

March 22, 2000

Committee. He was known as one of the hardest working members in Tallahassee.

He is the epitome of a gentleman. As a former opponent in state politics, I can say he was always a true gentleman and a fair competitor. Ed was a person that would reach out to people whether you agreed with his views or not and was as comfortable meeting with people in Dunkin Donuts as he was at the Breakers. He will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Florida, I would like to say thank you to Mr. Healey.

---

INTRODUCTION OF THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000 which will set us on the course of reaching the commitment the U.S. Congress made 24 years ago to children and families with special education needs. That commitment was to provide children with disabilities access to a quality public education and contribute 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure to assist States and local school districts with the excess costs of educating such children.

Unfortunately, we have failed to fully meet this commitment. Nevertheless, over the past four fiscal years (fiscal year 1997, fiscal year 1998, fiscal year 1999, and fiscal year 2000), we have fought for and achieved a dramatic \$2.6 billion funding increase for IDEA. This is a 115 percent increase in the Federal share for Part B of IDEA. However, this amounts to only 12.6 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to assist with the excess expenses of educating children with disabilities.

Failing to meet our full commitment contradicts the goal of ensuring that children with disabilities receive a quality education.

The Congressional Research Service estimates that over \$15 billion would be needed to fully fund Part B of IDEA. The fiscal year 2000 appropriation for Part B was \$4.9 billion, leaving States and local school districts with an unfunded mandate of more than \$10 billion.

The bill I am introducing today sets a schedule to meet the 40 percent commitment by the year 2010. While many of us believe we should already be paying our fair share, this bill will authorize increases of \$2 billion each year to ensure that our commitment becomes a reality in 10 years.

This Congress overwhelmingly passed a resolution stating that our highest education funding priority should be fully funding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I think that before we create new programs out of Washington, the Congress needs to ensure that the Federal Government lives up to the promises it made to the students, parents, and schools over two decades ago. If we had followed that commitment, local school districts would have the funds necessary to build new schools, hire new teachers, reduce class size and buy more computers. All new pro-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

grams that the Administration has promoted over the last several years without funding the promise we made in 1975.

In my district, the York City School District receives \$363,557. If IDEA were fully funded, this school district would receive \$1,440,000, an increase of \$1,080,000. The York City School District currently spends \$6.4 million each year on special education services, which represents about 16 percent of its total budget. The Federal contribution is currently only 5.7 percent of this.

If the Federal Government paid the promised 40 percent for special education, York City would have approximately \$1.1 million in additional funds to spend on other pressing educational needs. While \$1.1 million may not sound like a lot of money, I can assure you that in a school district like York City, this represents a significant source of funds.

Just 3 years ago, Congress and the administration worked together in a true bipartisan fashion to reauthorize IDEA so those children with special needs can have more options and services. It is my hope that we can continue that bipartisan work to fully fund the IDEA and finally make good on our commitment.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

---

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLE-SCOTT COMMITTEE

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Belle-Scott Committee of Belleville and Scott Air Force Base, IL.

The Belle-Scott Committee evolved from the "Belleville Plan" which was created in 1950 by then Belleville mayor, H.V. Calhoun, Maj. Gen. Robert Harper, commander of the Air Training Command at Scott Air Force Base and Col. George W. Parly, Scott's commanding officer.

The "Belleville Plan" was announced at the First "G.I. Pal Dinner" which was held on November 29, 1950, at the U.S.O. Canteen in Belleville, IL. This committee, which has been in continuous existence since that time, offers a direct means by which the two communities, military and civilian, work together to promote matters of mutual interest.

Military and civilian representatives meet on a monthly basis to discuss cooperative social, recreational and cultural efforts between Scott Air Force Base and the city of Belleville, IL. The group works toward more cooperative active participation in religious and educational programs and also fosters a closer working relationship between both Belleville and Scott's governmental operations.

The Belle-Scott Committee arose from the need to address community and base relationships in the late 40's and early 50's. Media reports at that time, which indicated that local military personnel were treated as second class citizens, paying higher prices than normal and unable to secure appropriate housing opportunities were reasons that the Belle-Scott Committee came into existence.

3351

Since then, the Belle-Scott Committee has received national recognition. It was featured on the CBS Radio Network's "The People's Act" series in March 1952, and at least 10 nationally circulated magazines have published special features to list their achievements. In addition, newspapers throughout the country have also published articles dealing with the work of the committee. Several other air force bases and their host communities are using "Belle-Scott" as a guide in developing their efforts. The committee's research leads them to believe that they are the oldest military/community cooperation committee in continuous existence at any U.S. military installation.

This year will be the 50th anniversary of the first "G.I. Pal Dinner" now known as the "Belle-Scott Enlisted Dinner." The event brings more than 150 civilians, 50 officers from Scott Air Force Base and more than 100 enlisted guests. While the reasons for the formation of this committee had initially to do with civilian-military cooperation, it is the solving of these problems by persons both from the Base and from the city and the 50 years of continuous good relationships fostered by the Belle-Scott Committee that we now look to with pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of the Belle-Scott Committee and for the assistance it provides in fostering the support of our civic and military personnel.

---

MEDICARE BOARD: BAD IDEA NO. 4

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 22, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, some people are proposing legislation, such as S. 1895, that would turn Medicare over to a 7-person board and noncivil service staff.

Bad idea.

For the last 3 days I've entered in the RECORD portions of Congressional Research Service memos describing the administrative problems such a board could create.

I would like to submit in full the following footnote from the CRS memo that quotes the National Academy of Public Administration's warning about boards:

The National Academy of Public Administration is on record as being opposed to boards of directors for most corporate bodies.

We believe that this arrangement, borrowed from the private corporation model, has more drawbacks than advantages and that in most cases the governing board would be better replaced by an advisory board and the corporation managed by an administrator with fully executive powers. A governing board may cut or confuse the normal lines of authority from the President or departmental secretary to the corporation's chief executive officer. With an advisory board, the secretary's authority to give that officer policy instruction is clear, as is the officer's right to report directly to the secretary and to work out any exemptions from or qualifications of administration or departmental policies and practices which the corporation requires.—National Academy of