EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARLY RESULTS OF WELFARE REFORM

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, even though it has been in effect for less than a month, the historic welfare reform bill passed by Congress and signed into law last year by the President has already yielded dramatic results. The February 11, 1997, Wall Street Journal details how one county in Oklahoma has seen its welfare caseload drop 30 percent in the last year. According to the Journal "The story is much the same in the rest of the United States."

The Journal details that just the news of changes in welfare have spurred recipients to changing behavior in numerous ways, including finishing education, reporting for training, and finding jobs. This story confirms what proponents of welfare reform long believed: The old system left people trapped and gave them no incentive to improve their lives. Reform has already given individuals a spark for real change.

I submit the full article into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 11, 1997]

OKLAHOMA'S POOR GET THE MESSAGE, OPT OUT OF THE WELFARE SYSTEM

(By Dana Milbank)

SAPULPA, OKLA.—In the Oklahoma land grabs of a century ago, a few sneaky settlers grabbed old Indian territory for themselves before the law allowed, thus earning the nickname "Sooners." These days, thousands of Sooners are again jumping the gun, this time by denying themselves welfare benefits far ahead of the government cutoff.

Oklahoma's welfare rolls have declined by more than 30% since March of 1994. In Creek County, of which Sapulpa is the seat, the caseload fell 30% last year. The healthy economy accounts for much of the drop. But in Oklahoma and throughout much of the country, something else is happening: Poor people are "absolutely petrified," says Raydene Walker, who trains welfare recipients at her vocational school in Sapulpa. Talk of cutbacks, she says, "has put some fire behind them. Some who were absolutely resistant have come in and said, 'What am I going to do?' "

A NATIONWIDE REDUCTION

The story is much the same in the rest of the U.S. Nationally, the number of people on the core welfare program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, declined 18% from a peak of 14.4 million in March 1994 to 11.8 million in October 1996.

What makes these figures surprising is that the tough new federal welfare law—which mandates lifetime limits of five years for those on public assistance and a cutoff after two years for most of those who don't work—won't begin to jettison welfare recipients until late 1998. Oklahoma hasn't even passed a welfare law to comply with the new federal legislation. Creek County started a publicity campaign months ago to warn people about possible changes. But it hadn't kicked any legitimate recipients off the rolls until last week, and that sanction was limited to one person, who had failed to seek job-training or contact prospective employers.

The growing economy can't explain the whole drop-off. The national caseload decline is the largest, in absolute numbers and on a percentage basis, since AFDC began six decades ago. More-powerful expansions than the current one have failed to produce the same level of caseload reductions.

"THE BIG MISCONCEPTION"

Because only a handful of states have been expelling welfare recipients, officials in many states point to another explanation: a fundamental change in the attitude of their clientele. Spurred by the welfare-reform debate, some recipients are finding work long before the law requires. Many prospective recipients aren't bothering to secure benefits in the first place, even when they qualify.

"The big misconception about welfare reform is that they are shutting down the welfare system, cutting everyone off," says Tanya Warner, a senior caseworker in Wilmington, Del. "People come in afraid this is the last public assistance check they will get." Peggy Torno, who runs the welfare program in Kansas City, Mo., says the message has sunk in: "Last week I went to our jobs center to find someone who did not know about the tougher laws. I couldn't find anyone who didn't know the law had changed."

Advocates for the poor worry that some people eligible for public assistance are being driven away by scare stories and false rumors. They also note that some recipients are forgoing promising training to look for work immediately—a step that may land them in dead-end jobs and short-circuit a long-term escape from poverty. But others in Oklahoma and elsewhere hail the change as evidence of social progress.

The changes came quickly to Creek County, a slice of the Bible Belt stretching southwest from Tulsa over 930 square miles. The county of 60,000 is mostly rural and, despite a relatively low unemployment rate of 4.2%, bears few outward signs of prosperity. According to 1994 estimates, the county's per capita income was $15,075, compared with Oklahoma's $17,610.

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

When it comes to welfare overhaul, Creek County has relied largely on the bully pulpit. In October 1995, caseworkers began telling all recipients to apply for jobs—usually eight to 10 a week—before they could apply for benefits. Recipients also were warned that time limits were on the way, but that was a bluff, because the limits didn't even become law for an additional 10 months. After the federal law passed, the state mailed letters to recipients warning that "if you refuse to participate in work activities. . . your case will be closed."

County officials summoned every welfare recipient for a one-on-one meeting about the new get-tough policy, including the likelihood of time limits. A large, handwritten sign was installed at the agency's reception desk. "Notice," it says, "AFDC applicants will be required to participate in job search Immediately."

Local media joined the chorus. "The timer starts running Oct. 1 for welfare recipients," the Tulsa World warned last fall in a front-page story, referring to federal time limits on eligibility. "For welfare recipients in Oklahoma, the clock is ticking," echoed the Sapulpa Herald.

In the first two months after Creek County started its tough talk, the number of new applicants for AFDC dropped by about half. During the past 15 months, 45% of first-time AFDC applicants didn't return to the office after hearing about the new time limits and the local requirement for recipients to contact prospective employers while getting benefits.

Melinda Jones heard about the new federal law from her mother, who regularly watches the evening news. Since last year, the 39-year-old Ms. Jones, who cares for her two grandchildren, had discussed welfare reform with friends. She is scared.

"If I don't find a job, they cut you off," she says, snapping her finger. She thinks other benefits are doomed, too. "I heard by word of mouth they're just cutting out food stamps totally," she says. Even subsidies for day care, she hears, will be terminated.

Her fears, particularly those about child care and food stamps, are exaggerated. The children wouldn't lose food stamps even if Ms. Jones does, and the new law calls for increased spending on day care. But the talk had its effect: Ms. Jones, who has a fourth-grade education and failed twice to get a high school general equivalency diploma, or GED, has returned to training with new vigor.

The new attitudes quickly became evident in welfare offices. Rolls began shrinking so fast, "we wondered if we'd have a job," recalls Connie Turner, who interviews applicants. Wanda Watson, another interviewer, recalls handing an applicant a list of 10 employers he would have to apply to before receiving his check. "He stood up," uttered some epithets "and walked right out," she says.

THE RUMOR MILL

Welfare rumors, often unfounded, spread quickly among those in public housing in Creek County. "A lot of people I know have been cut off," government-housing resident Cheryl Bowman says. That statement wasn't accurate, for it was made before Feb. 1, when the county began culling its rolls of those who refused to apply for jobs. But Ms. Bowman stepped up her job training anyway and found work as a physical-therapy assistant. "I don't want to be stuck at McDonald's,"she explains. She is due to leave the welfare roll in a month.

In a recent application session, welfare prospect Kim Nance seemed surprised as a county interviewer rattled off the new restrictions: the time limits mandated by Congress, and the county's requirement to apply for 10 jobs a week. "You begin tomorrow" looking for work, the caseworker orders. Ms.

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Nance responds repeatedly with "OK." But when the interviewer leaves, she is deflated. "It will be hard to get used to," Ms. Nance says. On the list of employers in her hand, she sees only two in her hometown. "Hopefully, I can get hired right there."

Ms. Nance did get a job with a nursing home in her town, one of the employers on the list. She called the welfare office to tell them about her job, and her case was never put on the roll.

Some advocates for the poor say that confusion over the new regulations has scared off some who are eligible—and needy. But in Creek County, officials say, many of those, like Ms. Nance, disqualified themselves after finding jobs. Others already had "underground" jobs—baby-sitting, housecleaning, working a booth at the flea market—and may not have deserved benefits in the first place. Officials here figure as many as half of all recipients have such off-the-books jobs; the $307 monthly payment for a parent of two children, after all, isn't much to live on. "We're discouraging the marginal, extra-money folks, a lot of those who didn't need it," says Wayne Thiltgen, a creek County caseworker.

As recipients' attitudes are changing, so is the administrators' thinking. Dee Anne Ruggs, who oversees the former AFDC program (now called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) for Creek County, even set up a "Super Bowl" competition to see which caseworker could get the most people into school, job-training programs or work. The winner, Mr. Thiltgen, got an ice-cream sundae.

"WHY WOULDN'T THEY BE SCARED?"

Though he says he doesn't try to scare his clients, Mr. Thiltgen is aware of the underlying fear. "I'm using that to my advantage," he says. "The idea in the community is that we're going to kick everybody off." Ironically, he says, some of those responsible for the panic are welfare activists who direly predict a wave of misery following reform. "Listening to these sound bites on the news, my God, why wouldn't they be scared?" Mr. Thiltgen says of his clients.

Despite the declining rolls, Creek County still faces the challenge of hardcore cases, including those with multigenerational dependency, without education or addicted to drugs or alcohol. The new federal law allows 20% of the caseload to be exempt from time limits because of such problems, but that may not cover all the hard-luck cases.

Tarlina Turner, 31, knows about the new law. She was reared in a family on welfare, has received AFDC in her own right for the past 10 years, and lives with her diabetic mother and three children in a home that is little more than a shack beside a dirt road outside Bristow, Okla.

"Don't mind the chicken poop," she says, leading a visitor past the chickens, dog and cat on the porch and into her home, where tape plugs ceiling leaks. Her ailing mother needs to have her nearby, and Ms. Turner doesn't have a car. Meanwhile, county officials support her claim that there is neither work nor public transportation nearby.

Ms. Turner has already come within days of being cut off, agreeing at the last minute to join a job-training program. "I better get up and get work; I don't have a choice," she says. But she has little confidence in her prospects.

Another unanswered question about the rapid caseload reduction is how many of those who have moved off welfare are working in secure jobs. If some of these former recipients can't hold their jobs, the case reductions could prove temporary.

Even those working aren't always confident. Karen Michael, on AFDC for two years, says she was "extremely worried" about the time limits and used the deadline to motivate herself to finish training as a licensed practical nurse. She now makes $9.75 an hour as a nurse. Yet, faced with the loss of Medicaid, food stamps and child-care benefits because of her earned income, she finds herself only marginally better off than when she was on welfare.

Ms. Michael had to forgo plans to get her registered-nurse degree, which would allow her to earn more than $20 an hour and perhaps leave poverty for good. If not for the pressure of time limits, she says, she probably would still be in school. She would still be on welfare, but she might also have a better chance of staying off permanently. "The option," she says, "was not there."

SALUTING MONIQUE ALITA GREENWOOD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to introduce my House colleague to Monique Alita Greenwood, a superb editor and entrepreneur in my congressional district.

Monique was the first editor-in-chief and publisher of color at Fairchild Publications, where she conceived Children's Business, a monthly trade magazine. Her direct efforts greatly helped to open the doors of the modeling industry to children of color.

Since February 1996, she has served as the editorial style director of Essence magazine. During her tenure she has revamped the fashion pages, giving them more impact and making them more serviceable to Essence readers.

Monique is the owner of Akwaaba, a bed and breakfast mansion in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Her Afrocentric business opened in 1995, and it has been the subject of considerable press coverage.

A devoted mother and wife, Monique is a pillar of the community. She is married to Glen Pogue and they have a 5-year-old son, Glynn. Despite her hectic schedule, Monique is active in local organizations and is the cofounder and national president of a literary society of African-American women. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Howard University, and is a former recipient of a Points of Light Award from former President Bush.

RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS FOR AMERICAN SAMOANS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will afford U.S. nationals the opportunity to participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship programs.

Under current law, American Samoans born in American Samoa are considered U.S. nationals. These are persons who owe their allegiance to the United States, but are not U.S. citizens. Persons born in American Samoa are the only persons in the world who are given this status, as persons born on all other United States soil may become United States citizens by right of birth.

Also under current law, only U.S. citizens are authorized to enlist in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or ROTC for short, scholarship programs, and only U.S. citizens are eligible to become military and naval officers.

The legislation I am introducing today would require U.S. national residents residing in a State of the United States and desiring to apply for a ROTC scholarship program, to file an application to become a naturalized citizen within 60 days of being accepted into the program. The legislation would also require U.S. nationals who are not residents of a State of the United States, to become a resident of a State, and to file an application to become a naturalized citizen within 60 days of becoming a resident as defined in our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation strikes a fair balance between two competing interests. On the one hand, it gives the residents of American Samoa the same opportunities to become military and naval officers as the residents of the States and the other territories. On the other hand, while keeping the requirement that all military and naval officers be U.S. citizens, it requires U.S. nationals to prove their willingness to serve our country in a timely manner, thereby ensuring that taxpayer dollars are not spent on someone who will later prove ineligible for service.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a copy of the legislation with my statement.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

Section 2104(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or national" after "citizen";

(2) at the end of paragraph (6), by striking "and";

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

"(8) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

"(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421–1459), become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the program for advanced training; and

"(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

"(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

"(ii) the date that he is accepted into the program for advanced training.".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

(a) GENERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2107(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or national" after "citizen;"

(2) at the end of paragraph (4), by striking "and";

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

"(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421–1459) become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the financial assistance program; and

"(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

"(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

"(ii) the date that he is accepted into the financial assistance program.".

(b) ARMY RESERVE AND ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2107a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting "or national" after "citizen";

(2) at the end of paragraph (5), by striking "and";

(3) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) if he is a national but not a citizen of the United States, agree in writing that he will—

"(A) if he is not a resident of a State (within the meaning of chapter 2 of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act; 8 U.S.C. 1421–1459), become a resident of a State (within such meaning) before commencing the financial assistance program; and

"(B) file an application for naturalization within 60 days after the later of—

"(i) the date that he meets the requirements for naturalization in section 316(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436); or

("(ii) the date that he is accepted into the financial assistance program.".

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 12102(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "or" the first place such term appears;

(2) by inserting a comma after "United States" the first place such term appears; and

(3) by inserting ", or is a national of the United States eligible (as provided in sections 2104(b), 2107(b), or 2107a(b) of this title) for advanced training in, or financial assistance as a member of, the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps" after the close parenthesis.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Democratic leadership's proposal to add children's health care to the priorities we address this session.

Today more than 10 million American children have no health insurance coverage.

On Tuesday, the New York Times reported that over the past 5 years the number of children without insurance has risen twice as fast as the number of adults.

Most of these are the children of working families earning between $15,000 and $45,000 per year.

In my State, the Maine Health Care Commission estimated that in 1996, 36,000 Maine children had no health insurance coverage.

Ninety-one percent of Maine's uninsured children live in families with at least one working parent.

Ten million American children relying on emergency room treatment instead of a family doctor is wrong—and expensive.

We can and must do better.

This Congress should encourage kids only insurance policies and expand basic Medicaid coverage to uninsured children.

PRESS FREEDOM IN HONG KONG

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, last week I reintroduced a bill that is intended to provide a special immigration status for journalists working in Hong Kong, in the event that there is a crackdown on the press after this British colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty on midnight, June 30, 1997.

The human rights community and the business community may have different views about the future of Hong Kong, but everyone agrees that maintaining freedom of the press and the free flow of information in Hong Kong is essential to protecting its way of life. The economic miracle of Hong Kong is fed by the free flow of information, not only about market activities and economic trends, but about what is going on in the world. As we all know, in mainland China, the press is not free to report on whatever it sees fit. The state tightly controls the media and does not hesitate to imprison or otherwise censure legitimate journalists who are attempting to report on important events within and outside China. This rough treatment is not limited to the domestic Chinese media, but extends to foreign media as well. But while foreign journalists have the protection of their own governments, the domestic press corps does not have this luxury.

Today in Hong Kong, the press is one of the freest in the world. Hong Kong proudly boasts that they have more newspapers per capita than anywhere on Earth. Yet this free-wheeling, open society will soon become part of an authoritarian regime which views the media with distrust, if not outright animosity. When these two views of the press collide, unfortunately, problems may arise. While it is my strongest hope that China will realize the important role that the media plays in Hong Kong and live up to its obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration, I am not so optimistic to believe that Beijing will graciously tolerate critical media coverage.

There have already been disturbing statements by high-ranking Chinese officials concerning limits on the press. Blacklisting of journalists, restrictions on what can be reported, and the arrest of Hong Kong journalists in China have sent shockwaves through the journalistic community in Hong Kong. My discussions with journalists during previous trips to Hong Kong in 1989 and 1992 prompted me to first introduce this legislation in the 103d Congress. While I was there this January, I again met with a group of journalists and they expressed their concerns about the type of pressure they already see coming from Beijing. Economic blackmail and loss of access are real problems for these persons whose livelihood depends on getting a story.

Freedom of the press is something that we take for granted here in the United States. We know how important a free press is to preserving our democratic institutions and fueling the engine of economic growth. This legislation will send a strong message that the Congress and the people of the United States are watching what happens to journalists in Hong Kong and that what happens to them is important to us, not only because of the impact it has on United States economic interests there, but because freedom of the press is something that we deeply believe in. It will also send the journalists of Hong Kong a message that they have a safety valve, that they can continue to do their jobs with a measure of protection, and contribute to the unique and remarkable way of life that Hong Kong has enjoyed for so many years.

I commend this important legislation to my colleagues and ask for their support.

OFF WELFARE: THE MENTAL MIGRATION

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, to all colleagues concerned about welfare, I commend to you the February 14, 1997, article by Washington Post writer William Raspberry. He points out that welfare will not change, in fact, cannot change unless there is a spiritual and mental dimension to any assistance provided to the recipient.

Raspberry quotes Robert Woodson, Sr., head of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise,

> What we need is to establish a new migratory pattern . . . The people who went from rural Mississippi to Detroit did so because they kept getting positive feedback from those who'd already made the trip. The photographs, the sophistication, the Cadillacs rented for trips back home—all these produced a culture of expectation. People looked and said, "Hey, he's no smarter than I am. I could do it, too."

Woodson and Raspberry are not talking about a geographic migration for those on welfare, but a mental one—from one attitude to another. This article demonstrates that the responsibility lies not merely with the welfare recipients, but with all of us. We must all be prepared to spread the news when welfare reform works; we must share the success stories, to encourage those who are still hesitant and unsure of themselves.

I enter Mr. Raspberry's column into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 14, 1997]

OFF WELFARE: THE MENTAL MIGRATION

(By William Raspberry)

Years ago, somebody figured it out. Trying to make it on a tiny family farm is desperate work; share-cropping is worse, and there's not much employment to be had in the nearby towns. But I've heard (from relatives, friends or news reports) that there are good union jobs to be had in the steel industry. I think I'll save up bus fare, ask my cousin to put me up for a while, and head to Pittsburgh.

That calculus, multiplied thousands of times, produced a South-to-North, farm-to-city migration that continued even after the decline both of unions and of the steel industry took away much of the logic.

It frequently happens that way. Decisions reached with some deliberation by a few become cultural patterns for the many, building habits that survive even after the reasons for them have been forgotten.

It will almost certainly happen that way with welfare reform. It may be inappropriate to compare long-term welfare recipients with refugees from the tenant farms. But they do have in common that they availed themselves of the best options they were able to perceive—and that the choices of some became habits for others.

The logic of welfare reform—welfare repeal, some call it—is that the best way to force better choices is to reduce the number of bad options. If it becomes a matter of work or starve, the reasoning goes, everybody will work.

But for many long-term recipients, nonwork has been more the product of habit than of calculation. Thousands of people, I'm convinced, are afraid of work, in the sense that they doubt their ability to survive in a world that demands skills and attitudes they may not possess. They may talk of being unwilling to work for the "chump change" of entry-level work, but it may be the demands of the workplace and not the low pay that frightens them.

What can be done?

"What we need is to establish a new migratory pattern," Robert L. Woodson Sr. said when I put the question to him. "The people who went from rural Mississippi to Detroit did so because they keep getting positive feedback from those who'd already made the trip. The photographs, the sophistication, the Cadillacs rented for trips back home—all these produced a culture of expectation. People looked and said, 'Hey, he's no smarter than I am. I could do it, too.'"

Actually, says Woodson, president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, the necessary migration has been underway for sometime—not from one place to another but from one attitude to another. "Five women who might have grown fat and indolent in public housing started a tentative migration toward tenant management, responsible behavior and college for their children, sparking an important national movement. Thousands of others have quietly decided to leave the life of dependency and take a tentative step into the world of work."

Unfortunately, the media and the policy establishment tend to focus on those who don't join the migration rather than on those who do. As a result, the feedback isn't there. Many poor people don't know that they could start at the bottom and gradually work their way up, and the rest of us see only laziness, not doubt or fear.

Woodson thinks we should take advantage of the two-years-and-out provision of welfare reform to help present welfare recipients overcome their fears. How? By using as a resource those friends and neighbors who've already begun the migration away from dependency. "We need to look to people in those same neighborhoods who've made the move, whose children are not dropping out of school or dealing dope or getting in trouble, to show the others what is possible. We need to tell them maybe they could quit their job at the phone company or as a hotel maid and work full-time helping their peers find their way out. It would be well worth whatever we had to pay them."

Gradually, the reasoned behavior of the few could become patterns for the many, and most would be far better off than before.

But not all. It is altogether predictable that some will go on making behavioral choices as though the welfare safety net is still in place long after it has been taken down and quietly packed away. They and their children will suffer, at least until the new habits take hold. What should we do about them in the meantime?

Woodson doesn't know. He only knows that it makes more sense to build public policy on the vast majority than on the intractable few.

TRIBUTE TO JULIA L. JAMES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight the contributions of Julia James, the sixth of nine children born to Reverend and Mrs. Henry R. James, who encouraged her to be independent and courageous.

In her life, Julia has chosen a professional path in the field of accounting, and is a Certified Public Accountant [CPA] in the State of New York. She earned an M.B.A. from New York University and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Institute of Management Accountants. Mrs. James has established an accounting practice that provides accounting expertise to local businesses and community organizations.

A dedicated community worker, Julia serves as a member of Community School Board District No. 18, which represents the East Flatbush and Canarsie areas of Brooklyn. She is also the chairperson of the East Brooklyn Community Organization which is a community based organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of residents in East Flatbush. I am pleased to recognize her personal achievements and community involvement.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT ENCOURAGEMENT ACT

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill which will provide concrete steps to restore accountability, efficiency, and fairness to our Federal civil justice system, the Alternative Dispute Resolution and Settlement Encouragement Act. This legislation will implement a more complete, fair, and effective policy than exists at present to favor alternative means of resolving disputes and to encourage compromise by parties to Federal litigation. The effect of these changes will be to: First, provide for a quicker, more efficient way to resolve some Federal cases when the parties so choose; second, lessen the incentive to litigate and consequently the caseload burdens faced by the Federal judiciary; and third, assure that only meritorious and justiciable cases supported by scientific facts be adjudicated in Federal courts.

This legislation would require all Federal district courts to establish an arbitration program, which in the discretion of the court could be either voluntary or mandatory. In 1988 Congress enacted chapter 44 of title 28 U.S.C. in order to authorize 10 pilot programs of mandatory court annexed arbitration that were in operation in the Federal courts, as well as to authorize 10 additional districts, which were to be selected later by the U.S. Judicial Conference, for voluntary programs. The legislation further required that the Federal Judicial Center [FJC] submit a report on the implementation of the act, which it transmitted to Congress on October 4, 1991. Based upon this study, the Federal Judicial Center recommended to Congress that it enact a provision authorizing all Federal courts to adopt, in their discretion, local rules for arbitration to be mandatory or voluntary in the discretion of various courts. This bill does just that.

The goal of court-annexed arbitration is to provide more options for litigants, while reducing cost, delay, and court burden. In addition, it is the only option that provides to litigants in cases where smaller amounts are in controversy the opportunity for an early advisory adjudication on the merits of the case.

In addition to creating more opportunities for alternative dispute resolution, this bill will also encourage parties to settle their cases by offering an incentive to accept good offers of settlement. This section of the legislation, developed in the last Congress by Representative BOB GOODLATTE of Virginia, a senior member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property, would amend 28 U.S.C. section 1332, the provision granting diversity jurisdiction in U.S. district courts, by creating an incentive triggered by an offer of settlement. The intent of this procedure is to encourage and facilitate the early settlement of lawsuits and reduce protracted litigation. The offer of settlement procedure would allow a party to make, by filing with the court in writing and serving on an adverse party, at any time up to 10 days before trial, a formal offer to settle any or all claims in a suit for a specified amount. If the offer of settlement is accepted, the claim or claims are resolved pursuant to the terms of the agreement. If the offer is rejected, however, and the offeree does not obtain a judgment, order, or verdict more favorable than that offered on the applicable claims, the offeree is liable for the costs and attorney's fees of the offeror for those claims from the date the last offer was made by the adverse party. Usually this will be for

an amount including costs of up to 10 days before trial.

There are two exceptions to the requirement that a court award costs and attorneys fees. The first exception would allow the court to exempt certain individual cases based upon express findings that the case presents novel and important questions of law or fact and that it substantially affects nonparties. The second instance where a court would not be required to award costs and attorney's fees or may reduce such costs or fees would be when it finds that it would be manifestly unjust to do so.

This bill would not necessarily require an offeree to pay the entire amount of the offerer's attorney's fees. Rather, it would limit the offeree's liability for the offeror's attorney's fees to an amount not exceeding the amount the offeree paid its own attorney. If the offeree hired its attorney on a contingency basis—an agreement in which a plaintiff does not pay unless it prevails—and, because it lost, paid its attorney nothing, then it would be liable for the offeror's attorney's fees up to the amount that would have been incurred by the offeree for an attorney's noncontingency fee. This will encourage accurate reporting and maintenance of hourly work and costs by attorneys hired under a contingency agreement, since a fee petition containing hours worked must be presented to the court within 10 days of entry of a final judgment, order, or verdict on a claim in order to collect such costs and attorney's fees.

The House passed this settlement encouragement legislation last Congress, and I am convinced it will prove to be a valuable resource to both parties to Federal litigation and to the courts in promoting quick and fair settlement.

This legislation would also amend rule 702 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, which allows expert witnesses to testify as to their expert opinions with respect to scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge. Such evidence may have an enormous impact on a jury's decision because of its nature. Accordingly, assuring that such evidence is valid and reliable is of utmost importance. With that in mind, the amendment would make a scientific opinion inadmissible unless it is:

First, scientifically valid and reliable; second, has a valid scientific connection to the fact it is offered to prove; and third, sufficiently reliable so that the probative value of such evidence outweighs the dangers specified in Federal rule of Evidence 403.

The standard for admissibility of scientific expert testimony was most recently addressed by the Supreme Court in *Daubert* v. *Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.,* 113 S.Ct. 2786 (1993), on remand, No. 90–55397 (9th Cir., Jan. 4, 1995, Kozinski, J.). In that case, the Supreme Court held that rule 702 does not require that scientific evidence have general acceptance in the relevant scientific community to be admissible. Rather, the Court held that the rule requires that expert testimony rest on a reliable foundation; that is, the methodology from which the evidence is derived must be based on scientific knowledge and be relevant to the task at hand; that is, it must assist the trier of fact and have a logical scientific nexus to the subject matter of the suit or other admitted evidence.

This legislation would serve to codify and is meant to complement the standards established in Daubert by the Supreme Court. It requires that the methodology from which scientific evidence is derived be based on scientific knowledge and that it have a logical, scientific nexus to the subject matter of the suit or other admitted evidence.

Finally, this bill would make expert testimony inadmissible if the witness is entitled to receive any compensation contingent on the legal disposition of any claim with respect to which such testimony is offered. The reason for this provision is that an expert witness who receives a contingency fee is less likely to furnish reliable testimony than one who receives a flat or hourly fee since he or she has a vested interest in the outcome of the litigation. The provision would exclude evidence if the witness receives any contingency fee, even if such fee is not a percentage of the judgment or settlement, but rather is a flat fee or hourly fee the payment of which is contingent upon the legal disposition of the claim.

This bill will prevent trial lawyers from taking advantage of the court system. If there is a consensus in the scientific community that a hazard or risk—usually of a product—is real or substantial, the trial lawyers will implore that consensus to support complaints for compensatory and punitive damages. If the consensus in the scientific community is that a hazard or risk is trivial or imaginary, however, the same lawyers should not be able to brush that fact aside and find fringe experts to testify otherwise. Even in cases where real hazards exist, trial lawyers will attempt to stretch claims beyond validity in order to collect punitive damages. By creating a presumption of inadmissibility, rebutted by the standards created by the Supreme Court in Daubert, along with a lower standard of prejudice, an amended rule 702 will be effective in weeding out junk science as evidence in our Federal courtrooms.

These amendments to rule 702 would apply only to civil and not criminal cases. They would most frequently be used in product liability cases. This will prevent frustration in the important use of scientific evidence such as blood-type analysis and DNA testing in criminal proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of this legislation to our Federal courts cannot be underestimated. Congress must play a key role in affording Federal litigants efficient, quick, and fair adjudication of their claims. This bill will move us firmly in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO THE BLACK BEAUTICIANS HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in applauding a new preventive health program. The University of California at San Diego's [UCSD] Cancer Center has been awarded a $300,000 grant for the Black Beauticians Health Promotion Program. The program, sponsored by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, recruits and trains beauticians working in neighborhood beauty salons to educate their clients on the importance of breast cancer screening and other health lifestyles.

In the pilot study conducted by the UCSD Cancer Center, eight African-American beauticians attempted to determine whether beauticians can serve as educators for health information of special concern to their black clients. The study also questioned whether these beauticians would be able to motivate their clients to adopt health promotion behaviors, such as weight control and smoking cessation. The study was a great success.

Many may ask why beauticians were selected as the messenger in an effort to reach this high-risk population. In many cases, beauticians are well integrated members of the community, and a personal relationship has already been established with each client. Furthermore, the beauty salon is an establishment which many women frequent, and is an environment where personal discussions are quite common. In short, many women and men of all races visit their barber or beautician more frequently than they do their own doctor.

Mr. Speaker, as it now stands, African-American women are at high risk for breast cancer and other serious illnesses. In addition, their mortality rates are disproportionately high as compared to other races. The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation grant will be used to permit a statistical evaluation of this educational intervention program's potential impact over a longer period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to bring this grant to the attention to the House, and I am sure that my colleagues join me in honoring the accomplishments of the University of California at San Diego's Cancer Center, in conjunction with the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation.

LEGISLATION INCLUDING SAMOA IN THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ACT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to include American Samoa in the Federal Home Loan Bank Act.

For decades there has been inadequate capital available to provide home loans to the qualified residents of American Samoa wishing to make loans to build homes or additions. As Samoa moved toward a credit economy, the mainland financial community had many questions which needed to be answered before they were willing to lend money in Samoa: Would the Samoans pay back their loans? Would the local courts enter judgments against locals in favor of banks? would the chiefs of communal lands permit purchasers of leasehold interests to reside on communal properties?

Each question seemed insurmountable, but over the years we have overcome these hurdles, and today there is only one impediment

left—a lack of funding at reasonable rates for home loans. Other rural areas have solved this problem by membership in a Federal home loan bank. In fact, the Federal Home Loan Bank Act makes membership available to banks in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. In enacting the original legislation, remote American Samoa, one of the areas most in need, was again left in the woods.

The legislation I am introducing today makes a technical change to the definitions section to include American Samoa within the definition of a State. This small change will enable the FDIC-insured local banks to join a Federal home loan bank and gain access to a new source of funding to make loans to the residents in American Samoa. I hope my colleagues will join me in making this small change in the law which will have a significant, beneficial impact on American Samoa.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF "STATE".

Section 2(3) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1422(3)) is amended by inserting "American Samoa," after "Puerto Rico,".

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHANNON BYRDSONG, MISS BLACK ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Miss Black Alaska for her success at the national Miss Black USA Pageant. Shannon Byrdsong represented Alaska well last Sunday February 23, 1997. Shannon is from Fairbanks, AK and is currently a student at the University of Oklahoma. Her parents, George and Vallie Byrdsong, made the trip from Alaska to proudly watch as their daughter advanced through the pageant held here locally at Howard University. After two nights of competition, Shannon ended as one of the top 15 finalists.

While in the finals, Shannon was awarded both the Presidential Award and the Fundraiser Award. The Presidential Award was to honor Shannon for her strong leadership abilities. It was to award her for contributions to the community, while maintaining strong academic achievement. The Fundraiser Award was for accomplishing the most community support. It is significant to acknowledge this award, as young women competed from large States like California, Florida, and Texas. This support speaks a great deal about Shannon Byrdsong, as well as, the community she calls home.

WARD CONNERLY'S CAUSE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to my colleagues the following article by syndicated columnist Ben Wattenberg. Wattenberg is a life-long Democrat, but recognizes that our Nation cannot thrive in the 21st century if we continue to count ourselves by race and gender. Wattenberg identifies the heroic work of California's Ward Connerly in spreading this message across the Nation. I submit Ben Wattenberg's column into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and urge my colleagues to read it.

[From the Washington Times, Feb. 20, 1997]

WARD CONNERLY'S CAUSE

(By Ben Wattenberg)

In California during the election season last year, Ward Connerly led the California Civil Rights Initiative (Proposition 209) to victory. The attacks on Mr. Connerly were ferocious and personal.

Watching Mr. Connerly elicit war whoops from a mostly conservative audience in Washington, it is apparent why the attacks on him during the election were so nasty. Mr. Connerly is a black man who is a serious threat to establishment civil-rights activists. He fights back. He reminds us there is more than one high-minded side to the race question in America.

He is a strong speaker with conservative Reaganite views on more issues than affirmative action, or if you prefer, preference. He has a biting sense of humor and speaks to a theme supported by a large majority of Americans. By the time he ended his remarks, the testimonial dinner audience organized by the Independent Women's Forum (IWF) buzzed with the question that counts in Washington: "What will he run for?"

Mr. Connerly is not happy with Jesse Jackson, the leading sound bite on the pro-preference side—for both substantive and personal reasons. Mr. Connerly is a member of the California Board of Regents. He recalled that when he was pushing to do away with preference in college admissions, Mr. Jackson had come to a board meeting, asked for a prayer to begin the session, and then called Mr. Connerly a "house slave" and "a puppet of the white man."

Newt Gingrich was in the audience at the IWF event, along with Rep. Henry Hyde, Sen Phil Gramm and other GOP political figures. Mr. Connerly said he approved of Mr. Gingrich's invitation to Mr. Jackson to sit with Mrs. Gingrich during the State of the Union address—long pause—if Mrs. Gingrich could endure being with Mr. Jackson for the duration of a Clinton speech. He thought that if Mr. Gingrich had invited Mr. Jackson in the spirit of bipartisanship, then President Clinton should invite Mr. Connerly to spend the night in the Lincoln Bedroom—pause—and waive the $100,000 fee.

He took note of the firestorm caused by the remark of Rep. J.C. Watts, Jr., a fellow black conservative. who had characterized some putatively unnamed black leaders as "race-hustling poverty pimps." He observed that Mr. Watts prays with Mr. Jackson, and offered some advice: "J.C., when you pray with Jesse, don't close your eyes."

Political Washington loves this raw meat, particularly after a few drinks. But Mr. Connerly spoke substance as well. He recalled his childhood in segregated, Louisiana and the signs in roadside restaurants: "We do not serve colored." But Mr. Connerly also remembers the people who helped him get ahead as a teen-ager in Bremerton, Wash., working downtown in a fabric store after school. He blesses the country that let him rise to affluence as a California businessman.

He says there are times to look forward, not backward to go beyond the poison of racism, slavery and segregation, and to get on with life. He rejects membership in the "victims club of America" and says a better America cannot be built when "our government allocates opportunities on the basis of skin color, genitalia and the spelling of last names."

This is the race-neutral side of the civil-rights argument. As, and if it gains further currency, it can shatter the monopoly of the racial political now seen in the Democratic Party.

Although invited, no Democratic members of Congress showed up at the IWF dinner. Not coincidentally, the flexible Mr. Clinton has shown no flexibility on affirmative action (neither ending, nor mending). Mr. Clinton has even taken the bizarre stance that Proposition 209 is unconstitutional, putting the government in the incredible position of saying that antidiscrimination is against the law.

Mr. Connerly was scalded by opponents during the epic fight to overturn preferences. He also has sharp comments for some expected allies who jumped ship when the seas got rough, saying, well, 209 wasn't really nuanced enough (this, of language that essentially replicates the words of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). Mr. Connerly says, "Our political system has more cowards per capita than at any time in our history." Maybe. But Mr. Connerly is a refutation of his own analysis.

Let it be granted that it is a complicated and exasperating issue. The tough language will probably continue on both sides. Mr. Gingrich spoke, enthusiastically endorsing the language of a previous speaker who described the current situation as "affirmative racism." Mr. Gingrich pledged to pursue an end to it.

Until now the colorblind point of view did not have a credible high-profile national spokesman. That hurt their cause and the national dialogue. Mr. Connerly, uniquely, has the talent, passion, history and guts to become the champion of the second side.

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT L.A. REAVES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Pastor Robert Lee Adams Reaves, born on December 29, 1964, in Bennettsville, SC. He received his calling to the ministry at the age of 14. For 18 years, he has been preaching and teaching the word of God.

Prior to God's assigning Pastor Reaves to the Cedar Church, he served as pastor of the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Bennettsville, SC. In 1993, the Holy Spirit directed him to the Elim International Fellowship where he submitted to the leadership and tutelage of

Archbishop Wilbert S. McKinley, and served as associate pastor.

Pastor Reaves is a graduate of Morris College, with a degree in sociology, which he received in 1987. He also received pastoral counseling training. While at Elim, he attended the Elim Institute.

Reverend Reaves is the father of one son, Robert, Jr. He is also blessed with a lovely wife, Lady Sheryl Reaves.

The Reverend is a visionary who is continuously developing; he is not a traditional leader. His message through preaching and teaching the word of God, challenges the old traditions, and ushers the church into both the presence of, and the order of God. As a man of faith, Reverend Reaves is giving birth to a vision whose time has come. I am pleased to introduce my House colleagues to a truly inspirational spiritual leader.

THE LONG-TERM CAPITAL GAINS SAVINGS ACT

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation, the Long-term Capital Gains Savings Act, that takes an innovative and I believe economically correct approach to capital gains tax policy. This legislation seeks to reward long-term, economically productive investments and encourage Americans to save for the future.

This legislation is identical to S. 306, introduced by Senator WENDELL FORD, and would provide for the maximum capital gains tax rate to be adjusted downward the longer an investment is held by the taxpayer. For every year an asset has been held, the tax rate would be reduced by 2 percentage points down to a rate of 14 percent after 8 years or more. The top rate would remain at 28 percent for investments held less than 2 years.

I also want to point out that this legislation as drafted would apply only to individual taxpayers, and not to corporate taxpayers. I believe this is good fiscal and tax policy because it limits the cost of this legislation and targets tax relief to help middle-income families most in need of this assistance.

For many years we have heard many in business, agriculture, economics, and politics argue that a high capital gain tax rate locks-in capital and discourages investment that might otherwise be put to work in more productive investments and thus spur greater economic activity.

While I have questioned whether capital has remained on the sidelines, I do believe that the low differential between marginal income tax rates and the 28 percent capital gains rate along with the effective tax of inflation does lock-up capital and discourage some investment, particularly in long-term instruments that might otherwise occur. This legislation is aimed to address such inefficiencies in the current code while not providing a windfall for short-term speculation and adding to the deficit.

First, it will reward individual investors who make economically productive long-term investments rather than short-term speculative ones. I believe someone who holds an investment for a long period of time should receive more favorable tax treatment on their gains than someone who turns over assets on a short-term basis. The investment in a fledgling company which takes many years to develop, but could become the next Microsoft, should receive a more favorable benefit than a gain earned over a 6-month period due to a run-up in the capital or credit markets. Further, by ratcheting the rate downward the longer the holding period, we help offset the inflation penalty which results with a fixed rate. And we avoid the difficultly of indexing against the original basis. This legislation will reward investments in small businesses and agriculture, which require long-term commitment and are our Nation's primary engines of economic growth and job creation. It may also effect long-term interest rates in a positive manner. It will encourage Americans to make the investments necessary to start and expand such businesses.

Second, this legislation will provide incentives for Americans to save for the future and prepare for their retirement. There is widespread agreement among economists that our savings rate is too low, slowing our economy and putting at risk the comfortable retirement Americans desire. This legislation will help address this need for increased savings and provide a more secure retirement for Americans in the future.

Most importantly, this legislation will achieve these benefits without putting the goal of a balanced budget out of reach. Broader capital gains tax relief would be simply too costly, requiring offsetting revenue increases or budget cuts that are unrealistic and imprudent. If we try to do too much, we will put a realistic balanced budget out of reach, encouraging the use of gimmicks and rosy scenarios. This legislation represents the kind of capital gains tax relief we can afford in the context of balancing the budget.

This legislation takes a responsible, balanced approach that will encourage prudent investment and savings and reward those who invest for the long-term, while still allowing us to balance the Federal budget. I still believe that our first priority must be to balance the Federal budget. However, I am also of the belief that inclusion of a modest, common-sense capital gains tax relief legislation which is fully paid for can and should be part of this balanced budget.

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, March 4, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 5

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Agriculture's business plan and reorganization management proposals.

SR-332

Labor and Human Resources

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Superfund, Waste Control, and Risk Assessment Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 8, to authorize funds for and reform the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Liability, and Compensation Act of 1980 (Superfund).

SD-406

Rules and Administration

To hold oversight hearings on the operation of the offices of the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms, the Architect of the Capitol, and the National Gallery of Art.

SR-301

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold closed hearings to examine global assessment issues.

SD-124

Armed Services

Airland Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on tactical aviation modernization issues.

SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the work of the Gore Commission.

SR-253

Finance

To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the Medicare program.

SD-215

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to the General Accounting Office high-risk series.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the Congressional Budget Office's analysis of the President's budget for fiscal year 1998.

SD-608

2:00 p.m.

Armed Services

Strategic Forces Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998

for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on defense programs to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

SR–222

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on recruiting and retention policies within the Department of Defense and the military services.

SR–232A

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To resume hearings on the proposed Public Land Management Responsibility and Accountability Restoration Act.

SD–366

Select on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters.

SH–219

3:30 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine legal immigration issues prior to the 1996 Presidential election.

S–146, Capitol

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine issues with regard to competitive change in the electric power industry.

SH–216

Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and innovative transportation financing, technology, construction and design practices.

SD–406

Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management and The District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine Federal tax policy for the District of Columbia.

SD–342

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Jewish War Veterans, the Retired Officers Association, the Association of the U.S. Army, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Blinded Veterans Association.

345 Cannon Building

Special on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the challenges facing retiring babyboomers.

SD–628

10:00 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings on the nomination of Keith R. Hall, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space.

SR–222

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings on the nominations of Yolanda T. Wheat, of Missouri, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, Charles A. Gueli, of Maryland, and Niranjan S. Shah, of Illinois, each to be a Member of the National Institute of Building Sciences, and Jeffrey A. Frankel, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

SD–538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee
Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SR–253

Finance
To hold hearings on proposals to expand Individual Retirement Accounts, including S. 197, proposed Savings and Investment Incentive Act of 1997.

SD–215

Foreign Relations
International Operations Subcommittee
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the United States Information Agency (USIA) and international broadcasting.

SD–419

Judiciary
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD–226

Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings to examine health care quality and consumer protection.

SD–106

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of State.

S–146A, Capitol

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings on the nomination of Karen Shepherd, of Utah, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SD–419

Select on Intelligence
Closed business meeting, on intelligence matters.

SH–219

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce, and Tourism Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine product liability reform, focusing on the implementation of the General Aviation Revitilization Act.

SR–253

Energy and Natural Resources
Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee
To continue hearings on the proposed Public Land Management Responsibility and Accountability Restoration Act.

SD–366

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic
To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for February.

1334 Longworth Building

MARCH 11

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research.

SR–332

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Consumer Information Center, and the Office of Consumer Affairs.

SD–138

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture.

SD–124

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

SD–366

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to the census in the year 2000.

SD–342

10:30 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the Medicaid program.

SD–215

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Small Business Administration.

S–146, Capitol

MARCH 12

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine universal telephone service.

SR–253

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Justice.

S–146, Capitol

MARCH 13

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research.

SR–332

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To resume hearings to examine issues with regard to competitive change in the electric power industry.
SD–G50
Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, focusing on program eligibility.
SD–406

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Commerce.
S–146, Capitol
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the future of the National Park System and to identify and discuss the needs, requirements, and innovative programs that will insure the Park Service will continue to meet its responsibilities well into the next century.
SD–366

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on the nominations of Johnny H. Hayes, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Brig. Gen. Robert Bernard Flowers, USA, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, and Judith M. Espinosa, of New Mexico, and Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, each to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation.
SD–406
Labor and Human Resources
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act.
SD–430

MARCH 18

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research.
SR–332

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
Room to be announced
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for energy research programs of the Department of Energy.
SD–124
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on proposals to authorize State and local governments to enact flow control laws and to regulate the interstate transportation of solid waste.
SD–406

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture.
SD–138
Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings to examine proposals to reform the operation of the Food and Drug Administration.
SD–430

MARCH 19

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, focusing on environmental programs and statewide and metropolitan planning.
SD–406
Labor and Human Resources
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
SD–430
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Disabled American Veterans.
345 Cannon Building

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Securities and Exchange Commission.
S–146, Capitol

MARCH 20

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research.
SR–332

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy.
SD–124
Energy and Natural Resources
To resume hearings to examine issues with regard to competitive change in the electric power industry.
SH–216
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Veterans of World War I, and the Vietnam Veterans of America.
345 Cannon Building

10:00 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act.
SD–430

2:00 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine the future of the National Park System and to identify and discuss the needs, requirements, and innovative programs that will insure the Park Service will continue to meet its responsibilities well into the next century.
SD–366

APRIL 8

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Protection Agency.
SD–138

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Farm Service Agency, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture.
SD–124

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine child pornography issues.
S–146, Capitol

APRIL 10

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration.
S–146, Capitol

APRIL 15

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
SD–138

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center, all of the Department of Agriculture.
SD–124

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on counter-terrorism issues.
S–146, Capitol

APRIL 16

2:00 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Communications Commission.
S–146, Capitol

APRIL 17

1:30 p.m.
Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Supreme Court of the United States and the Judiciary.
S–146, Capitol

APRIL 22

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
SD–192

Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Management Program of the Department of Energy.
SD–124

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, all of the Department of Agriculture.
SD–138

APRIL 24

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.
SD–124

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
SD–138

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Resources.
SD–124

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SD–138

CANCELLATIONS

MARCH 13

10:00 a.m.
Labor and Human Resources
To hold hearings to examine proposals to improve the health status of children.
SD–430