

that we now call the Declaration of Independence. Adams wrote his wife that a single day in July 1776 would be honored "as the most memorable day in the history of America."

That is a remarkable prediction to make about a nation that did not even exist then, that first had to free itself from the control of the world's most powerful country. Other predictions that Adams wrote to his wife about a special day in July 1776 were right on target, too. In his letter he said, "It will be celebrated by succeeding generations as a great anniversary festival. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parades, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations . . . from one end of the continent to the other . . . from this time forward . . . forever more."

John Adams got only one major detail wrong in his amazing prediction—he had the wrong date.

He wrote his wife that he could foresee those parades and fireworks happening every year on July Second. That is because it was on July 2, 1776 that the Continental Congress, meeting in secret session, actually voted on the Declaration of Independence. Two days later, on July 4, the delegates to the Continental Congress signed the Declaration. Also on that day they came out of their secret session and showed the world what they had done.

Does that mean we are wrong in celebrating July Fourth? Should we be having Second of July picnics and Second of July fireworks? No.

Most legal documents take effect when they are signed and July Fourth is the day when signatures were put on a draft of that incredible document written by Thomas Jefferson.

Many historians will tell you it is not because of the signatures that we use July 4 as the official birthday of our country. It is because that is the day people first heard about the Declaration of Independence. In this country the people count. What is important is the involvement of the people in managing their own affairs, not governmental bodies making decisions in secret. For most of human history—and even in large parts of the world today—that is still a revolutionary idea.

We should remember every July Fourth that the rights we often take for granted do not come easily or automatically. Those rights are re-purchased by each generation, often at a terrible price.

Nearly we have the graves of some of our Revolutionary War dead. They know that freedom is not free since they paid with their very lives. On the tombstone [of the Unknown Soldier in Washington Square] is the inscription "Freedom is a Light for Which Many Men Have Died in Darkness."

Fifty years ago today the beachhead at Normandy was not quite a month old. Nearly a million men and women from the United States, Great Britain and our wartime allies had landed there. They were beginning to spread out from that small foothold in northern France and each mile of liberated Europe demanded a high price in human lives and suffering. Many terrible struggles were still ahead of the U.S. military 50 years ago today during World War II.

Today our enemies are harder to identify, but they are out there. Our commitment to the men and women in uniform should be as strong today as it was 50 years ago. History has taught us the best way to avoid war is to be better prepared than any adversary. Vigilance is also the watchword in our domestic life. Even the best of governments can forget that government is the servant of the people and that the people should never be the servant of government.

Just five years ago the Supreme Court ruled that people who burn American flags are entitled to legal protection under the First Amendment's provisions safeguarding free speech. This decision outraged many Americans who see the flag as a sacred symbol of the country, as a symbol of our values that ought to be respected and, especially, as a symbol of the brave sacrifices of our men and women in wartime. We want to amend the Constitution to allow the states and the federal government to enact laws prohibiting physical desecration of the flag. If it is in the Constitution then the courts cannot rule it unconstitutional.

"Old Glory" is precious to me. So is the idea that government should be answerable to the people. We hear more these days about the search for values in America. Some of us do not have to look very far to find values. We start with devotion to God, love of country and respect for the flag. These are solid foundations upon which this country has been built and they are foundations upon which we can grow. If we need to find values, we can start with the values laid down 218 years ago in that remarkable document we honor today, the Declaration of Independence. It says: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted."

That is still the best statement of who we are as a people, what we hold dear and what we will fight to preserve.

God Bless America.

REFORMING THE WELFARE SYSTEM "NO STRINGS ATTACHED"

HON. RICHARD "DOC" HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation aimed at reforming our failed Federal welfare system. Reforming welfare is among my top priorities and is supported by a majority of the American people.

The time for reform has come. Since 1965 we have spent \$5 trillion on the War on Poverty—yet the poverty rate is higher today than it was then. The current welfare system has failed both the people it was created to help and those whose tax dollars support it. It is a bureaucratic nightmare and it offers the wrong incentives for recipients. It fosters illegitimacy and dependency, rather than strong families and economic independence. We must act now to enact fundamental and far reaching change.

I believe the most important change Congress can make would be to allow States and local communities the flexibility to find creative solutions and determine who should be eligible to receive benefits. The legislation I am introducing empowers States and local communities by shifting the responsibility for welfare to the States in a single block grant—with no strings attached.

I repeat: no strings attached. This isn't just a swap for government control of Medicaid or other assistance programs—it strictly empowers the States and local communities to address the problem in the most effective manner possible. No additional mandates would be imposed on the States. Finally, Federal

funding will be reduced by 5 percent per year and will be phased out completely in 20 years.

The States have proven themselves to be more successful than the Federal Government in dealing with welfare and developing innovative and effective solutions. States better understand the problems within their own communities and can more efficiently determine who should be eligible to receive benefits.

Consider, for example, Wisconsin. Governor Tommy Thompson's welfare reform proposal has reduced State welfare rolls by 25 percent and saved the taxpayers \$16 million per month. In Michigan, Governor John Engler requires that welfare recipients sign a social contract agreeing to work, receive job training, or volunteer at least 20 hours a week. In just 2 years, the plan has helped almost 50,000 welfare recipients gain independence, and welfare caseloads have fallen to their lowest level in 7 years, saving the taxpayers \$100 million.

The urgent need for reform—particularly welfare reform—was exemplified during the November elections. It is time for the Government to return control to the States. My proposal to shift the power to the local level is ambitious—yet it is only at the local level that the most effective solutions and most efficient answers will be found.

TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY TWITTY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in my district I am fortunate to have individuals dedicated to helping the Brooklyn community. Beverly Twitty personifies this kind of dedication. Beverly is a native New Yorker, educated in the New York City public school system. She attended Brooklyn College and New York University where she earned a B.A. degree and two masters degrees respectively.

Beverly is involved in many community activities and has been very active for many years with the Girl Scouts and the American Red Cross. She is a former member of Operation Bread Basket, the economic arm of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Beverly Twitty is a member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church and continues to be an inspiration to the community. I am proud to recognize Beverly Twitty for her unyielding dedication to the Brooklyn community.

NATIONAL CLEAN WATER TRUST FUND ACT OF 1995

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to expedite the cleanup of our Nation's waters. This bill, the National Clean Water Trust Fund Act of 1995, would create a trust fund established from fines, penalties, and other moneys collected through enforcement of the Clean Water Act to help alleviate the problems for which the enforcement