KEEP DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN SRPSKA ON TRACK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, elections in the Serbian majority entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Srpska, next month will put to the test the efforts of the international community and the people of Bosnia to create lasting and stable reforms and democratic institutions. Prime Minister Milorad Dodik, leader of the Party of Independent Social Democrats will stand for reelection. Dodik has demonstrated a willingness to work for responsible change in Srpska and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dodik's main opponent, Mirko Sarovic is a member of the party that led the brutal war against the people of Bosnia in the earlier part of this decade. Victory for the nationalist forces in next month's election would be a stark reversal of the changes we have seen throughout the former Yugoslavia. Dodik has strongly endorsed the new President of Serbia, Vojislav Kostunica, while his opponent, has decried the free expression of his fellow Serbs.

Dodik has worked in cooperation with the international community to foster economic reforms, and to instill a new spirit of tolerance in Srpska that has led to an unprecedented number of minority refugee returns to the Republic during the past year. Our U.S. Ambassador, Tom Miller, has made it clear that if the opposition to Dodik wins, further cooperation by our government will be impossible.

The people of Srpska have a clear choice as they cast their ballots next month: to continue the progress they have made to date through their hard work and diligence, or to return to the past with its legacy of hardship, repression, and impoverishment. I hope that they consider their choices carefully, and make the decision to continue progress and hope for a better life for them and their children.

HONORING MICHAEL F. RODGERS FOR HIS SERVICE TO OLDER AMERICANS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize to a constituent of mine, Michael F. Rodgers, for his many years of service to older Americans, particularly those in need of housing or various forms of long-term care. For the last fourteen years, Mr. Rodgers has served as the Senior Vice President of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). AAHSA is a national nonprofit organization representing 6,000 nursing homes, continuing care retirement communities, senior housing, assisted living facilities, and community service organizations for seniors. AAHSA is a leader in the development of an integrated continuum of care for frail elderly people and individuals with disabilities. I am familiar with AAHSA through the membership of three excellent retirement communities within my district, Goodwin House West in Falls Church, The Virginian in Fairfax, and Westminister at Lake Ridge.

Throughout his tenure at AAHSA, Mr. Rodgers has devoted talent, skill, dedication and commitment to advocating for mission-driven, non-profit senior services across the spectrum of need. He has developed and implemented a public policy and advocacy program whose goal is a more rational and integrated system of long-term care that will serve seniors in the most appropriate and least restrictive environment possible. He has fought for effective solutions to issues raised by increasing longevity and the emergence of a growing ''old old'' population whose needs no longer can be met by the informal care network of the past.

In addition to his work at AAHSA, Mr. Rodgers is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society on Aging and also belongs to the Gerontological Society of America. He teaches at John Hopkins University as a member of the adjunct faculty in the Center on Aging Programs and Studies. Mr. Rodgers was chosen as a delegate to the most recent White House Conference on Aging in 1995.

Prior to joining AAHSA, Mr. Rodgers worked on Capitol Hill for several years. For two years, he was the staff director of the House Select Committee on Aging's Subcommittee on Housing and Consumer Interests. Previously, he spent six years on the senior professional staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging under the chairmanship of the late Pennsylvania Senator John Heinz. His work with these committees focused on health, long-term care, assisted housing and other aging-related legislation. Before coming to the Hill, Mr. Rodgers was the Director of the Bureau of Policy, Planning and Evaluation at the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. Previously, he served as the Executive Director of the Lackawanna County Area on Aging in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Mr. Rodgers received a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling and psychology from the University of Scranton, where he subsequently was on the adjunct faculty as a professional lecturer.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to wish Mr. Rodgers the very best as he prepares to depart from the AAHSA to join the Catholic Health Association, where he will become the new Director of Government Relations. In this capacity, he will have the opportunity to continue to work on behalf of faith-based, mission driven providers of high-quality health and long-term care. I know his colleagues join me in recognizing his many years of service to America's seniors and in wishing him continued success in his new role.

IN HONOR OF DR. CLAUDE W. CUMMINGS' 39 YEARS OF PASTORAL SERVICE TO THE EBENEZER ASSEMBLY OF CHRIST IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor of the pastor of Ebenezer Assembly of Christ, Dr. Claude Cummings. A man who has devoted his adult life as an ordained minister of God, Dr. Cummings is an example of selfless leadership and service to those who share his spiritual faith.

Dr. Claude Cummings, son of the late Bishop Claude and Mattie Cummings, knew he was called into ministerial service when he began preaching at the age of 18. He was ordained at the age of 26, and has since worked tirelessly as a servant of God. Dr. Cummings made his first move to Cleveland, Ohio in 1956, only to leave two years later due to the call of the Army. He went on to serve in Texas, both in San Antonio and then as a pastor of a small church in Sequin, until allowed to return home to Cleveland in 1961. There, he was sent to minister to a small group of Saints in Miles Heights, Ohio, who were attempting to build a church. As an example of the dedication and devotion Dr. Claude Cummings has shown throughout his years of service, he and first wife, Faith Cummings, shared their resources to complete the church-building project which had since haulted progress. They worked untiringly to get the edifice completed, only to see it destroyed in a tornado shortly after its dedication. Despite the disaster, Dr. Cummings assumed the role of general contractor, and worked even harder to build the edifice which now stands.

Dr. Cummings has always endeavored to further his education, particularly within his own faith. Because of this love of the Word, he attended many colleges, including Aenon Bible College, Fenn (Cleveland State), and Grace Bible College. An obvious advocate of life-long learning, he currently continues his studies at Ashland Bible College and the Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Cummings is known not only for his breadth and depth of knowledge of the scriptures, but also for his gift of sharing the Bible through his commanding preaching and his extraordinary way of bringing the Bible to life during Bible Classes.

Dr. Claude Cummings is affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, an organization in which he holds several offices; and the Apostolic Fellowship Conference. He was also one of the originators of the Cleveland Apostolic Ministerial Fellowship known as CAMF. A man of faith, Dr. Cummings is also a man of family. A loving father of five and grandfather to eight, he takes pride in both his personal and spiritual families.

Let us honor Dr. Claude Cummings for his tremendous dedication to the many people he has led, and let us recognize his tireless service to faith.

HONORING THE AMERICAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, as another session of Congress comes to a conclusion, we are reminded of the many important and difficult issues which are dealt with on a daily basis in the Congress of the United States.

As we consider the responsibility with which we are entrusted to represent the people who

send us here, it is important that we recognize the essential role of citizen participation in our form of government, Just one example of the practical application of this concept which I am honored to bring to the attention of my colleagues is the work done by the American Dental Hygienists' Association, the members of that organization from across Illinois and especially those in the 5th Congressional District of Illinois which I am honored to represent.

I want to recognize the tremendous work performed by these dedicated professionals who promote total health through quality oral care. Every year, they take time from their busy schedules to come to Washington and make sure that their voice is heard in the national debate over health care and other important issues of the day. In addition to taking continuing education courses, these leaders of the profession set policy for the association and strategize as to how to best fulfill the association's mission to improve the oral health of the public.

In 1923, the American Dental Hygienists' Association was established to enhance communication and mutual cooperation among dental hygienists. Today, ADHA is the largest national organization representing the professional interests of the more than 100,000 registered dental hygienists (RDHs) in the United States.

ADHA members work to improve the public's total health and to advance the art and science of their profession. In doing so, they play a critical role in meeting the needs of so many people in this country.

I appreciate their commitment and commend to my colleagues their example of civic participation and professional dedication.

HONORING BARBARA CASEY OF WASHINGTON STATE

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I honor Ms. Barbara Casey for a long and dedicated career in improving the educational system in Washington State.

Ms. Casey, in her professional career and voluntary activities, has shown a commitment to improving the lives of students at home and in school. She began her work in education as a technical operator for a weekly public radio talk show on education issues. Then she moved her volunteer work into the school. She has served as a health room volunteer, classroom volunteer, library aide, reading aide, phoneathon volunteer, C2B2 Committee member and lobbyist. Barbara has also been the Legislation Chair for the Issaquah PTSA Council and Sunset PTA Board of Directors.

Her presence in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is especially notable. She has served as the Sunset PTA Board President and received the Golden Acorn Award twice from the Sunset PTA and Issaquah PTSA Council. In addition, Barbara has volunteered on an impressive list of education organizations. Her work is well known on the Sunset Elementary Shared Management Team, Big Idea Grant Committee, State PTA Legislation Committee and Issaquah Family Service Network Task Force. Her outstanding contributions to the Community Health and Safety Network brought gubernatorial recognition.

Since 1994, Barbara has served as the first Government Relations Director of the Washington State PTA. Though an unusual position on a state PTA, it reflects the progressive nature of her work for education. Instead of merely reacting to the decisions of other education administrators, she has been proactive in her advocacy of children's education needs. Barbara has been a model of the PTA mission to speak on behalf of children in schools and the community, assist parents in developing skills to raise their children and encouraging parent and public involvement in public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my appreciation and commendation for Barbara Casey. She reflects the best of what parents and other education advocates bring to our schools.

IN MEMORY OF MISSOURI GOVERNOR MEL CARNAHAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 19, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of my good friend Governor Mel Carnahan, of Rolla, Missouri.

Governor Carnahan, 66, the fifty-first Governor of the State of Missouri, his son Roger Andrew ''Randy'' Carnahan, and a long-time advisor, Chris Sifford, died in an airplane crash on October 16, 2000, in rural Jefferson County.

Born in the small Ozark town of Birch Tree, Missouri, in 1934, Governor Carnahan lived his early years in Shannon and Carter Counties. He was the son of rural schoolteachers, and he carried on a longstanding family commitment to education during his distinguished career of public service. His father, the late A.S.J. Carnahan, a contemporary of President Harry Truman, served in the United States Congress for 14 years before being named by President Kennedy as the first U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone. His mother, the late Mary Carnahan, was an inspiration to hundreds of school children during her many years as a high school English teacher.

Governor Carnahan began his lifelong commitment to public service at the young age of 26, when he was elected municipal judge in his hometown of Rolla in 1961. Two years later, he won a seat in the Missouri House of Representatives and was elected Majority Floor Leader in his second term. Following his four years in the Missouri House, he returned to his hometown of Rolla where he built a successful law practice. In 1980, he was overwhelmingly elected State Treasurer and served in this position for four years. The Governor returned to public office in 1988, becoming Missouri's 42nd Lieutenant Governor. In a landslide victory in 1992, he won the Governor's office and Missouri voters returned him to office for a second term in 1996.

Governor Carnahan was running for the United States Senate, after two remarkably successful four-year terms as Governor. Among the major accomplishments of his administration were the Outstanding Schools Act, a comprehensive package of reforms, new resources and accountability measures to improve Missouri's public schools; major tax relief for working families; welfare reform; some of the toughest anti-crime laws in the nation; and primary health care services for thousands of previously uninsured Missouri children. Governor Carnahan will forever be remembered as an advocate for children and working families.

Governor Carnahan held a Bachelor's Degree in business administration from George Washington University and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia Law School in 1959 with the highest scholastic honors—Law Review and Order of the Coif. He was a United States Air Force veteran, a 33rd degree Mason, and a longtime member of the First Baptist Church in Rolla. He served as Chairman of both the Southern and Democratic Governors' Association.

Mr. Speaker, Mel Carnahan was a good friend and a truly great American. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife of 46 years, Jean Carnahan; two sons, Russ and Tom Carnahan; one daughter, Robin Carnahan, of St. Louis; one daughter-in-law, Debra Carnahan; one brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Oma Carnahan, and two grandsons, Austin and Andrew.

AMENDING PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, Thank you, Speaker HASTERT and Mr. GEPHARDT for scheduling this bill on today's suspension calendar and bringing this important matter to the floor.

The Hunt's Point incident represents a serious threat to the entire produce industry. The acceptance of bribes by USDA inspectors erodes public trust in an inspection system meant to provide security and consistency to the produce industry as well as consumers. This legislation is the fruit of a continuous and effective dialog between the USDA and Congress to address the serious problems raised by this scandal.

On October 27, 1999, eight USDA fruit and vegetable inspectors were convicted of accepting bribes for downgrading loads of produce so that receivers could negotiate lower prices with shippers. Inspection certificates originally issued by USDA were held by the U.S. Attorney General and USDA OIG as key evidence in the criminal investigation. These same certificates are also necessary to establishing a PACA claim. As a result of the investigation, some growers and shippers did not recover those vital inspection certificates until as recently as June 23. Since the deadline for filing claims was July 27, this did not allow for sufficient time to review and process those claims.

For these reasons, I introduce along with Chairman POMBO this legislation to extend the filing deadline for PACA claims related to Hunt's Point to January 1, 2001.