

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH CAROLINA
TEACHER OF THE YEAR, CHRIS-
TINE FISHER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to South Carolina's Teacher of the Year, Christine Fisher. Mrs. Fisher is a constituent of mine, and a seventh and eighth grade band teacher at Southside Middle School in Florence, SC. She is in Washington DC, October 6-8 for the fifth annual National Teacher Forum.

This week, teachers across the Nation are being recognized for their leadership as well as excellence in teaching by participating in the National Teacher Forum. The forum is designed to tap the knowledge, experience, and insight that these teachers have gained with regard to Federal education programs and policies.

Mrs. Fisher has been a teacher for 21 years; 12 of which she has taught at Southside Middle School. Under her leadership, the Southside bands have been awarded outstanding performance awards for 12 straight years. Mrs. Fisher has also been the recipient of numerous awards including the Florence District One Teacher of the Year, Time Warner Cable Star Teacher, Lead Music Teacher at the Curriculum Leadership in the Arts, Outstanding Junior High Band Director of the eastern district of South Carolina, and Teacher of the Year at two schools during her teaching career. She has also been a guest conductor and clinician for the Berkeley County Honors Band, the Eastern District Honors Band and the Spartanburg County Honors Band. In addition to her musical experience, Mrs. Fisher has also helped in writing, and has received, numerous grants for music education and technology. Mrs. Fisher also has been a guest speaker for numerous music seminars, including university level classes. Aside from her mainstream curriculum, she also has a great interest and knowledge in music for the learning disabled student.

Throughout her 21 year tenure, Mrs. Fisher has taught music in schools through the Pee Dee area of the sixth congressional district. She is also a Member of the National Education Association, South Carolina Education Association, Music Educators National Conference, South Carolina Music Educators Association, and the South Carolina Band Directors Association.

Mr. Speaker, I know Mrs. Fisher will be an excellent resource for the National Teachers Forum, and I ask that you join me in saluting her as South Carolina's Teacher of the Year.

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CELE-
BRATED 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Our Lady of Consolation Roman Catholic Church in Merrillville, IN, in celebration of its 50th anniversary as a parish last Sunday, October 5, 1997. The anniversary celebration began with a Mass of thanksgiving, which was celebrated by Bishop Dale J. Melczek. Following the Mass, there was a banquet in the parish hall.

A parish of humble beginnings, Our Lady of Consolation, which was established as Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1947, celebrated its first Mass on October 5, 1947, in a town fire station. The parish was founded by Father Alvin Jasinski under the direction of the Fort Wayne Diocese to serve the needs of the growing Catholic population of Independence Hill, a section of what is now Merrillville, IN. In November 1947, 1 acre of land, which included a store and other buildings, was purchased as a more suitable site for the church. Many parishioners contributed their time, talent, money, and materials to transform the store into the first Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Land for a permanent church site was acquired and a building fund was begun under the guidance of Father Leo Ambruster in the early 1960's. With the determination and patience of the parishioners, the cornerstone of the new church was blessed on August 27, 1967, only several years after the purchase of the land. The church was dedicated by Bishop Andrew Grutka as Our Lady of Consolation.

Our Lady of Consolation derived its name from the 2d century writer, St. Ignatius of Antioch. St. Ignatius was the first to express devotion to Mary as "Consoler of the Afflicted." In the 17th century, when an outbreak of bubonic plague ravaged and decimated the Luxembourg population, the people prayed to Mary, Consoler of the Afflicted, for relief in their anguish and fear of death. Bishop Grutka decided to change the parish name from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church to Our Lady of Consolation since Holy Trinity Church in Gary, IN, built a statue commissioned "Christ the Consoler." The bishop stated it was appropriate that Christ the Consoler have a Mother of Consolation.

In recent years, Our Lady of Consolation has flourished under the guidance of Father Joseph Vamos who arrived at the parish in 1987. In 1988, the cornerstone was laid for a parish activity center, which consists of a chapel used for weekday Mass, small weddings, and funerals, a parish office, large social and banquet hall, fully equipped kitchen, and six large classrooms. The classrooms are

being utilized for faith formation program classes, small parish meetings, and a pre-school serving approximately 40 children. The entire parish complex, which also consists of a rectory, was paid for within 3 years of its construction. Currently, the parish has taken on other initiatives, which include the redecoration of the church, the purchase of a new sacristy, the addition of an atrium entry way to the parish center, and the installation of stained glass windows in the chapel. The recent prosperity of Our Lady of Consolation may be attributed to both the foresight of past parish pastors, as well as the success of the parish's annual festival. The annual festival is a tradition that dates back to the early days of the parish in Independence Hill.

Although Our Lady of Consolation has changed drastically over the years, some aspects have remained the same. For instance, some of the original members of the small church in Independence Hill are still parishioners. Also, the Holy Name Society and the Altar and Rosary Sodality, which were founded in the very beginning of the church's history, still work for the betterment of the church today. Other organizations within the parish include an Over 55 Club, a parish youth group, and a newly formed Knights of Columbus Good Shepherd Council. The original parish consisted of under 100 families. Today, the number is over 1,000.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me today in commending the parish family of Our Lady of Consolation, under the guidance of Father Joseph Vamos, as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of their founding. All past and present parishioners and pastors should be proud of the numerous contributions they have made out of the love and devotion they have displayed for their church.

HONORING WILLIAM T. HUSTON,
RECIPIENT OF THE SETON AWARD

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, William T. Huston. Bill has spent his career serving his family, his church, his community, and his country.

Our Nation was founded upon the principles of freedom, faith, and the pursuit of liberty. Bill is a man who exemplifies these qualities, and whose efforts to serve those around him are an inspiration to all.

As chairman of the Watson Land Co., Bill has proven himself to be a model of leadership. He tempers good business skills with a keen eye for serving his fellow man. As a

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

community leader, Bill has led quietly by example, given countless hours of service, and encouraged those around him to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, tonight Bill Huston will be honored by the National Catholic Education Association for his commitment to American education. Bill also will be joined by another great American, Dr. William Bennett, as they are presented with the prestigious Seton Award.

Named for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in recognition for her lifelong dedication to teaching, the award is presented annually to those who have dedicated their life to education. As a further tribute to Bill, the National Catholic Education Association will present a child in Bill's community with a \$1,000 scholarship to use toward their education.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of a sound education must be underscored. As we look to solve the problems of the future, we have before us a man who has provided the right example. For his efforts, and in recognition of a well-deserved honor this evening, I am privileged to commend and pay tribute to William T. Huston.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret missing votes on the afternoon of October 1. Due to the pressing nature of the Jewish holidays it was necessary for me to leave town in order to arrive in California by sundown for Erev Rosh Hashana.

SUBPOENA ENFORCEMENT IN THE CASE OF DORNAN VERSUS SANCHEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 30, 1997

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I hear over and over again that we are concerned about the integrity of our election process, and I agree with that, not only for the 46th congressional district but for all over the United States.

This is not the only place where voter fraud has occurred. But I hear interjected into the debate the reference to the number of fraudulent votes in the 46th district. Then our friend from Texas gets up and states that the Hermandad is the crookedest organization around and guilty of all kinds of wrongdoing.

The problem I have with that is an investigating committee trying to investigate someone who has already made up his mind lends itself to the idea that since they have already made up their mind, their investigation is going to conclude with the conclusions they have already made.

Let me say in the same breath that the gentleman speaks about the high level of debate that began this debate. He rushes in to chas-

tise one of our Members for pulling a race card. What greater race card was there pulled when on that side of the aisle they chose as their closing speaker someone of Hispanic descent?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Republicans have an 8-year history in southern California of intimidating Latino voters at the polls. The Republican Party paid \$600,000 to settle two voting intimidation cases, one stemming from 1988 and one from 1989, in which the Orange County Republican Party placed security guards and signs at the voting polls designed to scare Latino voters.

Mr. Speaker, Hispanic-Americans have served in every branch of our military. They have fought and died in our wars, defending the cherished principles of freedom and democracy. Hispanic-Americans have earned the right to vote without being intimidated at the polls. It may come as a surprise to some of my friends on the other side of the aisle, but there are millions of Americans of Hispanic origin, many with surnames like de la Garza, Gonzalez, Torres, Rodriguez, Menendez, Becerra, and even Martinez who voted, and voted legally, in the last election.

THOMAS R. BROWN, SOUTH TEXAS VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, SAN ANTONIO, TX, RECEIVES OLIN E. TEAGUE AWARD

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, in a ceremony on Thursday, September 18, 1997, in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing room, Thomas R. Brown, chief, Recreation Therapy Service, South Texas Veterans Health Care System, San Antonio, TX, received this year's Olin E. Teague Award for his efforts on behalf of disabled veterans.

The Teague Award is presented annually to a VA employee whose achievements have been of extraordinary benefit to veterans with service-connected disabilities, and is the highest honor at VA in the field of rehabilitation.

Under Mr. Brown's pioneering leadership in the area of wheelchair sports, an extraordinarily effective recreation therapy program has been developed in the VA system. Due to Mr. Brown's career as a national and international wheelchair athlete and his success as a coach, teacher, and motivator, in 1980 he was asked to help establish a national wheelchair games program for VA in conjunction with the International Year for Disabled Persons. In 1981, the first National Veterans Wheelchair Games were held in Richmond, VA, with 74 veterans participating. Under Mr. Brown's continuing guidance and advice, the games have expanded with tremendous success as a rehabilitation tool. Veterans travel from all over the Nation to participate, many of whom have never before competed in organized sporting competitions. The games now boast of over 550 competitors giving veterans an excellent opportunity to interact with their peers, to experience the thrill of victory, and to participate with a level of exuberance many had thought was lost forever.

Mr. Speaker, the name Olin E. "Tiger" Teague is synonymous with exemplary service to the Nation's veterans. The late Congressman Teague served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for 32 years, 18 of those years as it distinguished chairman. No one who opposed him on veterans' issues ever had to ask why he was called Tiger. He set the standards by which we can best serve all veterans. I know my colleagues join me in offering our deep appreciation to Mr. Brown for his concern, dedication, and innovation in meeting the special rehabilitation needs of disabled veterans. We congratulate him for the excellence of his work and for the distinguished award he received.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS RE-AUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 29, 1997

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2261 and to thank the bipartisan leadership of the Committee on Small Business for their cooperation in folding H.R. 2429, as reported from the Committee on Science, into the bill currently before the House. I also would like to thank our committee's leadership Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Chairwoman MORELLA, and Ranking Member GORDON for working so hard in the limited time we had available to us to make the STTR program a more effective resource for our Nation's small businesses.

I would like to address my remarks today to the Small Business Technology Transfer [STTR] program amendments which were reported from the Committee on Science and folded into this legislation.

The STTR program was begun as an experiment 4 years ago to help small businesses move ideas from our Nation's universities and national laboratories into the commercial marketplace. It is clear that this experiment has not been underway long enough to prove itself, and it needs to be extended for an additional 3 years. Hardly any of the STTR grantees have had enough time to move a promising idea to a commercial product or government purchase through the STTR process. It was also painfully clear during the committee's hearing on the STTR program that information is not available to answer the most basic question about the effectiveness of the STTR program or the SBIR program on which it was modeled. Witnesses did not have statistics available to them to counter the assertion that the STTR and SBIR programs are paying for research that the private sector would have been done anyway if the Government grants had not been available. The anecdotal evidence which was available to us suggests that the programs are providing major assistance to specific small businesses, but we have much to learn about the program's overall effectiveness. This situation must be rectified before the programs are extended again 3 years from now.

The Committee on Science accepted an amendment offered by Mr. SENSENBRENNER and me that may help solve this problem by bringing the STTR and SBIR programs under the Government Performance and Results Act, GPRA. Agencies will be required to develop performance measures for their SBIR and STTR programs, to collect information on the performance of grantees, and to analyze that data in light of program goals. Our committee report to accompany H.R. 2429 suggests a variety of possible measures which could be used for these programs. Each time agencies participating in STTR or SBIR submit a report under the GPRA Act, they will be required to submit information on their SBIR and STTR programs as well. This should leave us with a firm basis in the future to look at these programs and to reform them as necessary.

The commercialization component of the SBIR and STTR programs can be seen through the program's phases. Phase I is for defining an idea; phase II is for developing the idea to the point where it is useful commercially or to the Government. Phase III is the point where the programs' successes are harvested either through private sector commercialization or through Government purchases of products and services. These programs have a second goal of providing value to the Government, a goal which can be complementary to the commercialization goal. If Phase I and II grants are coordinated with the agencies' priority research and development programs, agencies should have a base of relevant expertise in the small business community for the Phase III work to build on. We, therefore, hope to see future SBIR and STTR solicitations positioned in the mainstream of agency and interagency priority initiatives.

Members of our committee continue to be concerned about the extreme concentration of SBIR and STTR grants in a small number of companies located in a few States. We know there are tens of thousands of small businesses throughout the country with high quality scientists and engineers on their staffs, many of which might benefit from SBIR or STTR participation. This will not happen as long as the program keeps awarding hundreds of grants each year to a handful of companies. We also wonder how companies can remain small businesses if they truly have the management capabilities to write hundreds of research proposals and to carry out dozens of research projects for the Government each year. If they really are moving the research results of all these projects towards commercialization, why aren't they becoming big enough to outgrow the program? Our legislation partially addresses this problem by requiring the SBA to perform outreach activities to encourage applications from a much larger and more diverse segment of the small business community. However, we did not have time in this authorization to agree upon more direct legislative solutions to the multiple awards problem. It is a problem that is serious enough that it should not be ignored any longer. We, therefore, urge participating agencies to be aggressive in broadening the base of program participants and warn agencies who persist in continually awarding many grants to the same companies to be prepared to show that these favored few companies are

both adding value to the Government and aggressively developing markets for their research results.

LEE HAMILTON: A PUBLIC SERVANT REFLECTS ON THREE DECADES IN CONGRESS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would take a moment to recognize my distinguished colleague from Indiana, the Honorable LEE HAMILTON. First as chairman and now as ranking Democrat on the Committee on International Relations, LEE HAMILTON has consistently sought to promote the U.S. national interest and to advance our bilateral and multilateral relations around the globe. He has applied his Indiana common sense to many of the most difficult international issues that this country has been forced to address.

LEE HAMILTON was chairman of the Europe and Middle East Subcommittee when the Berlin Wall fell and when the Soviet Union collapsed. He was instrumental in crafting the SEED Act that provided timely assistance to the fledgling democracies in Central Europe, and he was the driving force behind the Freedom Support Act that support democratic institutions in Russia. These are just a few of his more recent landmark legislative accomplishments, Mr. Speaker, for which the distinguished gentleman can rightly take pride.

Mr. Speaker, although the distinguished gentleman sits on the other side of the aisle from this Member, this Member has regularly sought him out for advice and guidance. Years ago, when this Member was a junior member of the minority on the International Relations Committee, LEE HAMILTON helped this Member pursue a number of initiatives that, without this help, would have been impossible. LEE did not have to do this, and no one ever knew of his help; however, it meant an enormous amount to this relatively junior Member.

Mr. Speaker, LEE HAMILTON recently was awarded the Edmund Muskie distinguished Public Service Award for his 3½ decades of service to the Nation. This Member congratulates Mr. HAMILTON and would ask to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the gentleman's statement, "Reflections on the Congress and the Country," which he delivered to the Center for National Policy which was honoring him on September 29, 1997, with the Edmund Muskie Award. This gentleman wishes LEE and his wife Nancy all the best in the years ahead and thanks them for their remarkable contributions to our Nation.

REFLECTIONS ON THE CONGRESS AND THE COUNTRY

I really do not recall enjoying speeches any more than I have tonight. Thank you one and all. Some I thought could have been a little longer, others I found a bit restrained, but overall it has been an immensely satisfying evening.

I shall think often of this evening and the high honor you have paid to me. I've always wanted to walk off the stage before I was shoved off, and your nice gesture makes me think I have done that.

Politicians do a lot of things very well but I'm not sure retiring is one of them. I've always felt that you should leave when others think you should stay.

It has occurred to me in times past that the United States government needed the equivalent of a House of Lords for retired politicians. I'm beginning to think more favorably of that idea. I'm not quite sure what its purpose would be and I know that the taxpayers wouldn't tolerate it, but it would be a nice gathering place for a bunch of has-beens. It would keep us out of mischief and perhaps more importantly keep us off the television, and an occasional good thought or deed might from time to time emerge.

No award comes to one person alone. All who receive an honor stand on the shoulders of many others. I acknowledge no all-inclusive list tonight of people who share this award with me, but among them most importantly are: my wife, Nancy, and our children, Tracy, Debbie, and Doug; I cannot begin to tell you the contributions they have made—but for a sample consider not having their husband and father around the house for 30 weekends a year for 30 years; the man who got me started in this political business, and he has remained a trusted friend and advisor, Dick Stoner, and his wife, Virginia; and, of course, a long list of outstanding staff members, without whose help I would have accomplished very little. The best advice for any Member remains: hire a staff a lot smarter than you are; and I have done that.

The award is all the more meaningful because it is named for Edmund Muskie. I still remember the clarity and persuasiveness of his statements on the budget, the environment, and foreign policy.

Mike Barnes and Mo Steinbruner have been doing an excellent job of continuing his important work at the Center for National Policy. As Madeleine Albright correctly noted last year, CNP is more than a think tank, it's an action tank.

And a word of special appreciation to Hank Schacht, the Chairman and CEO of Lucent Technologies. If you want a model for an American business executive, look no further. He combines all the skills of an outstandingly successful business executive with a commitment to the public interest that is simply extraordinary.

I've been asked to reminisce for a few minutes. Obviously they didn't expect anything too heavy from me this evening, and I'm pleased to comply.

EARLY YEARS IN CONGRESS

I've been fortunate to serve many years in Congress. I've served with 8 Presidents. I've worked with 11 Secretaries of State. And when I complete my 17th Congress, I'll be one of only around 80 Members in the history of the House who have served that long.

I remember, of course, my early years in Congress. I remember that the Speaker of the House then, John McCormack, could not remember my name. He called me John and Henry and Carl on various days. Then one day before the Democratic caucus to elect the Speaker he called me on the phone. I told him I wouldn't vote for him, but would vote instead for Mo Udall. That's probably not the smartest judgment I ever made. From that day on, however, he knew my name, and the next time he saw me in the hall he called me Lee. And to his eternal credit he never held it against me.

I remember those early days when Members of Congress could put a new post office in every village and hamlet, and I did. I built 17 in my first year in Congress.

And I remember needing only one staffer to help me answer constituent mail, and getting only an occasional visit from a lobbyist.

I also remember that I could accept any gift offered, and make any amount of money of outside income, unrestricted and unreported. I even remember—in those pre-Vietnam and pre-Watergate days—people believing and trusting what government officials and politicians said.

I remember that when I first ran for Congress in 1964, my total campaign budget was \$30,000, compared to \$1 million last election.

And I remember many close personal relationships across the aisle. Early in my career, I made a parliamentary mistake on the floor. A senior Republican (and good friend) came over, put his arm around me, and gently pointed out my mistake and how to correct it—and this was on a bill he opposed. I can't imagine that happening today.

I remember walking into the House Foreign Affairs Committee room, which was then a small room now occupied by the House TV-radio gallery. I was told by the staff director there were no seats at the Committee table for me or the other two freshmen Democratic Members. He told me that if I wanted a seat I had to arrive before the lobbyists and the spectators came in. But it really didn't matter whether I came or not; as a freshman I was not going to be recognized to speak.

UNFORGETTABLE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

I remember some unforgettable Members of Congress, including the awesome—even fearsome—Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Emanuel Celler. I was the designated spokesman when a group of us went to talk to him about the President's proposal to extend the term of House Members from two or four years. We favored the bill and had introduced it. And I asked him how he stood on the bill. His response has become a part of Washington lore. He said, "I don't stand on it, I'm sitting on it. It rests four-square under my fanny and will never see the light of day." And of course it didn't, and we learned something about congressional power.

I remember Chairman Jamie Whitten, who would bring the most complicated appropriations bill, thousands of pages in length, to the floor of the House and spend his entire allotted debate time on a conference report thanking everyone under the sun, and saying nothing about the bill. The first few times he did it I thought he might not be smart enough to explain the bill. I finally figured out that he was too smart to explain it, and he never did, and he always got it passed.

I remember how deeply disappointed President Johnson was when I offered the first amendment to reduce U.S. involvement in Vietnam. It was a switch of position for me, although others had preceded me. I was one of his favorites from the class of '64, and he had come to campaign for me in '66. He had taken a special interest in my career. I will never forget his eyes when he asked me, "How could you do that to me, Lee?"

I remember Hale Boggs addressing President Nixon and members of his entire Cabinet in the Cabinet Room. He made an impassioned plea as only he could do on a subject I've long since forgotten, and as he left the room he did so with the observation, "Now, Mr. President, if you'll excuse me, I have some important people waiting to see me in my office."

The memories go on and on in an endless line of splendor. With each one of them it reminds me that serving in the House of Representatives has been a high privilege, but a good bit of fun too.

GOOD ADVICE

And I remember the good advice I got. I got good financial advice from President

Johnson. He had the freshmen gather in the Cabinet Room. I don't remember much of what he said except one thing; he told us "Buy your home." He said, "If you're like most politicians it'll be the only decent investment you'll ever make."

I remember Tip O'Neill putting his arm around me as we walked down the hall and giving me some advice. He called me Neal for my first decade here because I reminded him of a Boston baseball player by the name of Neal Hamilton. He said, "Neal, you can accomplish anything in this town if you're willing to let someone else take the credit."

I remember Wilbur Mills, a marvelous man, a superb legislator, who came, of course, to an unhappy ending. One evening we walked out of the Capitol together. His picture was on the cover of *Time* magazine; he was known all over the country; he was the foremost legislator in Congress—people sought his advice and clamored to speak with him even for a few seconds. I asked him where he was going, he said "I'm going back to Arkansas. I'll have a public meeting." He mentioned some small Arkansas town and said "There'll be about 15 or 20 people there." I never forgot it. As we departed he said "Lee, don't ever forget your constituents. Nothing, nothing comes before them."

And I remember Carl Albert who said always respect your colleagues and never forget that each one of them serves in this House because they were elected to do so by the American people.

PUBLIC ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERNMENT

But let me go beyond the specific remembrances and turn more serious for a moment as we conclude.

There's been a massive change of attitude toward the role of government since I first came here. In the early 1960s many were brimming with optimism over the potential of federal programs to solve all kinds of problems—alleviating poverty, curbing racial discrimination, providing health coverage, rebuilding American's cities.

Today the mood has shifted toward pessimism about what government can achieve that is worthwhile. Many believe that government creates more problems than it solves.

Over these past 30 years I've been struck by the decline in public respect for government. In recent years it has threatened the ability of government to make good policy. Of course skepticism has always been a healthy strain in American thinking. Our Constitution reflects that with all of its checks and balances. And we all know that government can be inefficient, inaccessible, and unaccountable. But when healthy skepticism about government turns to cynicism, it becomes the great enemy of democracy.

I think the operative question in American government today is the same as it was at Gettysburg when Lincoln asked "Can this nation so dedicated and so conceived long endure?" That question may put it in rather apocalyptic terms, but it nonetheless is on the mark.

A constituent put the right question to me the other day, "What's the most important thing you can do to restore confidence in government?"

RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

You'll be happy to know I'm not going to try to answer that question in any length tonight.

But my basic response to my constituent was that to restore confidence in government we have to make government responsive, accessible, and workable.

I believe that representative democracy is our best hope for dealing with our problems. We live in a complicated country of vast size and remarkable diversity. When I was in high school we had 130 million people. Today we have almost 270 million. So in my working lifetime the population of the country has more than doubled. Our voters are many; they're spread far and wide; and they represent a great variety of races, religions, and national origins. It isn't easy to develop a system that enables such a country to live together peacefully and productively.

Representative democracy, for all of its faults, permits us to do that. It works through a process of deliberation, negotiation, and compromise—in a word, the process of politics. Politics and politicians may be unpopular but they're also indispensable. Politics is the way that we express the popular will of the people in this country. At its best, representative democracy gives us a system whereby all of us have a voice in the process and a stake in the product.

In many ways, we have lost what the founding fathers possessed—the belief that government can work. Government is certainly still needed to provide for our national security and help promote our general welfare. Sometimes government gets in our way, but other times it can be helpful to ordinary people in their effort to succeed, to have opportunity, and to correct instances of oppression and injustice.

Those of us who see important reasons for government to act must be willing not just to criticize government and try to improve its operations, we must also work to improve public understanding of what government can do, what it cannot do, and what it has done. I simply do not see how it is possible to deal with many of our problems without a minimal public confidence in government.

I know that many people say the government and Congress don't work very well. And it's certainly not difficult to point out instances when they don't. But on the other hand, given the size of the country and the number and complexity of the challenges we confront, my view is that representative democracy works reasonably well in this country. I do not for a moment agree with those who think that the American system has failed or that the future of the country is bleak.

IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF CONGRESS

My main interest during my years in Congress has been to make government responsive, accessible, and workable. Part of that representative democracy system, of course, is the role of Congress.

Congress is an enormously important and resilient institution. I'm impressed almost daily with the way it tackles difficult national problems, manages conflict in the country, acts as a national forum, reflects diverse points of view, and over time usually develops a consensus that reflects the collective judgment of a diverse people. It has helped create and maintain a nation more free than any other. It is the most powerful and most respected legislative body in the world.

It is not, of course, perfect. It has some major flaws. It doesn't think enough about the long term, for example; it can be much too partisan; and the system by which we finance our elections is a mess. But I nonetheless believe that Congress is—overall but not perfectly, often but not always—responsive to the sustained and express will of the American people. It's a much more responsive body than people think. Congress does usually respond to public opinion if that

opinion is conveyed strongly by the American people, as we have seen in the recent work to balance the budget.

I have seen many changes over the years, but I think America is a better place today than it was when I came to Congress in 1965:

The Cold War is over, and we are at peace.

As the preeminent military power in the world, we do not worry about an imminent threat to our national security.

It is hard to find a place on the map where the U.S. is not engaged in some manner trying to make things better.

We enjoy the world's most competitive economy.

The new global trading system means new challenges and a host of new opportunities.

The Internet brings a world of knowledge to the most remote classroom or the most remote home.

We have greatly improved the lot of older Americans with programs like Social Security and Medicare.

Women and minorities have had new doors opened to them like never before.

And, by far the most important of all, this still is the land of opportunity where everyone has a chance, not an equal chance unfortunately, but still a chance to become the best they can become.

Congress did not single-handedly bring about all of these changes. But it played a major role in every one of them. Congress is still the protector of our freedom and the premier forum for addressing the key issues of the day.

As I receive this award from the Center for National Policy and look back over my years in Congress, I'm not cynical, pessimistic, or discouraged. I'm optimistic about Congress and about the country. I am grateful for every day I've been a part of this body and I do not know of any place in the world that I would have preferred to be. I believe that inch by inch, line by line, I've had a small—very small—part in making this a more perfect union and making this country stronger, safer, and freer.

What more could anyone want?

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 8

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on proposed legislation relating to food safety. SR-332

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings on the nominations of John Arthur Hammerschmidt, of Arkansas, James E. Hall, of Tennessee, and George W. Black Jr., of Georgia, each to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board. SR-253

Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on the proposed settlement between State Attorneys General and tobacco companies, focusing on the proposed Indian provision. SR-485

10:00 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Business meeting, to consider the nominations of Laura S. Unger, of New York, and Paul R. Carey, of New York, each to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Dennis Dolar, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, Edward M. Gramlich, of Virginia, and Roger Walton Ferguson, of Massachusetts, each to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Ellen Seidman, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury. SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business. SR-253

Finance
To hold hearings on S. 1195, to promote the adoption of children in foster care. SD-215

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine proliferation threats through the year 2000. SD-419

Governmental Affairs
To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing. SH-216

Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings on the nomination of David Satcher, of Tennessee, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services and Medical Director and Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services. SD-106

2:00 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine issues with regard to competition in the cable and video markets. SD-226

2:15 p.m.
Foreign Relations
Business meeting, to consider the International Telecommunication Union Constitution and Convention (Treaty Doc. 104-34), Protocol Amending the 1916 Convention with Canada for the

Protection of Migratory Birds (Treaty Doc. 104-28), Protocol Amending the Convention with Mexico for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals (Treaty Doc. 105-26), Maritime Boundaries Treaty with Mexico (Ex. F, 96-1), and pending nominations. SD-419

OCTOBER 9

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To resume hearings to examine the proposed settlement between State Attorneys General and tobacco companies to mandate a total reformation and restructuring of how tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed in America, focusing on public health goals. SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on the nomination of M. John Berry, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget. SD-366

Foreign Relations
International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the outlook and consequences of a new United Nations climate change treaty as the United States prepares for the December convention in Kyoto, Japan. SD-419

Labor and Human Resources
Public Health and Safety Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the National Institutes of Health clinical research. SD-430

10:00 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings on the nominations of Robert M. Walker, of Tennessee, to be Under Secretary of the Army, Jerry MacArthur Hultin, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, and F. Whitten Peters, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense. SR-222

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Securities Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings on the Financial Accounting Standards Board and its proposed derivatives accounting standard. SD-562

Governmental Affairs
To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing. SH-216

Judiciary
Business meeting, to mark up H.R. 1847, to improve the criminal law relating to fraud against consumers, S. 474, to enforce regulations prohibiting the interstate or foreign transmission of gambling information against certain computer service providers, and S. 1024, to make permanent chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code relating to adjustment of debts of a family farmer with regular annual income. SD-226

2:00 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks, Historic Preservation, and
 Recreation Subcommittee
 To hold oversight hearings on the feasi-
 bility of using bonding techniques to fi-
 nance large-scale capital projects in
 the National Park System. SD-366

Foreign Relations
 To hold hearings to examine the pros and
 cons of NATO enlargement. SD-419

OCTOBER 20

10:00 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings on H.R. 79, to provide
 for the conveyance of certain land in
 the Six Rivers National Forest in the
 State of California for the benefit of
 the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and S. 156, to
 provide certain benefits of the Pick-
 Sloan Missouri River Basin program to
 the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe. SR-485

OCTOBER 21

9:30 a.m.
 Labor and Human Resources
 To hold hearings on S. 1124, to amend
 title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
 to establish provisions with respect to
 religious accommodation in employ-
 ment. SD-430

10:00 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings on H.R. 700, to remove
 the restriction on the distribution of
 certain revenues from the Mineral
 Springs parcel to certain members of
 the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla In-
 dians, and H.R. 976, to provide for the
 disposition of certain funds appropri-
 ated to pay judgment in favor of the
 Mississippi Sioux Indians. SR-485

OCTOBER 22

9:30 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 Business meeting, to consider pending
 calendar business. SD-366

Labor and Human Resources
 Business meeting, to consider pending
 calendar business. SD-430

10:00 a.m.
 Judiciary
 To hold hearings on the nomination of
 Bill Lann Lee, of California, to be As-
 sistant Attorney General, Department
 of Justice. SD-226

OCTOBER 23

9:30 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold hearings on S. 1077, to amend the
 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. SD-106

10:00 a.m.
 Labor and Human Resources
 To hold hearings on S. 869, to prohibit
 employment discrimination on the
 basis of sexual orientation. SD-430

OCTOBER 27

10:00 a.m.
 Governmental Affairs
 Oversight of Government Management, Re-
 structuring and the District of Colum-
 bia Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine the social
 impact of music violence. SD-342

Indian Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings on the con-
 temporary status of the Bureau of In-
 dian Affairs of the Department of the
 Interior.
 Room to be announced

2:00 p.m.
 Labor and Human Resources
 Public Health and Safety Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine proposals to
 deter youth from using tobacco prod-
 ucts. SD-430

OCTOBER 28

10:00 a.m.
 Labor and Human Resources
 To resume hearings to examine an Ad-
 ministration study on the confiden-
 tiality of medical information and rec-
 ommendations on ways to protect the
 privacy of individually identifiable in-
 formation and to establish strong pen-
 alties for those who disclose such infor-
 mation. SD-430

OCTOBER 30

10:00 a.m.
 Labor and Human Resources
 To hold hearings to examine recent de-
 velopments and current issues in HIV/
 AIDS. SD-430

NOVEMBER 5

9:30 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To hold oversight hearings on proposals
 to extend compacting to agencies of
 the Department of Health and Human
 Services. SR-485

CANCELLATIONS

OCTOBER 8

9:30 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings on S. 1064, to amend the
 Alaska National Interest Lands Con-
 servation Act to more effectively man-
 age visitor service and fishing activity
 in Glacier Bay National Park. SD-366

OCTOBER 29

9:30 a.m.
 Indian Affairs
 To resume oversight hearings on pro-
 posals to reform the management of In-
 dian trust funds.
 Room to be announced