

BALDACCI from Maine. The GOP freshmen came in with big reform plans for Congress. Now, when a gift ban is proposed, we're told that this is not the proper legislative vehicle for considering it, that it is too difficult to make these determinations in this bill.

Fortunately, there are some good questions the House will have an opportunity to discuss:

First, clerk-hire, official expenses, and mail. We'll be considering an amendment to cut costs more severely in the accounts affecting our personal offices even as a major cost-shifting effort is contemplated that will have a significant impact on the day-to-day operations of our personal offices.

Second, the proper funding level for Members' mail. We've slashed funding for mail significantly in the last few years—we'll have another chance to see if the Members feel we've finally done enough.

Third, the operation of the Government Printing Office and our depository libraries program. It is fitting that we consider the proper funding level for depository libraries especially as we move to an increased level of electronic dissemination of documents.

I'm grateful to the Rules Committee that we will also have a good debate about the vital support organizations for Congress that help us do our job.

There is a good amendment offered by Mr. CLINGER and our colleagues, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CONNIT, and Mr. DAVIS to add funding to the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] in support of the important work they have been given in the unfunded mandates legislation passed by Congress earlier this year. I'm concerned about the offset they are offering in abolishing funding for the American Folklife Center, but it is important to talk about the resources needed for CBO to do their job properly for us.

Two good amendments take up the question of the Office of Technology Assessment [OTA]. My amendment is a straight restoration of OTA with a 15 percent cut in line with our cut to the General Accounting Office. Mr. Houghton's amendment would cut OTA further—to \$15 million—and make further savings by shifting their box on the organizational chart to Congressional Research Service.

I'm also grateful to the Rules Committee for allowing us to take up this important question of the authority of the Joint Tax Committee regarding refunds for our largest taxpayers.

This authority was, in my opinion, mistakenly eliminated in this bill. Joint tax works closely with the U.S. Treasury and provides a vital legislative check on their work, finding errors in approximately 9 percent of the cases reviewed and easily paying for the limited resources we devote to this function each year. There are solid reasons for joint tax performing this function, and I'm pleased that we will have a chance to point those out to the membership.

We will have some good debates. But the Rules Committee has left out too many important questions and has continued their intransigence in permitting the House to debate a gift ban. I oppose this rule, and I ask my colleagues to send this rule back to the Rules Committee to open up this debate and permit us to take up additional important questions that affect this institution and the way we conduct the people's business here.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS K. MOUROUFAS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chris K. Mouroufas, a proud Greek-American, a great civic leader, and an extraordinary friend who passed away this month.

Mr. Mouroufas lived the American success story. Born in Messina, Greece, he emigrated to the United States, built a prosperous business, and became widely known in the Greek-American community for his willingness to help newcomers. He was a leader in the affairs of the city of San Francisco, having been appointed to the San Francisco Protocol Committee by mayors George Moscone, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and Art Agnos. In addition, Mayor Agnos named Mr. Mouroufas to the San Francisco Film Commission, where he served as chairman.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Mouroufas was a prominent member of the San Francisco Bay area who selflessly gave his time and talents to make our community a better place. What he cherished most was his family and his family of friends. He was a man of his word, a man of loyalty and a man of integrity. When Chris Mouroufas extended himself in friendship, it was a bond for life. I know, I was blessed to be his friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him and all he did as a noble citizen of a nation he embraced, served, and loved, and extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved wife, Tula, and godson, Christopher.

SAYING NO TO MOBUTU

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, President Mobutu of Zaire has ruled his country for over 30 years, during which period he has become one of the world's richest individuals by impoverishing his fellow countrymen. I wish to place into the RECORD the following exchange of letters between International Relations Committee Chairman BENJAMIN A. GILMAN and I and the Department of State concerning the issue of granting a visa to President Mobutu to visit the United States.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, DC, June 21, 1995.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for the letter which you and Chairman Gilman sent to the Secretary on May 19 expressing concern about a possible visit to the United States by President Mobutu of Zaire. We assure you that President Mobutu will not be coming to Washington and that the U.S. visa sanction directed against him and his entourage remains in effect. We agree that President Mobutu needs to demonstrate by his deeds rather than statements that he is committed to a genuine transition to democracy in Zaire. We appreciate your bipartisan support for our Zaire policy.

As you know, the President issued a proclamation in June 1993 suspending the entry

into the United States of immigrants and nonimmigrants who formulate or implement policies impeding a transition to democracy in Zaire or who benefit from such policies, and the immediate families of such persons. The intention of the proclamation was to send a strong message to President Mobutu that his obstruction of Zaire's transition to democracy was not without penalty. The visa sanction has been—and remains—one of our most effective measures to influence Mobutu and his entourage, and we have seen no change on the part of the Zairian president which would warrant a reversal of this policy.

President Mobutu has not applied for a visa to the United States, but if he or persons acting for him do so, we will remind him that he remains subject to the visa proclamation. On the basis of rumors of an impending visit, our Charge d'Affaires in Kinshasa made a formal demarche to the office of the Presidency, outlining our continuing concerns about the slow pace of the transition, and reiterating that President Mobutu remains subject to the visa sanction.

Rumors of a Mobutu visit to Washington appear to have been generated entirely by the Zairian president and a number of lobbyists in his employ. His agents attempted—unsuccessfully—to obtain an invitation for Mobutu to address a variety of private organizations. When it became clear that neither invitation nor visa would be forthcoming, President Mobutu's spokesman in parliament announced that the Zairian leader had decided to postpone travel in view of the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Kikwit.

You should know that there is a strong possibility that President Mobutu may attend the 50th U.N. General Assembly in New York this fall. While the Presidential proclamation on visas would permit us to refuse a visa to Mobutu for a bilateral visit, our international obligations under the U.N. Headquarters Agreement would likely require us to permit his entry to attend the General Assembly.

We hope this information is useful to you. If we can be of further assistance to you on this or any other matter, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

WENDY R. SHERMAN,

Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 19, 1995.

Hon. WARREN CHRISTOPHER,

Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: It has come to our attention that President Mobutu of Zaire may be seeking to visit the United States in the near future. We urge you to continue your policy of not granting an entry visa to the United States to President Mobutu of Zaire.

We strongly believe that such a visit should not take place. The visa restriction policy is one of the few instruments of leverage the U.S. has on President Mobutu and his regime. While we hope that President Mobutu is serious in his recent statements concerning a return to democracy in Zaire and improved human rights, there is ample reason for skepticism. Allowing Mobutu to visit the United States before any substantial steps have been taken toward resolving the on-going political crisis in Zaire would be an unwarranted retreat from the policy of both the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

Zaire under Mobutu represents perhaps the most egregious example of the misuse of U.S. assistance resources. The U.S. has given Zaire nearly \$1.5 billion in various forms of