

will suggest our initial charges were without merit. If that is the case, those who made them should be asked to account for their statements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was in New York, and unable to be present for the following votes, had I been present I would have voted as follows:

October 24: rollcall No. 541, "no"; rollcall No. 542 "yes"; rollcall No. 543, "no".

October 25: rollcall No. 544, "yes"; rollcall No. 545, "no"; rollcall No. 546, "yes"; rollcall No. 547, "yes"; rollcall No. 548, "yes"; rollcall No. 549, "yes"; rollcall No. 550, "yes"; rollcall No. 551, "no"; rollcall No. 552, "yes".

October 26: rollcall No. 553, "no"; rollcall No. 554, "yes"; rollcall No. 555, "no"; rollcall No. 556, "no".

THE HERITAGE OF
NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the industrial and cultural coal-mining heritage of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This Congress recently passed legislation to create the Lackawanna Valley National Heritage Area in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna and Wayne counties in Pennsylvania, and the President signed it into law on October 6. Together with the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the Schuylkill National Heritage Corridor, this designation honors the coal-mining heritage of the people of the region and their contribution to powering the industrial Revolution and helping the United States win two world wars.

For the benefit of other members of the House of Representatives who may not be familiar with this rich heritage and its legacy, I would now like to read into the RECORD a short statement composed by a friend of mine, Mr. Richard Morgan of Shamokin, Pennsylvania.

Northeastern Pennsylvania has been well blessed with quality people. Thousands of immigrants came to our section of Pennsylvania from the world over.

Our neighbors became blended together as one. We came to share our lives in a manner that was beyond the belief of outsiders, who had never experienced the unique joy we found in each other. The rich cultural fabric that resulted is second to none.

The severe economic conditions that have been present for generations in the hard coal regions, have caused most of our sons and daughters to spread themselves, their talents, and their deeply ingrained coal cracker lifestyles far and wide across America.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Other communities throughout America have benefited by our loss. Our young people were the greatest gifts we had to give our country, even greater than the Anthracite natural resource that was stripped from our region to provide fuel and energy for the Industrial Revolution.

We who remain in the region, are proud of the achievements of those who have left us for greener fields, green fields that are no longer to be found in the old hometowns, and around the half-doubles they reluctantly left behind, but which they have never forgotten.

The sound moral values that they learned from their immigrant families, will remain with them forever, wherever they may come to hang their hats.

Mr. Speaker, in the closing days of this Congress, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues not only the positive parts of the anthracite coal's legacy to Northeastern Pennsylvania, but also another part of the legacy that can still be seen today: the need for a comprehensive reclamation of the mine-scarred land.

The federal Office of Surface Mining has estimated that the restoration of all the land and water in the anthracite region would cost more than \$2 billion, but until this year, the anthracite region has received only about \$10 million annually from the federal government to restore abandoned mine lands. At that level of funding, we will have a critical environmental problem in place for two centuries.

Let us not forget that this is fundamentally an issue of fairness. Pennsylvania anthracite coal fueled the Industrial Revolution that made America the superpower it is today. Unfortunately, the physical scars left by the Industrial Revolution of the 19th and 20th Centuries have decreased our competitiveness in the Information Age of the 21st Century. As Mr. Morgan eloquently points out, this has had the effect of forcing many of our young people to look elsewhere for opportunities.

In the same way that the federal government has made a commitment to restoring the Everglades in Florida, a similar comprehensive approach is needed to restore the anthracite region in Pennsylvania.

Restoring the anthracite region is also consistent with the growing consensus that it is better to clean up and reuse formerly polluted "brownfields" for industrial development than to wipe out more of America's disappearing "greenfields," the untouched open spaces that are so important to our quality of life.

For these reasons, joined by Congressmen SHERWOOD, HOLDEN and GEKAS, my three colleagues from Pennsylvania who represent the anthracite region, I have sponsored the Anthracite Region Redevelopment Act (H.R. 4314), to create a new bond program that would provide \$1.2 billion in 30-year tax-credit bonds to finance a comprehensive environmental cleanup of the region.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to hail from the hard-coal region of eastern Pennsylvania. As Mr. Morgan's statement illustrates well, in the richness of our cultural fabric, our work ethic and strong values, our love of country, in all these we are second to none.

October 28, 2000

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote #551. Had I been present I would have voted "No."

Additionally, I was not present during rollcall vote #552. Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM
EVALUATION COMMISSION ACT

HON. BILL ARCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, "We know from past experience how difficult it is to curb the momentum of expanding government activity and we know that this portends the continuation of levels of taxation higher than we all want to bear. We are trying to get this message across: we want to pause in this headlong rush toward even bigger government."—Wilbur Mills

The former statement made 32 years ago by my predecessor in the Ways and Means Committee, Chairman Wilbur Mills, continues to hold as much truth today as it ever did in 1969. Our federal surplus, and ensuing spending frenzy, have created an even greater urgency that we recognize the importance of a restrained and focused government.

Bloated federal agencies have increasingly taken more American taxpayer dollars and spent those dollars not wisely, but wastefully. Despite the good intentions of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, misuse of taxpayers' money climbs ahead at an alarming pace. The Results Act was intended to help Congress in its oversight obligations by requiring federal agencies to set goals and use performance measures for management and budgeting.

Now, even the budget process is careening out of control. The annual congressional budget resolution has all but been cast aside. Congress spends with abandon. Not only is the surplus at risk, the entire process is at risk. On the other side of the coin, waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government has never been greater. Recently, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology found that \$65 billion has been wasted by the federal agencies of the executive branch, not to mention \$245 billion in overdue taxes owed to Washington. A recent IRS report showed an estimated \$7.8 billion in Earned Income Tax Credit claims for 1997 were erroneously paid.

It is for that reason I am reintroducing a bill put forth by my able predecessor, Chairman Wilbur Mills, which seeks to establish the Government Program Evaluation Commission. Such a Commission would be created on a bipartisan basis and composed of members from the private sector. The Commission

would study and evaluate existing federal programs and activities for the purpose of determining three objectives: (1) To evaluate the effectiveness of each program or activity, relative to its costs; (2) to determine whether the program or activity should continue and at what level; and (3) to assign a relative priority level for the purpose of allocating Federal funds.

The Results Act has not met expectations partly because its task of self-analysis has effectively kept its potential low. The Government Program Evaluation Commission is unique in that it would create a truly independent commission on the outside looking in. I am introducing this bill at this late stage to highlight my concern in hopes that Congress will readdress this urgent problem in the future. A government with the most brilliant laws cannot be successful if it mismanages those laws. Chairman Mills' vision of a limited but highly effective government is a legacy I would like to impress upon my fellow Members as this Congress wraps up its business.

SUPPORT FOR THE NEW SERBIA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as a member and former Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have followed Yugoslavia's violent demise this past decade very closely, by traveling there, by meeting officials from there here in Washington, by participating in dozens of Commission hearings on various aspects of the conflict.

Throughout this period, it has been obvious that, whatever ethnic animosities might have existed beforehand, the horrific aggression against innocent populations and, yes, genocide, was instigated by Slobodan Milosevic, deliberately, in order to maintain and enhance his power in Serbia. As his nationalist agenda was belatedly but forcefully rejected by the international community under U.S. leadership, Milosevic increasingly resorted to repression at home, against the people of Serbia. There has been opposition to Milosevic for a long time, but only this month did the people, the political opposition and independent forces join together and say "enough is enough." I congratulate those brave Serbs who stood up to a regime that has lied to them, cheated them and denied them their rights for over a decade.

The changes taking place in Serbia are, however, good not only for Serbs but for all people in the region. Other problems exist, but, with Milosevic out of the way, the stage is set for long-term stability and an economic recovery in southeastern Europe. It is now possible to make the progress we all want so that our troops, doing critical work there, can come home with mission accomplished. Whatever we felt about the deployment in the first place, we should all be able to agree on that.

For this reason, I support the decision of the President to provide quick support to the new Yugoslav President, Vojislav Kostunica, and his colleagues. The Conference Report on

Foreign Operations Appropriations for fiscal year 2001 similarly reflects the general consensus that assistance needs to be provided to Yugoslavia quickly in order to solidify the gains being made by the Democratic Opposition of Serbia. The country is in a state of transition, and there is no question about the need to send a positive message.

Such a message, however, does not preclude a cautionary message. I believe there is a need to place some conditionality on assistance. Cooperation with the Tribunal in The Hague prosecuting war crimes, ending the support for nationalists in neighboring Bosnia and promoting the rule of law and tolerance

I agree that we should be flexible, and the conference report reflects a good compromise on the application of conditions. That said, I would like to make the following points. First, the large amount now allocated for Serbia should not come at the expense of ongoing funding for Croatia, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria and others in the region who have worked with the international community all along, undertook major burdens themselves and need this assistance. Second, the five month window which exists before the conditions are applied should not lead to throwing all of this money at Belgrade rapidly beforehand, because the conditions may not be met. I could see this happening next February, in the event that insufficient progress has been achieved by that time. Let's hope that progress will take place allowing for certification in accordance with this bill. Third, progress in the rule of law must include addressing the hundreds of ethnic Albanians currently in Serbian prisons and encouraging president Kostunica to continue to look for ways to resolve this issue.

In conclusion, I believe a case can be made that the reformists coming into power at this time may not be able to surrender Slobodan Milosevic to the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague. Sooner or later, however, they will need to do so. To do otherwise would not only be an injustice to the literally millions of victims in the former Yugoslavia. It would send the absolutely wrong message to Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro all of whom are cooperating with the Tribunal. It would delay the time by which the people of Serbia will have to reckon with the hideous atrocities committed in their name this past decade, a reckoning which will be absolutely necessary for Serbia to make significant progress in building a society in which the rule of law is respected and tolerance of others is embedded.

It is important when discussing these issues to recall that there are also indictees beyond Milosevic living in Serbia. Let us recall exactly what these people are alleged to have done. Three individuals living now in Serbia were directly responsible for pulling over 200 people out of a hospital in Vukovar, Croatia, after the city had been surrendered and guarantees of safety were made, beating them severely and then executing them en masse in a field in late 1991. Another individual, the well known Ratko Mladic, was at the scene when as many as 7,000 Bosnians were similarly executed after being taken from the so-called "safe haven" of Srebrenica in 1995. Even if one could find some way to justify the conflicts surrounding these incidents—which I personally

cannot do, but maybe some can—these acts were nevertheless heinous crimes, and we cannot put accountability for them at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to read the indictments issued by the Tribunal, particularly the indictments of those responsible for the massacres in Vukovar and Srebrenica. They are available at <www.un.org/icty.indictment>. It is too easy to put the issue of the Tribunal to the side in light of foreign policy objectives, but, if you read what happened, I believe you will agree that justice must remain a pillar of our policy in the Balkans.

RETIREMENT OF HON. TILLIE FOWLER

SPEECH OF

HON. NORMAN SISISKY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment to express my appreciation for Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER.

She has served her country and her Florida constituents remarkably during her time in Congress.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, we have worked together on projects and programs of particular benefit to the Navy.

This is to be expected: Both of us represent Navy towns and naval personnel.

But TILLIE FOWLER's dedication to American servicemen and women in whatever branch of the military is exemplary.

She has labored long and hard to ensure that every branch of service received the equipment they needed, the training they required and quality of life for themselves and families.

I don't know what she will do in the future. I do know I hope she continues in some form of public service. And if it happens to be in a defense related area, I will look forward to the opportunity to continue helping build a better, more secure future for this great nation. Mrs. Sisisky and I wish TILLIE and her family our very, very best in the days ahead. We will miss her.

HONORING ANN FORKIN

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to congratulate Ann Forkin on her retirement after 22 years of service at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Ann has been an invaluable asset to the Stony Brook community. In 1981, she was appointed as the first and to this point, the only Director of the Office of Conferences and Special Events.

In her 18 years as Director, she managed and orchestrated over 20 commencement ceremonies. On the day of the first commencement she planned, Mother Nature did