

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, May 17, 2000

The House met at 9 a.m.

Commissioner John Busby, National Commander, Salvation Army, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things, we humbly bow before You on behalf of those gathered here; individuals who find pleasure in serving the people of this great country.

With thankful hearts for Your goodness to each of them, we earnestly pray that You will take their minds and give them a new measure of wisdom, take their hearts and fill them with Your love for others, and take their wills and make them more obedient to Your will.

May Your servants here proceed step by step, hour by hour to meet the challenges You have given them so that in the end, the purpose that You have set out for this House of Representatives may be accomplished for the enrichment of people across this land and to Your honor and glory.

This we pray in Your holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, May 11, 2000, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER of the House presided.

The SPEAKER. Good morning. On behalf of the House of Representatives, it gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Chamber today the former Members of Congress. This is your annual meeting. And, of course, many of you are personal friends from both sides of the aisle, and it is important that you are here certainly to renew those friendships.

As a report from the President will indicate, you honor this House and the Nation by your continuing efforts to export the concept of representative democracy to countries all over the world and to college campuses around this country. I endorse those efforts and hope you will pursue that and continue it.

I also endorse your wise choice of Chaplain Emeritus James D. Ford as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Chaplain Ford will finally have his opportunity, which he has long sought, to speak from the floor of the House, a privileged reserved only to Members. I would remind him, however, that the proceedings are technically held within the House in recess, just to place things in perspective.

At this time, I would request that my friend, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. Erlenborn, Vice President of the Former Members Association, take the Chair.

Mr. ERLBORN (presiding). The Clerk will call the roll of former Members of the House and Senate who are present today.

The Clerk called the roll of the former Members of Congress, and the following former Members answered to their names:

ROLLCALL OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ATTENDING 30TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

William V. (Bill) Alexander (Arkansas)

J. Glenn Beall, Jr. (Maryland)

Tom Bevill (Alabama)

Daniel B. Brewster (Maryland)

Donald G. Brotzman (Colorado)

Clarence J. Brown, Jr. (Ohio)

James T. Broyhill (North Carolina)

John H. Buchanan (Alabama)

Jack Buechner (Missouri)

Albert G. Bustamante (Texas)

Beverly B. Byron (Maryland)

Elford A. Cederberg (Michigan)

Charles E. Chamberlain (Michigan)

Rod Chandler (Washington)

William F. Clinger (Pennsylvania)

R. Lawrence Coughlin (Pennsylvania)

James K. Coyne (Pennsylvania)

E (Kika) de la Garza (Texas)

Ben L. Erdreich (Alabama)

John N. Erlenborn (Illinois)

Don Fuqua (Florida)

Robert Garcia (New York)

Robert N. Giaimo (Connecticut)

Gilbert Gude (Maryland)

Robert P. Hanrahan (Illinois)

William D. Hathaway (Maine)

Dennis M. Hertel (Michigan)

George J. Hochbrueckner (New York)

William J. Hughes (New Jersey)

Hastings Keith (Massachusetts)

David S. King (Utah)

Ernest Konnyu (California)

Lawrence P. (Larry) LaRocco (Idaho)

Claude (Buddy) Leach (Louisiana)

Marilyn Lloyd (Tennessee)

Cathy Long (Louisiana)

Andrew Maguire (New Jersey)

Romano L. Mazzoli (Kentucky)

Matthew F. McHugh (New York)

Jan Meyers (Kansas)

Robert H. Michel (Illinois)

Abner J. Mikva (Illinois)

Clarence E. Miller (Ohio)

John S. Monagan (Connecticut)

G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery (Mississippi)

Shirley N. Pettis (California)

William R. Ratchford (Connecticut)

Marty Russo (Illinois)

George E. Sangmeister (Illinois)

Ronald A. Sarasin (Connecticut)

Patricia Schroeder (Colorado)

Richard T. Schulze (Pennsylvania)

Dennis A. Smith (Oregon)

Neal E. Smith (Iowa)

Gerald B.H. Solomon (New York)

James V. Stanton (Ohio)

James W. Symington (Missouri)

Steve Symms (Idaho)

Robert S. Walker (Pennsylvania)

Charles W. Whalen, Jr. (Ohio)

James C. Wright, Jr. (Texas)

Roger H. Zion (Indiana)

Mr. ERLBORN (presiding). The Chair now recognized the distinguished minority whip, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for such remarks as he may make.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be with you again. We welcome you back to the Capitol. I want to echo the comments of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), my dear friend and our Speaker, when I say to you this morning that it is good to see so many familiar faces and to comment how comfortable you look in your seats.

I am sure, as some of you know, I look forward some day of joining you all in your present capacity, but not too soon. The great American historian and diplomat, John Kenneth Galbraith, once said that nothing is so admirable in politics as a short memory. But

☐ 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.

when I look out at those of you who are sitting here this morning, think that is really not true at all, because what we really need more than anything in this institution today is to depend upon your institutional memory to recapture the great, not only concepts and principles, but traditions of this body, which I think we are slowly putting back together after a very difficult period of time that we have gone through in the last decade.

So I want to welcome all of you back on behalf of DICK GEPHARDT and our leadership. I wish you a good day today. Thank you for honoring Jim Ford, who I know many of you have served with while you were in the House of Representatives. He is a very special and a very dear man.

I remember one instance when I was in the hospital with Jim, we were at, I think it was Walter Reed, we both were pretty ill and we were going down for an operation together. They wheeled us just coincidentally out of our ward together. We got out of the elevator together. We went down the elevator together and we separated. And just before we separated to go on our respective surgical rooms he said to me, "BONIOR, I want you to remember, this is what I call real chaplainship." He was there for me in my hour of need right into the operating room.

I also want to say that I look forward to, I do not know how many of you going to go to the event on China today, but I am on the panel discussion. So I look forward to a vigorous debate and discussion of that issue as well.

So welcome. I look forward to visiting with you today, and I hope you have a wonderful experience back in your House. Thank you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that 49 former Members of Congress have responded to their names. A quorum is present.

The Chair will now recognize the gentleman from New York, the Honorable Matthew McHugh, President of our association, for such time as he may consume, and to yield for appropriate remarks to other Members.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, my thanks to our Speaker pro tempore and to all of my colleagues for being with us this morning. We are, of course, especially grateful to the Speaker, DENNIS HASTERT, for taking time from his very busy schedule to be with us, and to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for his warm welcome as well.

It is always a privilege for us to return to this great institution which we revere and where we shared so many memorable experiences. Service in Congress, as we know, is both a joy and a heavy responsibility, and whatever our party affiliation, we have great admiration for those who continue to serve in this place for the country.

We thank them all once again for giving us this opportunity to report on the activities of our Association of Former Members of Congress.

This is our 30th annual report to Congress. Our association is nonpartisan, or bipartisan. It has been chartered but not funded by the Congress. We have a wide variety of domestic and international programs which I and others this morning will briefly summarize in our report.

Our membership now is approximately 600 men and women, the purpose of which is to continue in some small measure the service to the country that we began during our terms of service here in the House or in the Senate.

I think our most significant domestic activities are our Congress to Campus program. As most know, this is a bipartisan effort to share with college students throughout the country our insights on the work of Congress and on the political process more generally.

A team of former Members, one Democrat and one Republican, spend up to 2½ days on college campuses throughout the United States meeting formally and informally with students, but also with Members of the faculty and the local communities.

It is a great experience for all Members, and those who have participated have always enjoyed it. But our primary goal is to generate a deeper appreciation for our democratic form of government and the need for young people in particular to participate actively in the political process.

Since the program's inception in 1976, 119 former Members of Congress have reached more than 150,000 students through 267 visits to 183 campuses in 49 States and the District of Columbia.

In recent years we have conducted the program jointly with the Stennis Center for Public Service at Mississippi State University. The former Members donate their time to the program, the Stennis Center pays transportation costs, and the host institution provides room and board.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to Rod Chandler, the gentleman from the State of Washington, to discuss his participation in this Congress to Campus program.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege to visit five campuses under the Congress to Campus program of the United States Former Members of Congress Association. I am an enthusiastic supporter of this program, and I believe that we are making

an important contribution toward the understanding of and respect for our Nation's policy-making institution itself, particularly the Congress of the United States.

In March, my former colleague from Michigan, Dennis Hertel, and I were guests at Meridian Community College in Meridian, Mississippi. Diann Sollie, Chair of the Social Science Division of the school, was the faculty in charge of our visit. In 2 days, we spoke to eight separate classrooms, met with talented and gifted high school students from the Meridian area, and visited informally with Meridian Community College students.

Dennis Hertel and I are good friends and we present a compatible team. We do differ on major subjects, however, and the students appeared to enjoy and appreciate our frank discussion of these policy questions. We also spoke with students of our personal political careers and provided advice to those who expressed an interest in developing political careers of their own.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of young men and women in this country are fascinated by what takes place here in this Chamber and in the Senate. They would like to contribute to their country and play a role in the world's greatest democracy. I believe the Former Members of Congress Association provides a valuable contrast to the often misleading news coverage of Congress.

I would like to thank the Stennis Center for its support of Congress to Campus, and the fine staff of the former Members of Congress association, ably led by Linda Reed, for the coordinating role that they play. My hope is that we former Members will continue to demonstrate for America's young people the treasure we have in the form of a country where every citizen, if they choose to, has a say in public policy.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thank you very much, Rod. One outgrowth of the Congress to Campus program was an interest in producing a book that would take an inside look at Congress from differing viewpoints. There are many fine books written by individual Members of Congress, but to our knowledge, there was no compendium that goes behind the scenes in a very personal way.

So, our immediate past president, Lou Frey, recruited more than 30 Members of Congress, former Members, and their spouses to write chapters for a book on Congress. It is being coedited by Lou and by the head of the political science department at Colgate University, Professor Michael Hayes. The book is scheduled to go to press later this year, and we hope that all of you will find it interesting reading.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, although many of our former Members live in the Washington area, there are quite a few who reside in other parts of the country. Therefore, in an effort to

broaden participation in the association's work, we have had some meetings outside of Washington. In recent years, for example, we have held meetings in the western region, and California in particular.

In November of last year, the meeting was in San Diego. In addition to enjoying many of the attractions of that beautiful area, our Members met with students and faculty at San Diego State University as well as the University of California at San Diego. Also former Members Lynn Schenk and Paul Rogers, who serve on the board of directors of Scripps Research Institute, arranged a briefing and a reception for us at the institute.

This year the regional meeting will be held in Austin, Texas, from October 21 to 25. Our former colleagues, Jake Pickle and Jack Hightower, are planning an interesting schedule that will include visits to the LBJ Library and ranch, tours of the State Capitol building and other local attractions, as well as meetings with students at the University of Texas. Joel Wyatt last night also volunteered to help with our program in Austin as well.

We certainly hope that many of you will be able to join us for what promises to be a very worthwhile and enjoyable time.

After the November elections, the association will again sponsor what we have called the Life After Congress Seminar, a program we have traditionally organized for the benefit of Members who are leaving the Congress. During the seminar, former Members now working in the public and private sectors will share insights with retiring Members about career opportunities and the personal adjustments involved in this transition.

In addition, congressional support staff will outline the services available to former Members of Congress. As in the past, the seminar will be followed by a reception sponsored by the auxiliary to the association which will afford more time for informal exchanges.

Mr. Speaker, beyond the events we organize here, the association is very active in sponsoring programs that are international in scope. Over the years, we have gained experience in fostering interaction between the leaders of other nations and the United States. We have arranged 410 special events at the U.S. Capitol for international delegations from 85 countries and the European Parliament, programmed short-term visits for individual Members of parliaments, and long-term visits for parliamentary staff.

We have hosted 46 foreign policy seminars in nine countries involving more than 1,500 former and current parliamentarians, and we have conducted 18 study tours abroad for Members of Congress.

The association also serves as a secretariat for the Congressional Study

Group on Germany. As many know, this is the largest and most active exchange program between the U.S. Congress and the parliament of another country. Founded in 1987 in the House and 1988 in the Senate, it is a bipartisan group of 171 representatives and senators. They are afforded the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in the German Bundestag to enhance understanding and greater cooperation. Ongoing Study Group activities include conducting a distinguished visitors program at the U.S. Capitol for guests from Germany, sponsoring annual seminars involving Members of Congress and the Bundestag, providing information about participants in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program to appropriate Members of Congress, and arranging for Members of the Bundestag to visit congressional districts with Members of Congress. New activities are being explored to enhance these opportunities.

The Congressional Study Group on Germany is funded primarily by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Additional funding, with the help of Tom Coleman, our former colleague, has also been obtained from eight corporations and they are represented now on the Business Advisory Council to the Study Group.

I would like at this point to yield to our friend and colleague from Missouri, Jack Buechner, to report on the 17th annual Congress-Bundestag Seminar, which was held recently in Niagara Falls, and other activities.

Mr. BUECHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I think everyone who has served in the Congress since 1987 will be aware of the fact that the Congressional Study Group between the United States Congress and the Bundestag is the largest of any of the cooperative relationships with other parliaments. Currently, over 160 Members of the sitting Congress participate in the Study Group, and the activities are certainly ones to be proud of and to certainly serve as a model for any other bicameral relationship.

Both parties are represented in the Study Group, and they come from all regions of the country. Currently, the two Senate leaders are TIM JOHNSON and BILL ROTH, and on the House side, the current chairman of our group is JOHN LAFALCE of New York, and he is joined by JOEL HEFLEY of Colorado as the vice chairman.

The support, although it is under the aegis of the Congress, the financial support actually comes from the German Marshall Fund and from generous donations from German-American business groups.

Since the last meeting of the former Members, the Congressional Study Group on Germany has conducted 17 events as part of the Distinguished Visitors Program, and that brings Ger-

man dignitaries to the United States Congress to meet with Members of the Study Group. Just as an example, some of the visiting dignitaries last year were Anke Fuchs, the vice president of the Bundestag; Peter Struck, the majority floor leader in the Bundestag; Hans-Ulrich Klose, the chairman of the Bundestag's Foreign Affairs Committee; and recently Joschka Fischer, Germany's vice chancellor and foreign minister.

When these dignitaries come in, the meetings are, of course, both formal and informal. They make themselves available for press briefings and for public dialogue. Following that, there is memoranda that are circulated from both the Bundestag and the Congress. They are made available to various committees and certainly to the 160 Members of the Study Group who currently serve. These issues, I believe, are of international trade, defense, and the types of issues that, of course, our Members need very much to hear about.

Last month, right prior to the Easter vacation, the 17th meeting of the Joint Study Group was conducted and held in Niagara Falls, New York. Our House Chairman, JOHN LAFALCE, was the host.

We had Members of the Bundestag, I think we had seven Members of the Bundestag and nine sitting Members of the United States Congress were there. Along with it we had four former Members of Congress, John Erlenborn, Lou Frey, Tom Coleman of Missouri, and myself. And we were joined by business leaders of the German-American business community.

We conducted discussions about everything ranging from WTO to the role of NATO, whether there was going to be a European Army come up, the relationship of the EU, and such things as relationships with China. And it was really a great event, because there was an opportunity for everybody to take off their legislator's hat and put on the one of really an ambassador of goodwill.

But the discussions became very hot and heavy, especially on topics such as PNTR. We were able to go to Niagara Falls. I do have to say that the weather was a little rainy, a little windy, a little bleak, and there were only a few flowers and trees budding, but it had no effect upon the camaraderie that was established amongst the group.

Barber Conable, our former Member from New York, and also the former head of the World Bank, joined us and we had a very lengthy discussion. This was at the old Fort Niagara, and we really did have a great time there, and I think that it really augurs well for the continuation of the program.

Next year, the meeting for the first time will be held in what was formerly East Germany up around the Baltic, and I would hope that we will have a

good attendance from our current Members as well as the former Members. So thank you very much. The growth is one to be admired and the participation of the former Members is certainly a good relationship for us to continue with the sitting Members, and the board looks forward to continuation of the program.

Mr. McHUGH. Thank you very much, Jack. The association also serves as the secretariat for the Congressional Study Group on Japan. This was founded in 1993 in cooperation with the East-West Center in Hawaii. It is a bipartisan group of 80 Members in the House and Senate with an additional 55 Members who have asked to be kept informed of the Study Group activities.

In addition to providing substantive opportunities for Members of Congress to meet with their counterparts in the Japanese Diet, the Study Group arranges monthly briefings when Congress is in session for Members to hear from American and Japanese experts about various aspects of the U.S.-Japanese relationship.

The Congressional Study Group on Japan is funded primarily by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, the association began a parliamentary exchange program with the People's Republic of China. In October, with funding from the U.S. Information Agency, the association hosted a delegate of nine Members of the National People's Congress here in Washington.

This visit marked the inauguration of the U.S.-China Interparliamentary Exchange Group, whose members have been appointed by the Speaker. The association has been asked by the Department of State to submit a proposal to fund a visit to China by members of this exchange group next year. We are also seeking funding to initiate a Congressional Study Group on China, which would hold monthly meetings at the Capitol for current Members to discuss with American and Chinese experts topics of particular concern. Obviously, this would follow the same pattern as these other study groups that we have been coordinating for Germany and Japan.

I would like now, Mr. Speaker, to yield to the gentlewoman from Maryland, Beverly Byron, to discuss the October visit and future plans for the exchange program with China.

Ms. BYRON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, first of all, that I think it is interesting to note that the Senate Finance Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means are taking up today the Most Favored Nation Status for China. And so it is timely and appropriate that we discuss the Chinese exchange program that this body has begun.

In August of 1996, 10 former Members had an opportunity, at the invitation of the Chinese government, to spend, I

guess, about 8, 9 days in China, an extremely exciting and interesting trip. And as a return, a delegation of nine members of the National People's Congress, the Standing Committee and the Foreign Affairs group, visited Washington this year from October 11 to 16.

The Chinese government paid the international transportation costs for the delegation and we picked up the costs while they were here.

It marked the inauguration of a U.S.-China Interparliamentary Exchange group whose members were appointed by Speaker Hastert in the late summer. The chair of that group is Representative DONALD MANZULLO of Illinois, and DOUG BEREUTER of Nebraska is vice chair, and TOM LANTOS of California is ranking Democrat.

They had a visit to the Hill with four rounds of meetings between Members of Congress and their Chinese counterparts. In addition to the meetings with the Members, the Chinese delegation held extensive talks with Kurt Campbell of the Department of Defense, Tom Pickering, Department of State, Susan Shirk, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and then they went to the General Accounting Office and then Matt took care of them when they went down and visited with the World Bank.

They met with the Office of U.S. Trade Representative, the National Security Council, U.S.-Chinese Business Council and U.S.-Chinese scholars. So we can see they had an extremely broad opportunity to be exposed.

During the meetings with Congress, as well as during the talks with representatives in the administration, many contentious issues came up. Human rights, Taiwan, trade deficit, the U.S. bombing of the embassy, and joining the World Trade Organization. These conversations were sometimes difficult and sometimes there was a meeting of the mind.

It was interesting, one of the members of the delegation was the Chinese Bishop of Beijing who wished to meet with Catholic officials while he was here, or some priests. We were able to set up a meeting at Georgetown University with Father Bill Byron, who was formerly head of CU, and the dialogue, as our new chaplain will be interested to know, was an extremely interesting one.

The delegation also had an interest in seeing something outside of Washington, and so I grabbed on the opportunity and we took them to Annapolis. They were given an opportunity to visit Annapolis for about an hour and a half on their own, at which time they came back with numerous pictures, and we had an extensive visit and dinner at the Naval Academy, but they all wanted their picture taken with their postcard in front of the statue that was at the Naval Academy.

They had dinner in the dining hall with the midshipmen. It was quite a

revelation for many of them to realize that there were 4,000 midshipmen that ate in one room, and we had a very interesting discussion because there are four professors at the academy that are of Chinese origin and speak the different dialects. So we did not have to work through interpreters that evening.

They also had an opportunity to visit the Maryland State House. I was interested to note that the Maryland Secretary of State, John Willis, we have an active ongoing program with the Chinese exchange so he was delighted.

As an outgrowth of this, the congressional delegation that they met with have been working and will be looking forward to a return exchange visit, probably a year from now, with some of the same Members that they met with before.

Let me take 2 seconds, because no one can control a Member and no one can control a former Member unless they bang the gavel, but, Rod, you talked about the campus program. I had an opportunity to go visit the University of Utah in Salt Lake City with Barbara Vucanovich, and it was an extremely wonderful 3 days interacting with the students. So for anybody that has not participated in those programs, I cannot urge you enough to try. Thank you.

Mr. McHUGH. Thank you, Bev. Before we leave the subject of China, let me just remind everybody that immediately after our proceedings here on the floor, we are going to have a panel, very distinguished panel, including DAVE BONIOR who mentioned it when he was here, on the subject of China-U.S. relations and, of course, particularly on this pending issue of trade relations with China. So we encourage all of you to come to that panel presentation immediately after this at about 10:30.

The U.S. Congress and the Congress of Mexico have been conducting annual seminars for about 39 years under the auspices of the Interparliamentary Group; however, there is still little interaction between the legislators from our two countries during the rest of the year. The association hopes to initiate a Congressional Study Group on Mexico with funding from the Tinker Foundation, so that Members of Congress can meet on a regular basis with visiting Mexican dignitaries and other experts on our mutual relationship.

In the aftermath of the political changes in Europe, the association began a series of programs in 1989 to assist the emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. With funding from the U.S. Information Agency, the association sent bipartisan teams of former Members, accompanied by either a congressional or country expert, to the Czech Republic to, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland for

up to 2 weeks. They conducted workshops and provided instruction on legislative issues for new members of parliament in those countries as well as their staffs and other persons involved in the legislative process.

They also made public appearances to discuss the American political process. In addition, the association brought delegations of members of parliament from all of these countries to the U.S. for 2-week visits. Also with funds from this USIA, the association sent a technical advisor to the Hungarian parliament from 1991 to 1993.

With financial support from the Pew Charitable Trust in 1994, the association assigned technical advisors to the Slovak and Ukrainian parliaments. This initial support was supplemented by other grants to enable Congressional Fellows to extend their stays.

Since 1995, with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Eurasia Foundation, the association has managed a very highly successful program to place outstanding Ukrainian students in internships with committees in the Ukrainian parliament. This program meets not only the parliament's short-term need for having a well-educated motivated and professionally trained staff, but also the longer term need to develop a cadre of trained professionals.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Michigan, Dennis Hertel, to report on our program in Ukraine.

Mr. HERTEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York. Last year I had the pleasure of advising the Congress about the continued progress of our program in Ukraine. I am now able to report that our goals have been achieved. We will be completing 6 years of assistance to the Ukrainian parliament.

I want to give a special "thank you" on behalf of our association to Walt Raymond, Bill Brown, our former parliamentarian, and our colleague, Lucien Nedzi. Our most lasting accomplishment has been to create and sustain for 5 years a robust internship in the parliament.

Five years ago, few, if any new staffers, were hired by the Ukrainian parliament. There was no new blood, no fresh thinking at the staff level. Staff holdovers, appointed by the former communist leaders of the Soviet Union before Ukraine received its independence in 1991, remained in place and served as a retarding influence on any internal effort to modernize the parliament or to pass reform legislation.

During the past 5 years, the intern program supported by this association has included more than 250 young Ukrainian university graduates, drawn especially from law schools or those departments specializing in economics politics and social issues. Interns have served not so much as interns as we

know them in our Congress, but really as the staff of the parliament. They have drafted laws, they have provided research, they supported member of parliament needs and provided a bridge to western parliament processes and western analysis.

Few members of parliament speak or read western languages. It has been a requirement that each candidate be conversant in a key western language, particularly English. The activity of the interns has helped bring a greater sense of relevance to committee work and by assisting in raising the quality of work in the parliament, the parliament is in better position to play its role in the emerging Ukrainian democracy.

There is evidence of success. The number of young Ukrainians interested in applying for intern positions continues to soar as does the demand by Ukrainian members of parliament for interns to be assigned to their committees or their offices.

In the parliamentary year ending this summer, 65 interns have been involved in the program. Earlier interns who completed the program have found many excellent job opportunities. Some remain as parliamentary staffers, others have entered the executive branch, while some return to academia and a significant number seek to enter the growing private sector and business there in the Ukraine, the media, or think tanks. The group represents a veritable young leaders cadre, which is essential for the democratic development of Ukraine.

Later this year, our association intends to turn the direction of the program over to the local Ukrainian management to ensure its long-term viability. Two independent Ukrainian groups, one academic and the other, the Association of Ukrainian Deputies, have committed themselves to maintaining the high professional standards and the nonpartisan selection process.

The Ukrainian program has proved to be an excellent pilot and worth replication in other emerging democracies, particularly in the Central/East European and NIS areas. As my colleague, John Erlenborn, has described or will describe today, the Ukrainian model has been successfully replicated in Macedonia by this association.

This program initiative which supports emerging democratic parliaments focuses on personnel, one of the key weaknesses throughout the former communist region, but the key to having a successful developed democratic government. Changes at the top have not been followed by changes throughout the organizational structure in the country, whether in the executive, the legislative, or judicial branches. The idea of intern programs designed to bring new and energetic staffs to the region is an idea that should be followed in other countries. It is a great

strength of our democracy and our government really that we have such a wide breadth of experience, and people that are involved in what they call civil society over there, and civic society.

The people have other interests. They bring other people into it. They teach others. And that is what this association has accomplished for the Ukraine. I believe that is what this association can accomplish continually throughout Eastern and Central Europe, where the assistance is needed so much and the involvement of the members of this association is needed so much. The Ukrainian program, this association believes, will be a lasting legacy and an example for what can be done in Eastern and Central Europe.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thank you, Dennis. Because of the success of our internship program in Ukraine, as has been mentioned, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, with funding from the Agency for International Development, asked the association to replicate this program in Macedonia. In September of last year, we sent John Hart, who was given leave from his responsibility as press Secretary to Representative TOM COBURN, to Macedonia for 6 months to establish a program for 65 interns to the Macedonian parliament, to initiate a research and analysis program, and to conduct public outreach.

Funds were also included to permit several former Members of Congress to travel to Macedonia to assist with this effort. One of those, as Dennis mentioned, was John Erlenborn. At this point, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Illinois to tell us about his participation in that program.

Mr. ERLENBORN. I thank the gentleman for yielding and request the gentleman assume the Chair during the course of my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the scope of the activities of our association are not very well-known by the public. One of the important programs we have undertaken is providing help to emerging democracies, especially their parliaments.

In January of this year, I traveled to Skopje, Macedonia, to confer with members of the Macedonian parliament concerning the intern program that we have established for them. This program was patterned after the one that we had established and operated for several years in the Ukraine.

Under a subgrant from the National Democratic Institute, we chose a staffer from the Hill, and Matt has already identified him as John Hart, who worked in Macedonia selecting university students and recent graduates in that country, training them to provide research and drafting services for the members of parliament who lack such resources.

A young Macedonian lawyer also was engaged to work with John in launching the project, with a view toward grooming her to manage the project when John returned to the United States, which he did about a month ago.

National elections delayed the full implementation of the intern project late last year. The interns were assigned to various party caucuses, but were not able to be fully utilized until after the elections.

By the time I arrived, interns and members have begun to work together, and I interviewed some members to obtain their impressions. As one would expect, members' use of the interns varied. Generally, however, they assigned information-gathering tasks to them so that members would have a better knowledge of the current issues and also be prepared to offer legislative solutions to perceived needs.

Every Member of parliament I spoke with was pleased with the work being done by their interns. Most of them expressed the belief that only with such resources would they be able to become independent of the executive branch which now drafts legislation and prepares the budget. The parliament typically has little time in which to consider these drafts, and thus has little or no input into the finally approved legislation.

The relationship of the executive and legislative branches reflects the reality of their respective roles under the government structure of the past. Little has changed since Macedonia was successful in a peaceful secession from Yugoslavia in 1992. At the present time, membership in the parliament is expected soon to become a full-time occupation. It is believed that then there will be a greater demand from within an independent legislature exercising its collective will in the enactment of legislation.

This transition from the old ways to democratic governments is a basic test of the success of the newly-emerging democracies. Similar problems are being faced by all of them with varying successes. I believe that the intern projects that we have initiated are necessary to help the legislatures transition to independent and meaningful roles if the voice of the people is to be heard, as it must in a democracy.

The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress is uniquely qualified to provide these resources for the education of the legislators in the emerging democracies. Former Members have experience in State legislatures and the Congress. We cannot expect other countries just to adopt our ways, but we can help them identify the basic elements of a free representative government, sensitive to the traditions of their country.

In talking to some of these parliamentarians and telling them how our

legislature operates, I always prefaced it by saying we have been working at this for more than 200 years, and we do not expect, number one, that you are going to be able to achieve the same kind of a legislative process too rapidly; and, secondly, it does not have to be exactly like ours. You choose your own, but it has to have some of the basic elements that any free democratic legislature must have.

I believe that each and every one of us having served our country in the past still have an urge to serve in some capacity. With our experience, we can help other countries move toward responsive, democratic governments. It would be a shame to waste the resource that we represent. I hope that we can have more programs such as those in Ukraine and Macedonia.

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, in December of 1996, the association sent a delegation of current and former Members to Cuba on a study mission to assess the situation there and analyze the effectiveness of U.S. policies toward Cuba. Upon its return, the delegation wrote a report of its findings, which were widely disseminated through the media and were made available to Members of Congress as well as to personnel in the executive branch.

A follow-up to this initial study mission was conducted in January of 1999. Again, the delegation wrote a detailed report of its findings and shared it through media and briefings with congressional leaders and representatives of the executive branch.

A final study mission to Cuba is scheduled to take place from May 29 this year to June 3. A delegation led by John Brademas of Indiana, and including Jack Buechner of Missouri, Larry LaRocco of Idaho and Fred Grandy of Iowa will meet with representatives of the Cuban government, dissidents and others to assess the current State of U.S.-Cuba relations. When they return, they will write a report of their findings and again share their conclusions with Members of the Congress, the media, the executive branch and others. Needless to say, it is a very timely mission with all that is going on these days in that relationship.

The association also organizes study tours for its Members and their spouses who, at their own expense, have participated in educational and cultural experiences in a wide variety of places, including Canada, China, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, the former Soviet Union, Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South America. The most recent study tour took place in March of this year when association and auxiliary members, spouses, and friends visited Italy.

As most of my colleagues know, we have three former Members of Congress who now serve as ambassadors in Italy: Tom Foglietta, our Ambassador to

Italy, Lindy Boggs, our Ambassador to the Holy See, and George McGovern, our Ambassador to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The trip, as I understand it, was very successful, and at this point I would like to yield to the gentleman from New York, GERRY SOLOMON, to tell us about that study tour and the plans for next year.

Mr. SOLOMON. Thank you, Mr. President and former Members, Chaplain Ford, Speaker Jim Wright sitting over there, and certainly our leader, Bob Michel sitting over here. Let me be brief because we are running out of time reporting on the study tour this past March. And, Mr. Speaker, I hope you would not recognize Bob Walker to object to my request to revise and extend.

The study tour to Italy was a huge success, thanks to the outstanding advance planning and organization by our executive director, Linda Reed, sitting over here. The well-attended meetings with the Vatican, the Vatican think tank of Justice and Peace, and Ambassador Lindy Boggs, our former colleague, as Matt has mentioned, were extremely informative and extremely interesting, as was the meeting with Ambassador George McGovern at the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the meeting in Florence with the U.S. Consul General's office.

The entire Italy tour, made up of 64 members, spouses, friends, including 26 former Members, the largest ever, made visits to the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica, the Coliseum and the Forum in Rome, and equally interesting stops in Assisi and the romantic and beautiful city of Florence. Everyone enjoyed the entire program.

The discussions held with Ambassador McGovern, who incidentally sends his regards to all of you, as well as with other officials, including Catherine Bertini, which many of you know, were extremely helpful in explaining the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization that many of you on both sides of the aisle have participated in and have helped in a badly needed area.

Finally, several Members stated their desire at the organization to consider a Study Group tour to two of our NATO allies early next year, perhaps, Turkey and Greece. We have that request under consideration. And there have been other requests now coming in, filling in on the reports given by our President Matt McHugh, Ben Erdreich, John Erlenborn and others, concerning the very, very serious need to help these former Soviet bloc countries in the Baltics, in the Caucasus, in Central Asia, in the Balkans. Their very future depends on the success of their parliaments. These countries have never known democracy in their whole history, and in the last 10 years they have struggled.

Much of the help that we have already given is really paying off, as Ben Erdreich has mentioned, and we hope that we may be able to arrange some study tours there in this part of the world in order to perhaps undertake a "Peace Corps of Former Members" who could give their old sage, badly needed advice to many of these parliamentarians, many of whom are very young and have had no experience whatsoever and really need our help.

So these are things we have under consideration. We would certainly appreciate any feedback that you might have, and I thank the President and the Speaker.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thank you, Gerry. Those of us who put this program together sometimes worry that the annual report will be overly long and dry, and we apologize if it is. But I think it is important that get a sense of the wide variety of programs that we run as an association so that you can participate in those and so that others will be aware of what we are trying to do to help.

All of this, of course, requires financial support. And at the present time, we get our financial support primarily from three sources. Our membership dues, and we thank all of you for paying those this year; also from our program grants from foundations and others that support the individual programs that we have described; and from an annual fund-raising dinner that has become a very important part of our financial base.

As many of you know, on February 22 of this year, we held our Third Annual Statesmanship Award Dinner, at which our friend and colleague, Lynn Martin, was honored. We presented Lynn with the Statesmanship Award in recognition of her service as a Member of Congress, as Secretary of Labor, and as a leader in many other community activities.

I want to acknowledge and thank at this point Lou Frey, our friend and colleague from Florida, who, once again, chaired the dinner. He had a great deal of help, but he led the effort and we are grateful to him and we thank him again for agreeing to do that next year as well.

I would also like to recognize at this point Larry LaRocco from Idaho who, among other things, was one of our entertaining and talented auctioneers at the auction which we hold in conjunction this annual dinner.

Mr. LAROCO. Thank you, Mr. President, I appreciate you yielding to me. I will give you a short report on the dinner. As treasurer, one has to assume many roles and being auctioneer happened to be one of them.

Since 1998, the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress has instituted an Annual Statesmanship Award Dinner and Auction to honor a former Member of Congress and raise funds to

defray the costs of implementing the Congress to Campus program. Each year approximately 400 people, including sitting Members of the House and Senate, attend this outstanding event.

This dinner is a wonderful opportunity to honor a colleague, visit with friends, and raise money for a good purpose. The auction has two components, a silent and live auction of political memorabilia of significant historical value, and Jimmy Hayes has played a major role in collecting this memorabilia for us.

The spirit of this dinner is most important, because it is noted for its blatant display of bipartisanship, comity and commitment to public service by each former Member of Congress. It is an evening filled with mutual respect and gratitude for the opportunity to serve our Nation and its legislative bodies.

One of our colleagues is honored at this dinner for his or her outstanding work in Congress and after leaving public service. And as our President has just described and reported, our good friend and colleague, Lynn Martin, was honored this year.

The association made note of Lynn Martin's achievements and contributions through her commitment to fair workplace standards capped by her service as Secretary of Labor. Our first Statesmanship Award Dinner in 1998 honored Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and the 1999 dinner paid tribute to the work of our distinguished colleague, Lee Hamilton, who now heads the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Our former President and board member, Lou Frey, shared his vision and possessed the skills to organize the first dinner, and has acted as the chairman for each subsequent dinner. He brings an incredible amount of energy and organizational talent into building a successful event for the association.

I encourage each member to support this dinner as you have in the past. As Matt has mentioned, we only have a couple of sources of funding for our programs and this is a major source. And besides the dues that we all pay, this provides the funds for our unrestricted activities, and last year we netted about \$70,000 for this dinner and we hope to be on a good glide path to raise even more. I encourage to you come. We have invited each sitting Member of the House and the Senate to join us and we enjoy their participation and their presence at the dinner.

I have never invited anybody to this dinner that has not come back and told me that it is one of the most outstanding evenings that they have ever spent in Washington, D.C., to see former Members come together in the spirit of bipartisanship, enjoying each other's company, regaling each other with stories and smiling and feeling very proud of their service in this legislative body.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thank you very much, Larry. Mr. Speaker, in addition to the financial support which we have referred to, the association benefits tremendously from the effort and leadership of many people. I want to just expressly thank the officers of the association with whom I have had the privilege to serve: John Erlenborn, Larry LaRocco, Jack Buechner, Lou Frey and others, the members of our board of directors and our counselors, for providing the excellent guidance and support necessary to make all of these activities we have described possible.

In addition, we are assisted by the auxiliary of the association which is now led by Nancy Beuchner, Jack's wife. It goes without saying, I am sure, that none of these programs could be effectively run without the staff of our association: Linda Reed, our executive director; Peter Weichlein, our program director, who has special responsibility for the Congressional Study Group on Germany; Katrinka Stringfield, our administrative assistant; Victor Kytasty, who runs our Congressional Fellow program in Ukraine; and Walt Raymond, a senior advisor for our international programs. We are really very grateful to each and every one of them for the help that they give us on a day-to-day basis.

The association also maintains close relations with counterpart associations of former Members of parliament in other countries. And we are very pleased that we have two representatives of those other parliament's former Members associations with us here today. I am pleased to recognize and welcome Barry Turner, the President of the Canadian Association of Former Members of Parliament, and George Ehrnrooth from the Association of Former Members of Parliament in Finland, who are with us today and who have been with us on many occasions in the past as well.

I also want to mention an invitation we have received from the Association of Former Members of Parliament of Australia for our members and their partners to be guests at a reception being held in Sydney on Tuesday, September 26, 2000, which is during the 21st Olympiad, which is being held in Australia this year. Unfortunately, we cannot pay your way to go to that, but if by chance you are going to the Olympics in Australia, I know that you would enjoy the camaraderie of that reception, which is hosted by the Former Members of Parliament in Australia. If you need more details on that, please talk with Linda about that.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my sad obligation to inform the House of those persons who have served in Congress and have passed away since our last report last year. The deceased Members of Congress are the following:

Carl B. Albert of Oklahoma;
 Laurie C. Battle of Alabama;
 Gary Brown of Michigan;
 George E. Brown, Jr. of California;
 John H. Chafee of Rhode Island;
 Carl Thomas Curtis of Nebraska;
 David W. Dennis of Indiana;
 Bernard J. Dwyer of New Jersey;
 Floyd K. Haskell of Colorado;
 Henry Helstoski of New Jersey;
 Byron L. Johnson of Colorado;
 Ed Jones of Tennessee;
 Robert H. Mollohan of West Virginia;
 James C. Murray of Illinois;
 Richard B. Ray of Georgia;
 Hardie Scott of Pennsylvania;
 Abner W. Sibal of Connecticut;
 Fred Wampler of Indiana;
 Charles Wiggins of California;
 Bob Wilson of California.

I would respectfully ask all of you at this point to stand for just a moment of silence in memory of our colleagues.

Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, we now reach what I think is one of the real highlights of our festivities during the annual meeting, and that is the presentation of our Distinguished Service Award.

We present this each year to a distinguished and outstanding public servant. The award normally rotates between the two parties, as do the officers of the association. Last year, the award was presented to a Democrat, our distinguished former Speaker, Jim Wright, who as others have mentioned, is here with us again today and we are deeply grateful that he is able to be with us, along with his wife, Betty.

This year, we are being totally non-partisan and we are extremely pleased to be honoring a man who has been a very special friend and counselor to many of us, former House Chaplain, James David Ford.

Before serving as House chaplain, Jim had a very distinguished career with which many of you are quite familiar. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, receiving a Master of Divinity from Augustana Seminary in Illinois, and attending graduate school at Heidelberg University in Germany, Jim served 1958 from 1961 as pastor of the Lutheran Church in Ivanhoe, Minnesota. From 1961 to 1965, he was the assistant chaplain at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York. And at the tender age of 33, he was appointed by President Johnson as the senior chaplain at the Military Academy, where he was appointed three times more and served in that position from 1965 until 1979, during which he counseled the corps of cadets not only at West Point, but also our active duty personnel in Vietnam.

On January 17, 1979, Jim was elected chaplain of the House of Representatives and was reelected to that post every 2 years until his retirement this year.

As you know, he has received countless awards and honorary degrees in recognition of his outstanding service to this institution.

Jim Ford's devotion, exceptional counseling skills, and marvelous sense of humor have sustained many of us throughout the years. However, in addition to these qualities, Jim has many other talents, some rather unusual and extraordinary. In the spring of 1976, for example, he was captain of a 31-foot sailboat called the Yankee Doodle, which, with two crewmen, sailed from Plymouth, England, to West Point, New York. This Bicentennial adventure lasted 52 days at sea and covered 5,920 miles.

Jim has appeared on the NBC "Today" Show, giving exhibitions of trick skiing and ski jumping. He also appeared on the CBS show "I've Got a Secret," and some of us old-timers can remember that show. His secret was: "Can perform a backwards ski jump." Not many of us can do that. Maybe some of you have seen the picture of him actually doing it. Jim also pilots an ultralight airplane in the Virginia foothills and is currently planning to sail across the Atlantic alone. So his talents are numerous.

Jim, why don't you come up, if you would, please. He asked, does he get to talk. He cannot wait.

Jim, there are two gifts that we present to you as a symbolic gesture of our great affection and one of them is a plaque. I do not know how many plaques you have, but this is a very nice attractive one. I hope you like it. Let me read to you what the plaque says, and I quote:

His parishioners were politicians all. His parish was the gilded hall where the soul of freedom dwells. To the Reverend James David Ford, Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1979 to 2000. The U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress thanks you for your dedicated pastoral services to the People's House and its men and women. You have provided counsel and comfort to our cadets at West Point, our soldiers in Vietnam, and our Representatives in the United States Congress. You will be missed. Sail on. Washington, D.C., May 17, 2000.

We also have a scrapbook, Jim, of letters from your many friends here, and colleagues, extending congratulations and affection to you for this award and, of course, for your great service. And so we want to present this to you now as well.

And now it is my great privilege to present to you Reverend Jim Ford.

Dr. FORD. Thank you very much for this award. I am honored and delighted to be here. My family are here too.

There are some who say that I get this award as an attempt to keep me quiet and not write my book, which I of course will never do. I follow Martin Luther's remarks in the 16th century when he said, "There are just too many books being written."

I would like to introduce my successor over here Chaplain Coughlin. Stand up, Chaplain. The new chaplain.

Matt mentioned the things that I have done. One of the things you probably will not believe is he said I went off a ski jump backwards. In Minnesota, that is what we did. In Minnesota, we had nine months of winter and three months of poor sledding, and many of us were ski jumpers. I did go out one day and they bet me I could not go off. We did single jumps, double jumps, triple jumps. They bet me that I could not go off backwards and I did.

I was on the show, "I've Got a Secret," and that was my secret and they could not guess it. And when it was announced that I had gone off the ski jump backwards, Henry Morgan raised his hand and said, "Chaplain, I want to ask you a question. Is this when you first began to believe in God?"

And, Chaplain Coughlin, I want you to know something. When you hear that story about the chaplain praying, it is a Senate joke. The Senate Chaplain went out to pray for the Members, took one look at them and decided to pray for America. That is a Senate story, Chaplain, not our side.

You know, I started out in Lake Wobegon country, Minnesota. Garrison Keillor country. A town of 700. I was a country pastor, started out where my father and grandfather had started as pastors, within 50 miles. And I never thought I would inherit the title of chaplain. I went to West Point in 1961, in my 20s, and met General Eisenhower who came to church one Sunday. Omar Bradley, I discussed D-Day with him.

I knew MacArthur. In fact, I was there when MacArthur gave a famous speech. He gave one here, but he gave a more famous one called "Duty, Honor, Country" at West Point in the early 1960s. All he had on the podium was a crumpled piece of paper. He said he worked on that speech for 40 years, and his little piece of paper only said the word, "doorman." He began his speech this way. He said, "As I left the Waldorf this morning, the doorman said to me, 'General, where are you going today?' And MacArthur replied, 'I'm going to West Point.' And the doorman said, 'Nice place. Have you been there before?'"

But over the years, I got to know these men, Schwarzkopf, whom you know as a general. I remember as a captain and the meanest player in the noontime basketball league. Wes Clark, who just retired as NATO Commander, was one of my cadets. Barry McCaffrey, that you are going to hear at lunch, was one of my cadets. I am particularly proud that Senator JACK REED, used to serve in the House, now in the Senate, was one of my cadets at West Point, Class of 1971. And presently JOHN SHIMKUS from Illinois who serves in this body was also one of my cadets.

I must tell you, even though it is late, of an important dream that I had last night. Of course, a chaplain is ecumenical and bipartisan. But I had a

dream last night that Army was playing Navy in Philadelphia in football. And the two teams were going back and forth and neither team could score. And just before the end of the first half, a jet airplane flew over the stadium and let out a sonic boom, which the Army team took to be the gun ending the first half, so the Army team ran off the field. Three plays later, Navy scored. On a field goal.

I came here after that 18 years going through the war as chaplain in 1979. As you know, I always wore the clerical collar. Tip O'Neill called me "Monsignor." He thought I was an Irish priest from South Boston. He had a committee. I mentioned their names, George Mahon, the Chairman; John Rhodes, the Republican Leader, and Jim Wright, who is with us today on the Democratic side. The committee, we met in that office right over there. Now I know how important it is to have an office right off the floor.

They asked me this question: What do you think about religion and politics? And leaping into my mind was a quote that the Governor of Minnesota had used in a chapel talk many years before, quoting Martin Luther, and I gave in answer to them, I said, "As Martin Luther said in 1530, quote: Send your good men into the ministry, but send your best into politics. Because in the ministry it all depends on the spirit, but in politics you have shades of gray, ambiguities, and you need the finest people." Of course, after that self-serving comment, they hired me on the spot. But I also believe it. I grew up that way, and I believe it.

When I left this place, I wrote a letter to the Members and I said that my feelings about Congress were strong when I came, and they are strengthened now that I leave. Religion points to the goals of life, politics tells us how to get there. We can agree on justice and peace, or faith, hope, and love. Call it what you will. But in politics, we have the give and take of argument and debate as to the how of achieving our goals.

I remember as a young man in the 1950s, I went to the Soviet Union and I visited the legislature and it was quiet. And in the 1960s, I went to the East German legislature and it was quiet. Democracy is noisy. I like the noise. I have been with the noise here for 21 years. It is a part of the gift of democracy.

Concluding, in my 21 years here, I counted up I have been here for about 35 joint meetings. And as you know, it is a joint session when the President comes; it is a joint meeting when the Heads of State come. And during this time, in these 35 speeches that I heard, I do not think one of them has lived under one constitution for 200 years. We are a young Nation with a very old and mature Constitution.

I heard Vaclav Havel speak here from Czechoslovakia. Remember, he got up

and said "I am just a playwright. What do I know? There is no school to be President." And we celebrated democracy with him.

Lech Walesa of Poland got up, and he said, "I am an electrician. If the lights go out tonight, I can fix them. But now I am leading a country." Or Nelson Mandela, 27 years in prison who stood up here and spoke about reconciliation.

It has been a pride to serve as your chaplain for these many years, for politics is a noble vocation, a noble opportunity and calling. I have observed your debates. I have listened to your private concerns. I have encouraged you in your service. I have celebrated with you the joys of democracy.

When you think of your service as former Members in this Congress, I say to you stand tall and be proud, because your politics has been a noble vocation. Thank you.

Mr. MCHUGH. On behalf of all of us, Jim, we thank you again for your friendship and your warmth and your great service to this institution and to us.

We also welcome and wish our best to the new chaplain, who I am sure will serve with equal distinction.

Mr. Speaker, the Members of the association were honored and proud to serve in the U.S. Congress and in a way we are continuing our service to the Nation in other ways now, but hopefully ones that are equally as effective. Again, we thank you for letting us make this annual report, and this concludes our session for today, and we again invite all of the Members to the next panel at 10:30 on the China-U.S. relations. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair again wishes to thank the former Members of the House for their presence here today. Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the reading clerks for inclusion in the roll.

The Chair wishes to thank the former Members of Congress for their response here today. Good luck to all of you.

The Chair announces that the House will reconvene at 10:45 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 26 minutes a.m.) the House continued in recess.

□ 1045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOEHNER) at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Mr. BOEHNER. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minute requests on each side this morning.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

GOP WORKING TO MAKE NEEDED PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE TO ALL

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, America is the most prosperous nation on earth, yet some seniors here are forced to choose between putting food on their table and the prescription drugs they need to lead healthy and productive lives. That is just not right.

Republicans are working to make sure that is a choice seniors no longer have to make. While I share the goal of President Clinton and Democrats in Congress, their proposal may endanger existing drug coverage that some seniors already have. It could give the Federal Government too heavy a hand in controlling drug benefits and deny seniors the right to select the coverage that best fits their respective needs.

Republicans have a voluntary plan to make prescription drug coverage affordable and available to America's seniors. Republicans are working to protect seniors from runaway drug costs so that their retirement remains secure and they have greater peace of mind. That is a brighter future for every single American.

VOTE AGAINST PNTR FOR CHINA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, if you were told that the Yankees scored six runs in a ball game, would you conclude the Yankees won? Of course not. You need to know how many runs the Yankees' opponent scored in the game to know if they won, especially if they played against our Cleveland team.

Whether it is baseball or trade, people need to know the score. In this case, between the U.S. and China, the U.S. has a trade deficit with China of about \$70 billion. So we are losing the game with China. The rising trade deficit is unlucky for the United States and our workers. But the bill number for PNTR for China is H.R. 4444, and