

active interest in this important issue by co-sponsoring this common sense measure—the Community Solvency Act of 1995.

IT IS TIME FOR TRUTH IN VOTING

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the toughest and most comprehensive internal reforms in over 50 years in this House. An open Congress is the only way to restore a sense of public confidence in our legislative process. I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support this Contract for a People's House.

When our constituents recently sent us to Washington as Members of the 104th Congress, they demanded that we change the way business is done. The past 2 years, however, have allowed little room for a more open and accountable process for Members of either party in Congress. What a remarkable opportunity it is then, to bring a breath of fresh air to the current business of the House through reforms of the committee system, House rules, and budget process. We are now making substantial progress in achieving the goal of comprehensive congressional reform that we promised to the American people. Gone are the days of ghost voting by proxy in committee, closed committee meetings that shut out the American people as well as other Members of Congress, and budget numbers that do not honestly reflect increases from year to year. And I am proud to say that the Speaker will institute a program to make the House electronically accessible to everyone. These reforms are just the beginning of a new House.

To supplement the already substantial list of reforms that are being proposed and debated today, I am reintroducing the Truth in Voting Act. Reintroduction of this legislation comes at a critical time now that we have more opportunity to end the manipulative procedures, sham votes, and secret meetings of the old process. This legislation would codify and clarify many of the fine reforms being debated today, and it keeps alive the perennial process of self-examination and reform that brings vitality to representative government. I urge my colleagues to support the Truth in Voting Act, and reforms that will lead this House into the 21st century.

CHILD SUPPORT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington report for Wednesday, December 7, 1994, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CHILD SUPPORT

Many Hoosiers speak to me about the difficulty they have collecting child support. The failure to obtain adequate support from absent parents can place an enormous financial strain on families. Children need a stable family environment in which to grow and

thrive, and too many children simply do not receive the support they need. We must insist that parents treat their children responsibly, including their economic needs. Children do best when they have financial as well as emotional support from both parents. Congress will likely address this issue during debate on welfare reform next year.

BACKGROUND

The states generally handle divorce, custody, and child support decisions. In order to obtain child support, the custodial parent must obtain a state court order specifying the amount to be paid by the noncustodial parent.

Collection of that court-ordered support is not always easy. Almost one-quarter of American children grow up in single-parent households, and many of them do not receive financial support from the absent parent. Over 40% of single mothers have no child support order in place and, therefore, no legal right to support. Single parents who do have support orders in place were entitled to a total of \$20 billion last year, but received only \$13 billion. Furthermore, many families find the support payments inadequate. In 1989, the average child support payment was about \$250 per month.

There are several hurdles which make collection of child support difficult. First, non-custodial parents who move frequently can be difficult to locate. Second, if paternity is not established—as is the case in two-thirds of births to unmarried parents—children have no legal claim on their father's income. Third, collection of child support can be difficult or expensive, particularly for the custodial parent who must go to court. Child support can be collected through wage withholding from parents with steady jobs, but those who change jobs frequently or are self-employed sometimes evade traditional enforcement methods. Fourth, there is often confusion about which state's courts have jurisdiction in child support disputes. Over 30% of children live in a different state than their non-custodial parent.

FEDERAL EFFORTS

In 1975, Congress established a cooperative federal-state Child Support Enforcement (CSE) program. Welfare recipients are required to participate in the program, and most of the support collected for their children is used by the government for welfare payments. Families not on welfare may receive CSE services for a small fee. The CSE program currently handles about half of all child support cases, and provides a variety of services:

Parent location: The Federal Parent Locator Service uses a variety of government records to locate parents, including information from the Social Security Administration and the IRS. States also conduct searches through their records, including motor vehicle registries and criminal records. In 1993, 4.5 million absent parents were located, an increase of 21% over the year before.

Paternity establishment: Although primarily a state responsibility, the federal government has required states to emphasize establishing paternity for children born out of wedlock. For example, the federal government has required states to have all parties in a contested paternity case submit to a genetic test upon request, and to accept paternity determinations made by other states. Despite these efforts, a paternity establishment remains a weak link in child support enforcement. In 1993, paternity was established for over 550,000 children, a 7% increase from the previous year. However, this left almost three million children still lacking legal identification of their father.

Collection: Most child support is gathered through wage withholding and garnishing

federal and state income tax refunds and unemployment compensation. In 1993, \$8.9 billion was collected through the CSE program, an increase of 12% over the year before. The amount of child support collected through wage withholding should increase since federal law requires mandatory withholding for all child support orders issued or modified after January 1, 1994.

REFORM PROPOSALS

Improving child support enforcement is primarily a state function, but the federal government can play an important role. Congress has taken steps to improve child support enforcement. It approved measures this year which require states to report parents owing at least two months of child support to consumer credit agencies; designate child support payments priority debts when an individual files for bankruptcy; restrict a state court's ability to modify a child support order issued by another state without the consent of the child and custodial parent; and make parents who fail to pay child support ineligible for federal small business loans.

While plugging these loopholes in the child support enforcement system is useful, it is clear that more comprehensive improvements are needed. First, more emphasis must be placed on identifying fathers of children. Some states have been very successful—up to 85% of the time—while others have been woefully inattentive to this matter. Some propose withholding welfare benefits for children whose paternity is not documented. Second, more effective methods of collecting child support are needed. Some states already require new employees to report their child support obligations to employers so that their payments may be automatically withheld from their paycheck. One suggestion is to make this requirement national through the W-4 tax form. I prefer that the states remain in control, but with support from the federal government in doing those things states are unable to do. The child support system will work better if the laws and procedures are more uniform and less complex.

CONCLUSION

I think that most parents genuinely want to take care of their children, and millions of noncustodial parents do pay their child support fully and regularly. But too many children do not receive adequate support. The federal government can help ensure their parents live up to their obligations. The goal in child support must be to improve the economic security of all children. Our society's failure to consistently demand that parents treat their children responsibly has taken its toll in childhood poverty and welfare dependency.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDITH PISAR AND THE AMERICAN CENTER OF PARIS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the achievements of a great American woman, born in the Ninth Congressional District of New York.

Judith Pisar, who was installed last year as a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France, has spent more than two decades building cultural bridges between the Americans and the

French as chairman of the American Center of Paris. The American Center, founded 63 years ago, has become the home away from home for the American arts. The physical space, designed by Frank Gehry and reopened last year to acclaim, contains theater and studio space, a visual arts center, a movie theater and lecture hall with classrooms and living space for American artists in residence. But beyond its dimensions it's a place where the best of American culture can be shared with the French. Over the years, Judith Pizar and her colleague Henry Pillsbury have made the American Center in Paris an outstanding venue for artistic, cultural and intellectual dialog between our country and Europe.

Judith, who as I said was born in Brooklyn, studied at Vassar College, New York University, and the Juilliard School of Music before beginning her career in contemporary arts. In 1962, she founded a lecture forum called "The Composer Speaks," bringing distinguished talents to cities and universities nationwide; she served as the administrator of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and musical director of the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In the early 70's, she joined the American Center in Paris, where she has truly made magic over the years. Following her years of dedicated service as chairman, Mrs. Pizar has retired but will continue to serve the American Center as chairman emeritus.

In appreciation of her achievements, Judith Pizar has been honored in the French Senate by the French Minister of Culture, Jacques Toubon, and by the Vice President of the Senate and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maurice Schumann. Her work has also been recognized by President Bill Clinton and Francois Mitterand, President of the French Republic. I will insert into the RECORD messages from these leaders following my remarks.

Finally, I would like to thank my friend John Brademas for bringing Judith Pizar's outstanding achievements to my attention and giving me this opportunity to pay tribute to her fine work.

THE OZARK WILD HORSES PROTECTION ACT

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to introduce legislation entitled the "Ozark Wild Horse Protection Act." The substance of this bill relates to a small herd of 30 or so feral horses that roam freely in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways [ONSR] and adjoining lands. Over the course of the past several years, the National Park Service has insisted that the horses must be rounded up and removed from the park lands. They have cited numerous bureaucratic justifications for the roundup with no forethought as to the wide public support from the folks who live and work in the area.

There is simply no explanation as to why the Park Service continues to insist on the horses' removal. I, along with the citizens who have been fighting for this issue, have exhausted all administrative diplomacy. It is unfortunate that a legislative solution barring the removal of the horses is necessary—but I see no reasonable alternative at this point.

These horses are an important part of the Ozark cultural heritage. The residents of this area whose cultural and historical identity is deeply rooted in the Ozark tradition have had their input completely disregarded by an unwieldy bureaucracy. The horses within the scenic riverways are a great tourist attraction and are hurting no one. The bottom line is that the horses should stay.

Mr. Speaker, the Ozark Wild Horse Protection Act will prohibit removal of these horses from the ONSR except in the event of an emergency. The bill states that the Secretary of the Interior may not remove, or allow or assist in the removal of, any free-roaming horse from Federal lands within the boundaries of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, except in the case of medical emergency or natural disaster.

I have maintained since the beginning of the Park Service's pursuit of the horses that they do, indeed, have the discretionary authority to withhold action and simply leave the horses alone. But since I have been advised by the National Park Service that legislative action is necessary, I am proud to introduce this bill today in the House.

LEGISLATION TO MODIFY THE LAFARGE PROJECT

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing with Representative PETRI, a measure which would direct the Secretary of the Army to transfer to the State of Wisconsin lands and improvements associated with the LaFarge Dam and Lake project—a Corps of Engineers flood control project initiated in 1962. This legislation would deauthorize the construction of the reservoir and dam, while completing other features of the original project.

On October 3, 1994, the House of Representatives passed the Water Resources and Development Act by a voice vote. This measure incorporated provisions in H.R. 4575 which modified the original LaFarge Dam project and provided the opportunity to lay to rest economic stagnation which has plagued this area for 30 years. Unfortunately, during the closing days of the congressional session the other body did not consider the legislation, thus the measure died when Congress adjourned.

Prior to 1962, the LaFarge area, nestled in the Kickapoo Valley of Wisconsin, was a farm community which suffered from severe flooding each spring. Responding to residents' complaints, the Federal Government promised to correct the flooding problem by constructing a reservoir and dam. For environmental reasons, work was suspended in July 1975, leaving 61 percent of the dam unfinished, while 80 percent of the land was acquired. By 1990, it was estimated that annual losses resulting from the removal of family farms and the unrealized tourism benefits anticipated with the completion of the project totaled over 300 jobs and \$8 million for the local economy, further exacerbating poverty in the area.

Recognizing the tragic circumstances in which several generations of families in the

area had found themselves, in 1991 Governor Thompson, State Senator Rude, State Representative Johnsrud, and I urged the residents in the Kickapoo Valley to form a Citizens Advisory Committee to initiate a plan for a positive resolution. Governor Thompson appointed Alan Anderson of the University of Wisconsin-Extension as coordinator for the Kickapoo Valley Advisory Committee. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and the State Historical Society provided professional assistance in the spirit of true cooperation. Over a span of 2 years the committee forged a consensus and recommended the establishment of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

In the spring of 1994, the State of Wisconsin concurred in its recommendation and the legislature created the Kickapoo Valley Reserve and Governing Board. Having established this entity, the State of Wisconsin is prepared to receive the transfer of land from the Federal Government, pending action by the Congress.

This legislation, which transfers lands associated with the project to the State of Wisconsin, formally terminates, or "de-authorizes" the construction of the lake and dam portions of the original authorization. The modification will authorize the \$17 million necessary to require the corps to complete two central parts of the original project: finishing the relocation of State Highway 131 and county Highway Routes "P" and "F", along with the construction of a visitor and education complex, recreational trails, and canoe facilities.

If the original project were to be completed today, the Corps of Engineers estimates the cost would be \$102 million. Since the original authorization of the project in 1962, the corps has expended \$18 million. Under the legislation introduced today, the Federal responsibility to conclude the original activities would be for \$17 million, creating a savings of \$66 million to Federal taxpayers.

With the reintroduction of this legislation we bring renewed hope to the people that Government can right a wrong. Thus, I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation. By doing so, we will have seized on a golden opportunity to make a profound difference in the lives of those in the Kickapoo Valley, while sustaining the region's rich environmental surroundings for generations to come.

REPEALING THE O'HARA-McNAMARA SERVICE CONTRACT ACT

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, with my colleagues Mr. BALLENGER and Mr. BOEHNER, legislation to repeal the O'Hara-McNamara Service Contract Act, otherwise known as the Service Contract Act [SCA]. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that a repeal of this outdated, wasteful, and overly bureaucratic statute will save the taxpayers \$3.16 billion over 5 years.

My reasons for introducing this repeal bill are many, but my primary criticism of the SCA is that it, like the Davis-Bacon Act, artificially