

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE C. SPRINGER

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to honor George C. Springer, who is stepping down this month after an unprecedented 11 two-year terms as the President of the Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees, formerly the Connecticut State Federation of Teachers. George will remain active in the union as the recently-appointed director of the American Federation of Teachers' Northeast Region.

I mentioned the change in the union's name because it highlights George's unceasing efforts on behalf of its members. In 1979, when George began his leadership of the union, it had about 11,000 members, almost all of whom were teachers. Today, the union has 24,000 members, including teachers and other professional school-related employees, State and municipal employees, health care professionals, and higher education faculty. Twenty-two years ago, the union had only one full-time officer, two clerical employees, and a handful of field representatives. Today, it has three full-time officers, a staff of 15, and numerous field representatives. George rightly is proud of the increased diversity of his union.

George also ought to be proud of what his advocacy has brought—not only benefits for union members, but also the ability for them to do their jobs better, to better serve the children and all citizens of Connecticut. George tirelessly has fought for greater involvement for the union and its members in legislative and policy matters. I think it is especially appropriate, as we prepare to complete debate on reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, to talk about how public education in Connecticut has changed for the better during George's tenure.

In 1979, teacher pay was poor, the gap between the quality of schools for wealthy children and those for poor children was great, and relations between the union and school boards was contentious. Today, teacher salaries and student achievement in Connecticut are among the best in the country, the State is working to provide a quality education for all children, and the union frequently works hand in hand with school management to improve the school system.

But, George's influence has not been limited to Connecticut, or even the United States. As President, George has represented the union around the country and around the world, in such places as Brazil, Belgium, Hong Kong, Japan, and Sweden. He also has served as an election observer in South Africa and Nigeria. I have no doubt that from New Britain, Connecticut, where he taught for 20 years, to the many places he has been around the world, George has left his mark. Nor do I doubt that he will continue to leave his mark, as

he works hard at the AFT to better connect State and local affiliates with the national organization and with each other.

Tonight, George's fellow union members, other friends, and his family are gathering in Hartford to celebrate his leadership of the union. I regret that I cannot join them in person, but certainly I join them in spirit.

It has been my privilege to know George for many years, and I offer my admiration and gratitude for his work, and best wishes as he moves on to new challenges.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:19 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1914. An act to extend for 4 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 11:53 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1157. An act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2052. An act to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 145. Concurrent resolution condemning the recent order by the Taliban regime of Afghanistan to require Hindus in Afghanistan to wear symbols identifying them as Hindu.

At 4:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1088. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to reduce fees collected by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1157. An act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 145. Concurrent resolution condemning the recent order by the Taliban regime of Afghanistan to require Hindus in Afghanistan to wear symbols identifying them as Hindu; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1088. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to reduce fees collected by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1037. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize disability retirement to be granted posthumously for members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1038. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to tax-exempt debt for small nonprofit health care and educational institutions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 1039. A bill for the relief of the State of Hawaii; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 1040. A bill to promote freedom, fairness, and economic opportunity for families by reducing the power and reach of the Federal establishment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 1041. A bill to establish a program for an information clearinghouse to increase public