

about the congressional agenda and about how the President will have to deal with Congress.

THE NEW MAKEUP OF CONGRESS

The shift of Congress to Republican control will have a major impact on the legislative agenda.

I hope that one lesson for the new Congress is that both parties recognize they have to treat each other with greater respect. Power imposes responsibility, and it is much tougher to govern than make calls from the bleachers. I hope one result of the election is to make politicians think about Congress as an institution and what needs to be done to improve it.

Members of Congress also need to get a firmer grasp on the difference between doing what is right for tomorrow and what is politically popular for today. We have to get a longer-term perspective into our politics. We must ask what our country is going to be like when we reach the twenty-first century, how we can keep the economy strong and prosperous, and how we can assure that our children have jobs and opportunity for personal fulfillment.

THE MOOD OF THE COUNTRY

The current mood of the country also shapes what issues will be tackled by the 104th Congress.

The mood of the country is often described as anti-government. My own judgement is that Americans primarily oppose wasteful, duplicative, and corrupt government. They are prepared to support government that delivers services efficiently. They are saying that the growth of government needs to be curbed and that the performance of government needs to be improved. In a broader sense, Americans think the country is losing its moral roots and that politicians are not doing anything about it. They want more attention to traditional values as well as an improved level of government performance.

Americans are alienated from government, their elected representatives, and the political process. They feel a deepening powerlessness and pessimism over the future of the nation. As one Hoosier put it to me, "I don't really feel that the people of this country have any control over what is going on." There is a feeling that the country has become too big, too complicated, too diverse.

Again and again, Americans say they are uneasy about their future and feel that they are not getting ahead. One principal reason for this is that the job market is changing in swift and unpredictable ways. People are no longer sure that even with two incomes in the family they can maintain their standard of living. Their feeling that things might get worse and their deep sense of insecurity are very difficult for a politician to deal with.

I find Americans distressed about many aspects of society today: the amount of violence and vulgarity, the rise of illegitimacy, the decay of responsibility, the loss of traditional values. The real message is their fear of the future. They are deeply concerned about crime, job security, retirement income, and adequate health care. They express a feeling that something is eating away at the security of their lives.

Americans certainly support welfare reform and tax cuts. They have a strong view that the tax burden on middle-class families has risen steadily in recent decades and that there has been a decline in real income. Americans are turned inward and they worry about their own financial difficulties. They have become less interested in foreign affairs and the problems of the poor and the minorities in this country.

Congress has been dealing with many of the problems people want addressed—the deficit, jobs, welfare reform, making govern-

ment leaner and more effective. We are not dealing with those problems satisfactorily from their standpoint. Often they are not aware of what has been done.

Americans have become much more interested in local concerns. Many of them feel the federal government is no longer as important as it once was. They have redefined what is really important to them. The closer politics is to their home and their family, the more important it is to them. In many communities, I find that infrastructure improvements and personal security for their families are the dominant concerns.

It is clear that policymakers need to sort out which roles should be played by federal, state, and local governments and which should be shared with the private sector. There is certainly a strong feeling among the voters that the federal government is simply trying to do too much.

THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH TO CONGRESS

With the changes in the 104th Congress, the President confronts two approaches about how to deal with his legislative agenda. He can push ahead with comprehensive changes in health care and welfare. He knows he will not succeed, but he could put the blame on Congress for refusing to pass his programs. The other approach is to try to work out agreements with the Republicans.

I would urge the President to proceed on a path of compromise. He will have to work to develop a spirit of bi-partisanship. That will not be easy. In effect, he will have to govern from the middle. But, of course, it takes two to make a deal and the Republicans will want their agenda to be given priority. If the President tries bi-partisanship and it fails, he will have little choice but to go on the offensive.

My advice to the President is that he has to broaden his political base by governing from the center out, not from the left in. He needs to forge an alliance with the new members of Congress who are very close to their constituents and in tune with the new politics of the country.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION CONCERNING KENAI NATIVES ASSOCIATION, INC.

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today to correct a significant inequity in Federal law with respect to land uses of property conveyed to the Kenai Natives Association, Inc. [KNA]. The legislation, which will mark the final outcome of a process begun nearly 14 years ago and which was the subject of a congressional hearing last Congress and the enactment of one interim law, would correct the land entitlement inequities of KNA by authorizing and directing the completion of a land exchange and acquisition package. The legislation will allow KNA for the first time to make economic use of the majority of lands conveyed to the corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

We began the final stage in this process by directing, through enactment of Public Law 102-458, an expedited negotiation of a land acquisition package between the Fish and Wildlife Service and KNA. Over the past year, negotiations were completed, resulting in a package which is identical to the elements of the legislation I am introducing today.

KNA has waited since 1982 to resolve its land selection problem with property which is within the boundaries of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. KNA has reached a tentative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with an exchange agreement on lands within the refuge. I believe that they have waited long enough for ratification of the agreement and believe they deserve to have this behind them. This legislation will authorize and direct the Secretary to make an offer to KNA to complete an exchange and acquisition of lands owned by KNA.

This legislation represents an agreement reached during the 103d Congress. It is my intention to move this legislation quickly and get it behind us. I urge my colleagues support so that KNA can move forward with their agenda.

I am pleased with the efforts by KNA, its former president, the late Katherine Boling, and board of directors as well as the Fish and Wildlife Service to finalize this acquisition. KNA and the Fish and Wildlife Service have set aside past differences and have resolved the land use disagreement which has prevented KNA from using most of its lands conveyed under ANCSA. At the same time, another purpose of Public Law 102-458 and, a Federal goal, was acquiring for public ownership land along the Kenai River. These missions would be accomplished by the legislation I am introducing today.

The Service has completed all the necessary negotiations on land acquisitions and exchange components and completed the necessary public review and legal reviews required for exchanges in Alaska. I commend the Service for their efforts to acquire a key parcel of land along the Kenai River, inside the boundaries of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, for public use. This acquisition is the crucial component of this legislation. Just as crucial is the need to allow KNA to make economic use of lands conveyed to the corporation to settle native land claims. It is wrong under any sense of fairness or the law to convey lands to native corporations in settlement of recognized land claims yet at the same time prohibit the use of those lands.

Mr. Speaker, we need innovative measures to resolve land use conflicts in Alaska. Secretary Babbitt has noted the need for innovative exchanges throughout the Nation to properly manage Federal lands. This legislation represents a fine example of an exchange which resolves a longstanding land dispute on a voluntary basis.

I believe we can and should resolve this dispute on a voluntary basis. If we fail to do so, the result will only be ill-will, an extreme inequity to the Alaska Natives of KNA, litigation and the loss of an important opportunity to acquire public, riverfront lands, along the Kenai River. Further, there will remain a significant doubt that any land use conflict involving Federal lands in Alaska can be resolved in a cooperative fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked closely with the former chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. MILLER, on this matter for many years. I believe we have an opportunity to correct an inequity, acquire valuable habitat, and show that innovative answers to land use problems will work in Alaska. I am anxious to move forward on this legislation which resolves this matter on a voluntary, willing seller

basis early this year based on agreements reached during the last session between all interested parties.

THE MILITARY RECRUITER
CAMPUS ACCESS ACT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Military Recruiter Campus Access Act, which would deny all Federal funds to educational institutions that bar or impair military recruiting. As you know, this phenomenon has proliferated across the country in recent years.

This has outraged me for years, Mr. Speaker. Simply justice demands that we not give taxpayer dollars to institutions which are interfering with the Federal Government's constitutionally mandated function of raising a military. Further, with the defense drawdown, recruiting the most highly qualified candidates from around the country has become even more important.

Last year, we began to deal with this injustice with the overwhelming passage of my amendment to the fiscal year 1995 DOD authorization bill which, with the support of Senator NICKLES, became law on October 1. That law, which denies any DOD funds from going to colleges and universities which are discriminating against recruiters, has already begun to have some positive effect. I am told by the Pentagon that schools across the country are getting the message and preparing to accommodate recruiters rather than lose their precious funding.

But to pick up the stragglers who are still not complying, further action is necessary. We have additional leverage, Mr. Speaker. My amendment last year covered only DOD funds, which amount to roughly \$3 billion annually. But the Federal Government provides an additional \$8 billion annually in grant and contract funding to colleges and universities through other departments and agencies such as HHS, Agriculture, and the National Science Foundation.

Barring military recruiters is an intrusion on Federal prerogatives, a slap in the face to our Nation's fine military personnel, and an impediment to sound national security policy. We should draw the line on this in the 104th Congress, Mr. Speaker, I urge bipartisan support for the bill.

INTRODUCTION OF PREPAYMENT
OF LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS
BILL

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which has had strong bipartisan support in the past, legislation to provide for the prepayment of death benefits on life insurance contracts for the terminally ill.

I first introduced this legislation in the 101st Congress. It had over 100 bipartisan cospon-

sors in the 102d Congress. I subsequently worked closely with the Bush administration in its attempt to accomplish this important goal by regulation. The regulations, however, were not final when the Clinton administration took office and have not been finalized. The Clinton administration included this provision in the President's Health Care plan and it was subsequently included in both the Ways and Means Committee and Mitchell Health Care bills. A version of this legislation is also included in the Republican contract.

This legislation would allow individuals who are certified by a physician to have a terminal illness or injury which can reasonably be expected to result in death within 12 months, to receive the proceeds of their life insurance contracts on a tax free basis.

I believe that access to these assets will make the lives of the terminally ill significantly easier with little cost to the Federal Government.

Under current law, life insurance proceeds payable on death are generally tax free. This legislation, therefore, should have only a minor revenue impact in that the only change would be one of timing—tax free receipt of life insurance proceeds one year earlier than otherwise would be the case.

In addition, access to these assets is critical to those many terminally ill individuals, who have no health insurance. To the extent that these individuals tap their life insurance policies to pay their final health care costs, Federal dollars will be saved.

ENGLISH IS OUR COMMON THREAD

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, many times before I have taken to the floor to speak about the importance of the English language. For decades, English has been the de facto language of the United States. In recent years, 19 States have designated English as their official language. Support for these efforts has been overwhelming. I strongly believe that English should be the official language of the United States Government. I have been a persistent sponsor of such legislation, and I will again today introduce the Language of Government Act.

At the same time, however, I want to recognize the important contributions of other languages through a sense-of-the-Congress resolution. In an increasingly global world, foreign languages are key to international communication. I strongly encourage those who already speak English to learn foreign languages.

As a nation of immigrants, America is comprised of people of all races, nationalities, and languages. These differences make our Nation the wonderful place it is. While being different, all of these people can find a common means of communication in the English language. English is the common thread that connects every citizen in our great Nation.

MAKING THE POSTAL SERVICE
MORE COMPETITIVE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, remember that lame old excuse, "the check is in the mail." In days gone by, those who heard it hoped and prayed it was true. For if it was, they knew that they would soon be getting their money.

Not so today. As far too many people have found out, putting the check in the mail gives neither the sender nor the would-be recipient any assurance whatsoever that it will actually arrive at its intended destination. Or that it will get there in time to avoid late charges or black marks on one's credit rating.

Over and over this past year, we heard stories about mail being dumped, burned or stashed by mail carriers or hidden away in warehouses by postal managers not wanting to admit how far behind their delivery efforts had fallen. At least a half dozen of these instances occurred in the Chicago area alone.

On top of that, reports of slow mail delivery have been too numerous to mention. As a result, people have lost confidence in the Postal Service and remedies such as a new \$7 million logo or a 3-cent increase in the cost of first class postage have done nothing to restore it.

To be fair, the U.S. Postal Service [USPS] has made repeated efforts in recent months to improve the quality and timeliness of its service. But this is not the first time questions have been raised about the USPS's performance or that attempts to improve it have been made. To the contrary, there has been enough past efforts, the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 being the most prominent, to suggest that a whole new approach is needed.

Generally speaking, most USPS employees are conscientious, hard working individuals who want to do a good job. For the most part, the problem is not so much with them as it is with the system in which they operate. Put simply, that system lacks the incentives necessary to bring about the gains in productivity and customer service that are essential if the USPS is to live up to the public's expectations. For one thing, the USPS is insulated against competition in the delivery of first class mail which means customers need not be won over but can be taken for granted. For another, it is subsidized by the Federal Government, which means there is less pressure to be efficient. For a third, it does not have the bottom line incentives—such as the profit motive and profit-sharing arrangements—which make many private companies so productive.

A quick look at the parcel delivery business bears out this assessment. Thirty years ago, most all parcels were delivered by the Postal Service. Today, competitors like FED-EX, UPS, and DHL handle a vast majority of packages shipped around the country, despite the built-in advantages enjoyed by the USPS. Also, the growing movement towards corporate competition in, or the privatization of, postal services in other countries reinforces that hypothesis. New Zealand, for instance, converted its postal service from a government department to a state owned but decontrolled corporation in the late 1980's and has