50 feet high, soon signaled it would not be easily dealt with. There was no model for this conflagration. Temperatures at the core of the fire built up to almost 2,500 degrees. The fire burned under the surface, creating cavities that constantly threatened to swallow firefighting equipment. Conventional hoses merely built a shell of ice around the fire, which burned uninterrupted.

The fire became a siege, drawing manpower from around the state and bringing in technical experts from various state and federal agencies. Almost 125 firefighters were at work on New Year's Eve. Throughout the fire, Fred continued to monitor the hours that men worked, aware that fatigue and complacency were the greatest threats to the well-being of the army of firefighters. Whenever he gave community updates, Fred drew applause from audiences who knew he was dedicated to

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finding a way to defeat this fire through techniques that would serve as a guide for any future fire of this kind.

I had known Fred through his efforts to win funding for fire training, but now I had an opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with him in this great fight. I was able to assist by obtaining for Fred a pair of Air National Guard water cannons from a nearby base. With these cannons, his crews were able to blast apart the hot core of the fire, eventually reducing the blaze to smaller, cooler fires that could be doused by conventional means.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe a debt to this dedicated citizen, one of those men who care about people, give of themselves, and seem to live a life in preparation from some great moment when they can marshal and utilize all the skills they have acquired.

Not only my northern Michigan communities but the entire nation sustained a great loss with Fred Muller's untimely death. He will be missed.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TRIO  
DAY

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2000*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring my colleagues' attention to the upcoming celebration of National TRIO Day on February 26.

The TRIO programs are Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. These programs, established over the past 30 years, provide services to low-income and potential first generation college students and help them overcome class, social, cultural and physical barriers to higher education.

Currently 2,000 colleges, universities and community agencies throughout our nation sponsor TRIO programs. More than 780,000 middle school and high school students and adults benefit from their services. Most of these students come from families in which neither parent graduate from college. These students represent the highest aspirations and best hope for the American dream. By lifting these students out of poverty, the nation is lifted to new heights.

There are 15 TRIO programs hosted on nine college campuses in my State. Together, they serve nearly 6,000 aspiring students and adults annually. Almost 5,000 of these students are in my Congressional District. They are low income, first generation students and adults who are preparing to enter, or have entered, postsecondary education programs.

I have met with many of these students, and I know these programs work. For example, in recent years I have met Mark Crosby, a First Vice-President for Personnel for one of Maine's most successful and fastest-growing employers, MBNA America Bank. Mark was a student in the Upward Bound Program which he credits for his success in completing high school, college and graduate school. As he

told me, "I went to college. My brother, who did not go to Upward Bound, went to jail." I have also met with a young man, John Simko, whose participation in TRIO programs helped to get him into and through Bowdoin College. He later went on to become the Town Manager of a small town in Maine.

TRIO graduates can be found in every occupation: doctor, lawyer, astronaut, television reporter, actor, professional athlete, state senator and Member of Congress. In fact, some of our colleagues today are graduates of TRIO programs. The TRIO programs are a cost-effective investment in our nation's future. They help to ensure that no child will be left behind, his or her aspirations unrealized.

In closing, I would like to encourage my colleagues to visit the TRIO Programs in their districts and learn for themselves how valuable these programs are to our nation. I also want to say a warm hello to all of the Maine students currently participating in TRIO programs and to remind them to keep reaching for their dreams.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING  
EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC  
AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEM  
OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2000*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a member of the Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus in strong support of H. Con. Res. 76. This common sense resolution expresses our support for a "Day of Hope" for abused and neglected children and urges us to remember these young victims of violence.

Child abuse and neglect are serious issues which we must address as a community. Over 3 million American children are reported as suspected victims of child abuse and neglect annually and more than 500,000 American children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes. The cycle of child abuse and neglect all too often leads to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and welfare dependency. We can and must do something to break this vicious cycle. I urge my colleagues to not only join me in supporting this resolution but also to actively work with our constituents to bring an end to child abuse and neglect.

HONORING LOUISE EVANS FARR,  
AN ADVOCATE FOR PEACE AND  
CIVIL RIGHTS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2000*

Mr. McINNIS. MR. SPEAKER, I RISE TODAY TO TELL YOU OF A GREAT WOMAN WHO GAVE SELFLESSLY OF HERSELF TO HER COMMUNITY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LOUISE EVANS FARR PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 14, 2000.

Louise was a lifelong advocate for peace, human dignity and civil rights. She graduated from Vassar College and Yale Law School. In the 1940s she was executive director of the Unity Council, a coalition of groups concerned with ending racial and ethnic discrimination in Denver, Colorado. She was also active in the peace and nuclear nonproliferation movements. Most recently she worked as a volunteer for Physicians for Social Responsibility and for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Louise was the granddaughter of Frank S. Hoag Sr., former publisher of the Pueblo Star-Journal and Chieftain, and the cousin of, my good friend, Robert Rawlings, the present publisher of the paper. Her brother, Frank Evans, represented Pueblo and Southern Colorado in the United States Congress from 1964 to 1978.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in memory of Louise Evans Farr. She was a humanitarian who will be missed by all those who knew her.

SHREWSBURY SENIOR CENTER

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2000*

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, Today in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, the dream of many is finally becoming a reality. It is my great pleasure to recognize the invaluable service that the Shrewsbury Council on Aging provides to the senior citizens of that community and congratulate them on the grand opening of the new Shrewsbury Senior Center.

From humble beginnings, the evolution of the center is truly amazing. Only a few short years ago the center was housed in the copy room of Shrewsbury Town Hall. From there it moved to quarters in the North Shore School, and now to its new home at 98 Maple Avenue which will hold the grand opening February 17, 2000. I am so proud of everyone involved. They truly represent the best our nation has to offer.

The Shrewsbury Senior Center provides information on housing, health care proxies, volunteer opportunities, home care services, as well as hot meals and information on other issues. The Council on Aging also performs preliminary case work and makes referrals to appropriate agencies.

In a time when many forget our older neighbors, men and woman who quite literally saved the world, the Senior Center will forever ensure that this 'greatest generation' will always hold a prominent place in the community. From line dancing and bridge to yoga, knitting, painting, and shopping trips, this very special place will permit seniors to enjoy themselves in the company of friends.

As a Member of Congress, I often have the occasion to visit with seniors across my district. It is always a great joy for me to visit Shrewsbury. I look forward to visiting with them in their new home and congratulate them on this new beginning.

*February 15, 2000*

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING  
EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC  
AWARENESS OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

SPEECH OF

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 14, 2000*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, in this land of diversity, one belief is nearly common to us all: Children are our greatest resource.

Children represent our hope for the future. They are our special treasures and deserve every protection we can provide them. Statistics show that every 10 seconds a child is abused and more than 3 children a day die as a result of abuse. Given statistics like these, it is critical that we, as a bipartisan body, continue our efforts and use all of our abilities and resources to ensure that our children, our national treasures, are protected and have the greatest opportunities to grow up happy, healthy, well-educated and strong. We must re-double our efforts to help break the cycle of abuse and violence that affects so many children.

Recently, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported that the number of missing children reports filed in 1999 dropped to the lowest level since 1993. This glorious news demonstrates that our legislative efforts, and the diligent efforts of organizations like Childhelp USA, do make a difference. More importantly, it means that more children are out of harm's way. Nonetheless, we cannot become complacent because too many children remain victims of abuse. Therefore, we must stand firm in our commitment to our children and their well-being.

This Day of Hope resolution demonstrates this resolve and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution for the sake of our national treasures—our children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2000*

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on February 14, 2000, I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed two votes.

Had I been here I would have voted:

"Yes" on the passage of H. Con. Res. 247—Expressing Sense of Congress Regarding the Importance of Organ, Tissue, Bone Marrow and Blood Donation and Supporting National Donor Day.

"Yes" on the passage of H. Con. Res. 76—Recognizing the Social Problem of Child Abuse and Neglect and Supporting Efforts to Enhance Public Awareness of it.