

NATIONAL SENIOR CENTER WEEK

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the week of May 14–21, 1995, has been designated National Senior Center Week. The 335 senior centers in New York City will join with the over 10,000 senior centers nationally and the National Council on Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers as sponsors of the week. The Council of Senior Centers and Services is coordinating the Senior Center Week Celebration in New York City.

In addition to the importance of providing meals for seniors living on tight budgets, senior centers are vital meeting places that serve the educational and social needs of our Nation's seniors. The sense of community experienced by an isolated older person of any income level or as a place to proudly bring younger family members adds immeasurably to the quality of life and emotional and physical well-being. I also know the value of senior centers from personal experience—they were a great benefit to my grandparents.

By naming this week National Senior Center Week, we are acknowledging the vital work that goes on every day to create a safe haven for seniors. I know all my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in applauding their efforts and wishing all our senior centers many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD J.
ZANINI

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator, Dr. Richard J. Zanini of Wethersfield, CT, who is retiring in June. During his 35 years of service Dr. Zanini served as a teacher, a program specialist, a supervisor, and assistant superintendent. For the last 13 years, he has served as superintendent of schools in Wethersfield.

Dr. Zanini was educated at the University of Massachusetts and at the University of Connecticut, where he received his Ph.D. in 1969. After serving in the army, he began teaching history and social studies in Connecticut in the early 1960's. He then helped shape Federal education policy as a program specialist at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington for 2 years before returning to the classroom.

In 1972, Dr. Zanini became the assistant superintendent of schools in Hebron, Andover, and Marlborough. He served in a similar role in the Wethersfield school system for 5 years before becoming the superintendent in 1982.

During Dr. Zanini's tenure in Wethersfield, several schools have been recognized for excellence. Wethersfield High School became a 4-year high school and won statewide recognition in 1983 and again in 1994. Silas Deane Junior High School received wide acclaim, including designation as an exemplary school by the U.S. Department of Education in 1991 and the kindergarten center received national accreditation in 1993.

Despite difficult economic times, Dr. Zanini hired outstanding administrators, teachers, and support staff, and ensured buildings were repaired in a timely manner. He always treated colleagues, parents, and students with respect and professionalism. We will all miss this respected leader who has worked so hard on behalf of students for so long.

Dr. Zanini's leadership, attention to detail, thorough knowledge of State and Federal regulations, and his vision have served the Wethersfield district—and all his previous districts and schools—well. We thank him for his dedicated service and wish him the best upon his retirement.

SOUTH DAKOTA VOICE OF
DEMOCRACY WINNER

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Becky Fischer of Eureka, SD, was recently selected as a State winner in the Voice of Democracy broadcast script writing contest conducted each year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its ladies auxiliary. The contest theme for this year was "My Vision for America," and of the more than 126,000 secondary school students who participated in this year's contest, Becky was also named a winner at the national level. Mr. Speaker, I'm inserting Becky's winning script in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. She deserves to be commended for her exceptional efforts in writing this script and participating in this contest. Becky's insights and enthusiasm will serve as a model to others her age:

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

Picture a small child, and in his busy little hands, a fragile, crystal antique vase. Unless this child has been properly educated in the handling, care, and value of this vase, the owner of this treasure would be extremely nervous. Americans are permitting every child in the United States to grasp a vase—this "vase" is our future. These children must be prepared today to meet and conquer the challenges of tomorrow. The future of America is held in the hands of the children; therefore, my vision for America includes a brighter, bolder, well-educated society achieved by what the children are experiencing today.

In order to fulfill my vision for America, we must take care of the children. Teaching children to take care of their bodies by following wise health habits will build their strength and endurance. If a child is not physically strong enough to hold the vase, it could drop and shatter. If the children of America are not physically sound, dreams for America's future could be crushed.

We must also take care of America's children emotionally. A child must possess a strong sense of self-confidence, believing in himself and his ability to contribute to society. Henry Ford said, "Don't find fault—Find a remedy." We must build a child's self-esteem. Consider 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up * * *". If a child believes he can accomplish his goals, whether it be carrying a priceless antique or creating a better future for America, he will be prepared to meet these goals.

A strong education in our schools and homes is also necessary for every American

child to secure my vision for America. Teachers and schools play a vital role in the education of a child. With continued excellence in our nation's schools, opportunities are unlimited for a child to learn, adjust to change, and meet new challenges. By nature, a child has an open mind and a willingness to ask questions. A child will develop his own vision for America through a solid education.

Parents and family have the chief responsibility for educating our children though. Children model themselves largely on their parents. A parent must act like the type of person they want their child to become since things parents do and say strongly influence a child. If parents teach a child how to support the vase by their own example, that child will be able to hold the vase with confidence. If a parent instills a positive attitude in a child regarding the American spirit, that child will look to this country's future with energy and enthusiasm.

My vision for America can be achieved in various ways. By setting a good example, children will have footsteps to follow. Along with their own experiences, future decisions these children make will be determined by what they have learned from our examples in their past. To preserve the safety of the "vase," we have the opportunity and the responsibility to set a good example.

Every American citizen must participate in preparing the children for a successful future. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "Give what you have, to someone it may be better than you dare think." Our nation is composed of unique individuals, each with their own talents. We need to focus these varied talents on the children; they need each and every one of us. All of us together will help prepare these children for the future.

In conclusion, we are all now holding the "vase," but we must pass it on to the children of America. If we continue to take care of the children, physically and emotionally, provide a superior education for them in the schools and in our homes, and set good examples, we are contributing together to prepare our children for tomorrow. The future of America is held in the hands of the children; therefore, my vision for America includes a brighter, bolder, well-educated society achieved by what the children are experiencing today.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD ALAN
YANIKOSKI

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Alan Yanikoski who will be inaugurated on May 19, 1995, as president of Xavier University located in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. Dr. Yanikoski was selected after a nationwide search conducted by the university's board of Trustees attracted distinguished candidates from all regions of the country. Dr. Yanikoski is the 12th president of the 148-year-old college, the oldest higher education institution in the city of Chicago.

Dr. Richard Yanikoski has served in the field of higher education for over 19 years. Previously, Dr. Yanikoski held the position of director of the Harry F. and Elaine M. Chaddick Institute and served as associate professor and director of DePaul University's Public

Services Graduate Program. Other positions previously held at DePaul included associate vice president for academic affairs, director of institutional planning and research, evaluation coordinator, instructor and mentor of DePaul's School for New Learning. Dr. Yanikoski's additional professional experience includes his work as research assistant for Chicago's Spencer Foundation, part-time instructor for Loyola University's Program in Higher Education, and mentor for Native American Education Services College of Chicago.

A prolific writer, Dr. Yanikoski has published numerous articles in professional journals and is currently preparing his first book, "Academic Freedom in Higher Education," to be published by Greenwood Press. He has been a guest speaker, session leader, and invited panelist for over 30 professional organizations. A variety of higher education, religious, and governmental institutions have sought his expertise as a reviewer and consultant. In addition, Dr. Yanikoski has received numerous awards and distinctions in honor of his dedicated years of service to higher education. For example, Dr. Yanikoski has been recognized by the American Men and Women of Science, Who's Who in the American Education, Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America, and Who's Who Worldwide.

The May 19, inauguration ceremony will be a gala celebration featuring an investiture of the President by James J. McDonough, chairman of the university's board of trustees. As part of the investiture ceremony, Dr. Yanikoski will be presented the university's medallion, a symbol of the office of presidency. The medallion features the seal of the university which is engraved with the Latin motto "Via Veritas Vita," which translates as "The Way, The Truth, The Life," and features a number of elements to represent the Sisters of Mercy, education and religion.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Dr. Richard Alan Yanikoski as he begins his tenure as president of Saint Xavier University. I wish him the best of luck in his endeavors as president. I am confident he will maintain the high academic standards of the university and will undoubtedly add to Saint Xavier's rich tradition of providing quality post-secondary education in a religious atmosphere.

INTRODUCTION OF PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE CORPORATION
ACT OF 1995

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Patent and Trademark Office Corporation Act of 1995, a bill that will enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to improve the services it provides to the public. I am pleased to have as an original sponsor the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] the ranking Democrat on the Intellectual Property Subcommittee. Our legislation will convert the Patent and Trademark Office [PTO] to a freestanding Government corporation, giving it the operating and financial flexibility it lacks today as a regular Government bureau in the Department of Commerce.

This added flexibility should allow the PTO to operate more like a private business and provide better service to its customers at lower cost.

The idea of making the PTO a Government corporation is not new. As early as 1989, the National Academy of Public Administration, a nonprofit organization that studies ways to improve the effectiveness of Government, recommended corporation status for the Patent and Trademark Office. The National Academy reported that flexibility in budgetary and other management matters would give the Office the capacity needed to respond more quickly and efficiently to its customers.

The PTO does not use any general tax revenues to support its operations. It collects fee revenues from the sale of products and services to inventors, companies, and other customers that support the entire cost of its operations. It expects to employ more than 5,100 people and collect and spend \$643 million in 1996. As a large, fully self-supporting organization, the PTO is well-suited for Government corporation status.

The Judiciary Subcommittee on courts and Intellectual Property, which I chair, has received testimony in support of converting the Patent and Trademark Office to a Government corporation. Several user groups support this concept including the American Bar Association section of Intellectual Property Law, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, and the Intellectual Property Owners, Inc.

I understand the administration is also reviewing legislation that will recommend converting the Patent and Trademark Office to a Government corporation. In order to encourage dialogue on the specifics of this issue, we are, today, introducing legislation, which gives the authority to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to manage the PTO in a business-like manner. The bill also establishes a Management Advisory Committee that will afford users a voice in how the PTO is operated. The bill maintains tight congressional oversight of the operation and requires annual reports to Congress. The proposal, while not modeled closely after any existing Government corporation, is designed to meet the unique needs of the Patent and Trademark Office and its user community. The administration's bill will be introduced at a later date.

Under our bill, the Commissioner would be appointed for a fixed 6-year term by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The management of the PTO would be vested in the Commissioner, and the Commissioner would appoint all other employees, including a Deputy Commissioner for Patents, a Deputy Commissioner for Trademarks, and an inspector general. The PTO would be exempt from administrative or statutorily imposed limits on the number or grade of Government employees. The Patent and Trademark Office would become an independent agency outside of the Department of Commerce. There are differing views on whether the PTO benefits from being kept under the Department of Commerce, and I believe the subcommittee should explore the advantages and disadvantages of an independent agency. The fiscal year 1996 budget resolution, before Congress now, assumes the elimination of the Department of Commerce, which could have a substantial impact on the future of the Patent and Trademark Office.

Specific authority within the Patent and Trademark Office corporation would include the power to purchase, lease, construct, and manage property, the power to award contracts for facilities, services, and printing, the power to use its revenues without apportionment by the Office of Management and Budget, the power to invest and earn interest on its money, and the power to issue bonds to finance its activities. Under existing law, long-term capital improvements, including the expensive program to automate the massive patent search files, must be paid for by current PTO users, who will not necessarily receive any benefits from capital improvements. Under the bill, such improvements could be supported by bond issues.

Our bill would eliminate the practice of withholding several million dollars from the Patent and Trademark Office each year that users have paid into the patent surcharge fund. It gives the PTO access to all of its revenues, including those in the Patent and Trademark Office surcharge fund established by section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. The authority to set the levels of major patent fees would be retained by Congress, subject to the authority of the Commissioner to adjust fees annually in response to increases in the Consumer Price Index, as under existing law.

Officers and employees of the Patent and Trademark Office would continue to be employees of the Federal Government. Our proposal specifies the features of the Federal personnel statutes, including those covering retirement and other benefits, that would continue to apply. The Commissioner would have authority to set the compensation levels for officers and employees. Present law would be retained and employees would still not have the right to strike or to bargain over wages. Transition provisions in the bill would govern the shift to corporate status.

The Commissioner would receive advice from a management advisory committee of 18 members, 6 of whom would be appointed by each of the President, the Speaker of the House, and the President pro tempore of the Senate. Committee members, appointed for 6-year terms, would represent diverse users of the Patent and Trademark Office. The board would be assisted by a staff, and would submit an annual report to the President and the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

If this legislation is to achieve its objectives, it must be crafted very carefully, to ensure the necessary checks and balances. A public interest is involved, and this office is the only place the public can go to obtain a patent or register a trademark. The PTO is not subject to the performance pressure that arises out of corporate competition. The bill, therefore, does not privatize the PTO by giving it all of the freedom of a private company.

The PTO would continue to be a Government agency under the direction and oversight of the President and the Congress. However, the added management flexibility provided by the bill should improve the PTO's efficiency and responsiveness to the public. I look forward to working with all interested parties as we move this legislation through the Congress.