

Johnston County, 98; Lee County, 40; Nash-Rocky Mount, 162; Sampson County/Clinton City schools, 76; Wilson, 34; and Wake County, a whopping 530.

That would not be such an astounding number, except for the fact our State has passed a \$1.8 billion bond issue and each county has borrowed money and worked as hard as they could. The problem is, we are the fourth fastest growing state for students in the country. Congress must act now to help get these children out of trailers.

For nearly 4 years now I have worked with my colleagues in this House on both sides of the political aisle to provide leadership on this issue and pass a common sense bill that will help our local folks deal with this critical problem.

We have come together in support of H.R. 4094, the bipartisan Rangel-Johnson bill that has a number of sponsors. This important bill will provide \$25 billion in school construction bonds for our local schools to build new schools for our children and renovate others.

Madam Speaker, the clear majority of this House is in support of this piece of legislation. 228 Members, Republicans and Democrats alike have signed on as cosponsors. The House will pass this bill, if we can only get a chance to vote on it. The President has stated that he will sign this important bill into law the minute it reaches his desk.

We have an opportunity to provide real leadership and pass this measure that will help further educational progress for all the children in this country. But, unfortunately, the Republican leadership of this House has chosen to choose a path of confrontation and gridlock over the opportunity for consensus and progress. Rather than working together to produce a common sense solution to the need for school construction, the Republican leadership brought to this floor yesterday a bill that contained a sham school construction measure.

Madam Speaker, the Members of this House have an obligation, a solemn responsibility, to work together to craft common sense solutions to the problems facing America's people. But, rather than meet this responsibility, Republican leadership has chosen to pass a sham proposal and a bill they know would be vetoed.

The Republican tax bill contains many provisions that I support, but the sad fact is they chose to include many good provisions in a fundamentally flawed bill.

In addition, the leadership yesterday pushed through an appropriations bill that provided \$687 million in grants to states to build prisons. Now, I support the need for prisons in certain areas, but prisons should not be a higher priority than our schools for our children.

What does it say about our values that we can pass millions of dollars in prison aid, yet leave our children in overcrowded schools, trapped in rundown facilities and stuck in trailers? Prisons ought not to be nicer than our schools.

In conclusion, remain an optimist. We still have time to pass a school construction bill before we adjourn this Congress, and I urge the Republican leadership to allow us to do so.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDWARD A. PEASE AND THE HONORABLE DAVID M. MCINTOSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, we are going to be losing two of our Congressmen from Indiana, and they are both very fine Congressmen. One of them is ED PEASE, whom all of us have seen in the Chair many, many times over the past couple of years. He has done a great job as the Speaker pro tempore on many occasions.

ED was first elected to the Congress just 4 years ago, and we hate to see him leave so quickly after being here such a short time. I had the pleasure of serving with him in the Indiana State Senate back in the early eighties, and everybody there thought he was an extraordinary Senator, as well as my colleagues here in the House feel today that he is an extraordinary Congressman.

ED was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was an outstanding student. He graduated from Indiana University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction. He graduated from Indiana Law School, magna cum laude in 1977. Of course, he went on to be involved in civic activities as well as politics.

He served, as I said, in the Indiana State Senate from 1980 through 1992, and he was chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and chairman of the Indiana Commission on Trial Courts and chairman of the Indiana Code Revision Commission.

In the private sector, he served as a City Attorney for the city of Brazil, and as General Counsel for the Indiana State University. He has also been in a partner in the law firm of Thomas, Thomas & Pease. In 1993, ED became the Vice President for University Advancement at Indiana State University, and he was very highly regarded. He is one of those people over there they would like to have considered down the road, and maybe immediately, as president of Indiana State University.

ED PEASE is one of the finest men I have known. He has been a great Congressman, a great leader in this body. We will miss you a lot, ED. I hope you have a great deal of success in the fu-

ture, and you come back and visit your colleagues in the Congress often.

I would also like to say our candidate for Governor in Indiana right now is Congressman MCINTOSH. DAVID MCINTOSH has been here since 1994. He has been an outstanding Congressman. He served as one of my subcommittee chairmen on the Committee on Government Reform. He has done an exemplary job as well there. He is another person we are going to miss a great deal.

DAVID, before he became a Congressman, worked with the vice president at the White House in the Executive Office Building down there on the Council on Competitiveness. He was the Executive Director there. He did an outstanding job for the Vice President Quayle, and we felt when he came to Congress were going to have him with us for a long time and he would be a real asset to us. He has been, but, unfortunately, he decided he wanted to become the chief executive of Indiana. We all wish him well in the campaign, and we will know in another week or so whether or not he has been successful.

In any event, we certainly wish him the best in the future, whether or not he becomes the Governor of Indiana, and we also hope, DAVID, you will come back and visit us often, because you have been an outstanding Congressman and a very good friend.

□ 1430

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM CLAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have a very privileged opportunity today, and it is one in which I feel that is at an especially honorable time.

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to the gentleman from Missouri, our friend, our colleague, Congressman BILL CLAY. There are not many people around like BILL CLAY. He is a unique person. He is a scholar, a mentor, a founder, and an inspirational leader, a fighter, and a fierce person for equity and civil rights for all.

BILL CLAY is announcing his retirement in this body after the close of the 106th Congress. BILL CLAY is honored, Madam Speaker, to take his place among the great leaders of this Nation who have successfully and courageously walked the halls of power in Congress.

BILL CLAY has been an unwavering advocate for civil rights. We are going to miss him, Madam Speaker. He has walked in such a way that we are standing on his shoulders, those of us who are here today, even when it was not popular to do so.

Representative CLAY, like many other black-elected officials, realized that the road to equality for black America was through continuous struggle and through fighting a racially-charged system that was obsessed with keeping black Americans from even the most basic of human and civil rights.

I tell this Congress and I tell the world, this is a brave man. As a young man in the military, Representative CLAY and his wife jumped into the all-white military swimming pool, scattering all the whites in screaming horror. He has been jumping in and out of dangerous and unfriendly waters ever since.

He is unafraid, Madam Speaker. As a founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative CLAY has served as a leader and mentor to the junior Members of Congress. To each one of us, we follow his lead. We watch his button. We ask for his counsel.

His statesmanship and fearlessness, however, did not begin in Congress. Madam Speaker, a St. Louis native, Representative CLAY graduated from St. Louis University in 1953 and was drafted into the Army. He was married with 3 children and the assistant manager of an insurance company when he jumped into politics with a successful race for the Alderman Ward 26 in St. Louis in 1959. That same year, he was arrested, along with two companions, for seeking service at a whites-only counter at a local Howard Johnson's restaurant.

The foundation of Representative CLAY's popularity was cemented in 1963, when still as a young St. Louis Alderman, he helped lead a landmark antidiscrimination protest at Jefferson Bank. He was jailed for 112 long days for violating a court order and rose, like a phoenix out of the ashes, to claim his place as a fearless civil rights leader . . .

Representative CLAY ran for Congress in 1968, the same year that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. He was Missouri's first African American to win election to the United States House of Representatives, and since he has emerged as the region's most prominent and powerful black-elected official.

Representative CLAY was sworn into this body on January 2, 1969, and since then has enjoyed many legislative wins and accomplishments.

Among his many achievements are the Family Medical Leave Act, the first piece of legislation signed into law by President Clinton, and increases in the minimum wage. Representative CLAY has helped to steer through legislation on higher education, vocational education and disabilities legislation.

In the field of education and labor, Representative CLAY's legacy is solid. He leaves behind a stack of legislative accomplishments ranging from in-

creased funding for historically black colleges and universities to bolstering health and safety protection for workers.

In the House of Representatives, Representative CLAY has served as a historian of the Congressional Black Caucus, and in doing so has, himself, created a long and outstanding history.

He can very easily be called the historian of the Congressional Black Caucus because he has kept the history of this Congress. He is a prolific writer and academician. He faced many trials and tribulations.

When the history of this body is written and the heroes are identified, the name of BILL CLAY will be at the top.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RETIRING
CONGRESSMEN FROM INDIANA,
THE HONORABLE EDWARD
PEASE AND THE HONORABLE
DAVID MCINTOSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the retirement of two Members of Congress in the State of Indiana.

ED PEASE is leaving Congress after only having served 2 terms, and I feel very awkward saying a retirement after 2 terms. There is a real loss here, I believe, to Congress with ED leaving and going back to Indiana. It is a loss to the country and, perhaps, a gain to Indiana and his family.

ED PEASE is an individual that always had a very dignified demeanor as he would serve as Speaker pro tempore here in the House.

He is an individual that is always very conscientious. He was kind and considerate and loyal. As a matter of fact, he is the type of person you want as a friend. His work was always based on being thoughtful and methodical in his approach. He was that way, not only in the manner of his life, but in legislating here in Congress.

I think of two things when I think of ED PEASE and what he did here in Congress; his service on the Committee on Transportation. ED was fiercely loyal and always attended every subcommittee hearing and full committee hearing. He was instrumental with regards to 21 States that always had been considered donor States since the inception of the interstate system, and the inequity in the gas tax and its redistribution formula across the States. ED felt that that was wrong, and he worked very hard.

They brought equity back to the funding formula to Indiana which had also always been a donor State since the 1950s. In the last Transportation bill, we received over a billion dollars more than previous bills, and I think ED PEASE's work needs to be com-

plimented for what he did for the country.

With regard to DAVID MCINTOSH, DAVID is, I think, known as the analytical thinker, always working the angle to properly deploy what he perceives as the well-crafted strategy.

He is true to his principles and, at times, makes legislating difficult, because he seeks to hold the line, but that is what legislating is all about, not finding the easy course, but forcing two sides to actually sit down and work through their differences.

The country's loss, like ED PEASE, will be Indiana's gain. DAVID MCINTOSH is running for Governor of Indiana, and he hopes to lead Indiana into the 21st Century.

To ED PEASE and DAVID MCINTOSH, we thank you for your service to country, to the State, and to your community. You are precious assets, and you will be missed. God speed to you and your families.

CARIBBEAN AMNESTY AND
RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to address this body and talk about my bill, the Caribbean Amnesty and Relief Act, and I would like to speak about it again.

I am very proud to introduce the Caribbean Amnesty and Relief Act, which is legislation to reduce the devastating impact on the Caribbean community caused by the 1996 Immigration Reform bill.

The people of the Caribbean Basin have always been loyal friends of the United States. At the height of the Cold War, the United States looked to the Caribbean nations to fight the infiltration of Cuban-style Communism.

As a result, the Caribbean countries suffered political upheaval, and the people of the Caribbean fled to the United States to escape human rights abuses and economic hardship.

People of the Caribbean have now established roots in the United States, many in my congressional district. Many have married here and many have children that were born in the United States.

The economic structure of the Caribbean is such that it cannot absorb the great number of undocumented people now present in the United States.

Our country, in my opinion, should grant the Caribbean population already in the United States amnesty since they have been here so long and continue to benefit the United States economy.

The Jamaicans, for example, present in the United States, send back to their families 800 million in U.S. dollars per year. The Jamaican economy