

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CABLE AMENDMENT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 31, 1995

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the Nation's cable monopolies are trying to persuade the Congress to dismantle the rate regulation rules that have saved consumers over \$3 billion since 1993.

They are trying to break free from consumer protection rules before competition arrives to offer Americans an affordable marketplace choice.

Cable consumers should be on red alert. What's in store for the American public if Congress goes along?

What is the cable industry offering consumers? Free remotes? Special discounts? Unlimited channels?

No. Although we might wish it were otherwise, without effective competition to give consumers a real choice, the cable industry is going to give us reruns.

Reruns of the hyper-inflationary rate hikes that were the norm before Congress reined in the monopolies.

Reruns of the exorbitant prices charged for equipment.

A rerun of the same horror story for the American consumer.

That's right. If cable consumers have a TV clicker in one hand, they better be holding onto their wallets with the other because the telecommunications bill moving through Congress is going to raise cable rates.

The House bill would lift all rate regulation on cable programming, either immediately on small systems—representing about 30 percent of consumers—or 15 months after the date of enactment for the rest of the country.

And when they're deregulated the cable monopolists will return to past practice and consumers will be forced to relive that past again.

Many cable operators will use their newfound freedom to charge exorbitant rates.

The new 18-inch Direct Broadcast Satellite dishes will not hold them back as long as it's a \$700 alternative.

And the telephone companies won't hold back cable rate hikes until they show up and start delivering the goods. And the cold reality is that no telephone company is currently offering cable service on a commercial basis in competition with a cable company.

In fact, a recent front page story in the Wall Street Journal made it clear that the phone companies aren't coming soon. The article stated that the Bell companies are unlikely to reach 25 percent of the country with a competing video service until well after the year 2000. The chairman of one of the Bell company's multimedia group stated that simply aiming at the 25 percent mark in the next 7 years would be "very optimistic."

The hoopla many of us heard as recently as a few months ago about a video world with over 500 channels being offered to millions of

consumers by the end of the year is pure fantasy. The high tech hype has confronted engineering reality. The phone companies are still figuring out how to make the technology work.

To pretend, as H.R. 1555 does, that 15 months from now, this world will have suddenly changed to one of widespread delivery of commercially competitive cable service from a telephone company, is sheer folly.

As in any industry, the cable world has its share of bad actors. They will see their unregulated monopoly opportunities, and they will take them.

The blindly deregulatory provisions in the pending telecommunications bills will take us back to the recent past where from 1986 to 1989 the U.S. General Accounting Office found that, on average, the price of basic cable services rose more than 40 percent—3 times the rate of inflation over that time.

As most of you know, things got so bad that in 1992 Congress had to act. The current law already stipulates that when a cable company faces effective competition the cable company's rates are deregulated.

I believe we should stick with a competition-based telecommunications policy. Competition offers consumers choice. Competition will bring lower prices. Competition will drive infrastructure development and innovation.

The Markey-Shays amendment will correct many of the anticonsumer, anticompetitive cable provisions of H.R. 1555.

The Markey-Shays amendment will allow cable operators flexibility in the rates they charge for cable programming services, but will restrain operators from engaging in rate gouging. The Markey-Shays amendment says that until a cable operator faces effective competition in the marketplace, that operator must charge reasonable rates.

Rates will be deemed unreasonable if they exceed, on a per channel basis, the percentage annual increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Again, these limitations on how high cable rates can go are temporary provisions. The Cable Act of 1992 already has put provisions in the law that state that when a competitor reaches 50 percent of the homes in a franchise area and 15 percent take that alternative, the incumbent cable operator's rates are deregulated.

H.R. 1555 also modifies the complaint threshold that must be met to review cable rates charged to ascertain whether they exceed legal limitations. The legislation requires that 10 consumers or 5 percent of all subscribers of a cable system, whichever is greater, must complain to the FCC to induce a rate proceeding. In other words, H.R. 1555 would require that in a cable system of 200,000 subscribers, that 10,000 consumers would have to complain.

This is absurd. Moving the complaint level to 5 percent of subscribers is a clear attempt to create an impossibly high threshold in order to insulate cable companies from provisions originally designed in the Cable Act of 1992 for consumer protection and empowerment.

Another anticompetitive provision in the bill is the repeal of prohibitions on predatory pricing.

Not only does H.R. 1555 prematurely deregulate cable monopolies, it contains provisions that would snuff out fledging competitors before they can take wing in a community. It would allow cable monopolies to target unfairly a new competitor's customers for temporary lower prices and special offers. These lower prices and special offers to undercut a competitor would not be available to all subscribers in the cable systems' franchise areas. Rather, other subscribers would subsidize lower rates to undercut competitors. In this way, cable monopolies can crush competition in its cradle.

Nascent competitors, such as wireless cable systems and direct broadcast satellite [DBS] systems, would suffer greatly from this anticompetitive provision. H.R. 1555 would significantly thwart the ability of consumers to reap the benefits of competition in the form of greater choice, higher quality, and lower price, if section 202(g) is retained in the bill.

Not content simply to deregulate monopolies before competition arrives, H.R. 1555 frustrates, rather than promotes, the emergence of a competitive market. The current cable provisions constitute a glaring flaw in a bill whose ostensible purpose is to promote competition in the telecommunications marketplace.

The Markey-Shays amendment will retain the uniform pricing rules on cable operators.

Finally, the Markey-Shays amendment will scale back the sweeping definition of small cable system contained in the bill.

As I have mentioned before, the bill deregulates rates for cable programming services for so-called "small cable systems" immediately upon enactment. These are systems which largely serve rural America.

As a result, it will be consumers in rural America who see their cable rates rise first. H.R. 1555 deregulates any cable system which has less than 1 percent of all cable subscribers (approximately 600,000 subscribers) and is not affiliated with an entity that earns in excess of \$250 million in gross annual revenues.

According to the FCC, this provision would deregulate cable systems affecting 28.8 percent of all cable subscribers.

The Markey-Shays amendment would define small cable systems as those that directly serve fewer than 10,000 cable subscribers in its franchise area and have in aggregate less than 250,000 subscribers.

I believe that the cable provision of H.R. 1555 go far astray of a competition-based telecommunications policy. They are opposed by the administration. They are opposed by consumer groups. They should be amended to protect consumers until competition arrives to offer an affordable marketplace choice.

MARKEY BROADCAST AMENDMENT

The drastic and indiscriminate elimination of mass media ownership rules proposed by this bill would eviscerate the public interest principles of diversity and localism. Instead, H.R.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

1555 will concentrate great wealth and media power in the hands of a few. It allows for the concentration of television, radio, cable and newspaper properties in a way that will make Citizen Kane look like an underachiever.

The mass media provisions of H.R. 1555, which were adopted in the form of an amendment offered by Mr. Stearns (R-FL), are sweeping in scope. The network duopoly rule is repealed. The broadcast-cable crossownership rule is repealed. The network-cable crossownership rule is repealed. The broadcast rule is repealed. The broadcast-newspaper crossownership rule is repealed. National limits on radio station ownership are repealed. Limits on local ownership of radio stations are also eliminated. The one-to-a-market rule is repealed, allowing for the creation of television duopolies in local markets. Finally, the national audience reach limitation for television networks is allowed to double from 25 percent of the country to 50 percent.

The aggregate effect of these changes are to move telecommunications policy back to the 1930's. They will encourage the rapid consolidation of mass media ownership in this country and the elimination of diverse sources of opinion and expression. They are a powerful toxin to democracy and a death knell for community control of its own media.

H.R. 1555 will ensure that mass media outlets increasingly became beholden to policies and programming originating in New York and Hollywood.

The bill encourages the hoarding of media power to truly nightmarish proportions; in a particular town one large company could control 2 TV stations, an unlimited number of radio stations, the only newspaper in town, the town's only cable system, and in small towns the local phone company. Such control over the local media marketplace would give the owner a huge advantage in dictating the terms for advertising. More importantly, it also furnishes this local media potentate with dramatic power to influence coverage and public opinion on hundreds of issues of concern to the citizens of that local community.

The bill repeals local media cross-ownership rules between television stations, cable systems and newspapers, allows for unlimited AM and FM radio ownership on both the national and local levels, allows the national television networks to consolidate and to double their audience reach, and permits people to own 2 television stations within a community. Rather than promoting a forward-looking media policy for a 21st century economy, these provisions return us to the 1930's-era when there were very few media owners in most communities.

The current rules, which have successfully created a level of media diversity in this country that is the envy of the world, were not the sole creation of liberals. They were implemented on a bipartisan basis by both liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans, to mitigate against media concentration and to promote competition and diversity.

Such media concentration was not a theoretical possibility. During the 1930's, NBC had a Red and a Blue television network. In 1941, the FDR administration barred dual network ownership and required NBC to divest itself of its Blue network. That network became the American Broadcasting Co. After waiting decades for the emergence of a fourth competing network (FOX), the House bill would allow FOX to buy CBS and permit NBC and ABC to

merge back together again after a 50-year hiatus. This ill-advised proposal will lead to less choice, less diversity, less competition.

On the local level, powerful conglomerates in the 1960's and 1970's were amassing multiple ownership of media outlets. At the time, in the top 50 television markets (comprising 75 percent of the Nation's television homes), 30 markets had one of the local TV stations owned by a major newspaper in the same market. By 1967, some 76 communities had only one AM radio station and only one daily newspaper, with cross-ownership interests between the two. Fourteen communities had one AM radio station, one television station, and only one daily newspaper, all commonly owned. Moreover, in 1968 it was reported that the infant cable industry was already seeing a trend toward media concentration, with 30 percent of cable systems controlled by broadcasters.

Across the country, media moguls were assembling what was called a Royal Flush: one person or company would own a local television station, an FM station, an AM station, the daily newspaper and the cable system.

And who stepped in to implement rules to prevent the unhealthy accumulation of media power? Why, it was the Nixon and Ford Administrations that found the trend so disturbing they decided to take action. The Republican-led FCC in that era, reflecting main street, small town sensibility on media concentration issues, adopted restrictions on mass media ownership to further the twin goals of diversity and competition.

Now who is threatened by the communications cannibalism in media properties that would be unleashed by the current House proposal? Local television affiliates and independent TV stations, small radio stations with innovative but niche programming formats, family-run newspapers struggling to remain independent are endangered species in a new digital Darwinism where only the communications colossi can survive.

Every local town and hamlet runs the risk of becoming real life Pottersville, the mythical town that Jimmy Stewart prevented from existing in the 1946 classic "It's a Wonderful Life."

The House bill would allow for the aggregation of mass media power that far exceeds the Royal Flush in local markets. Such a historic public policy reversal poses grave repercussions for democratic government. Since the time of Jefferson, access to a diversity of information and opinions on the important issues of the day was considered essential to the workings of democracy.

In an era when we are searching for ways to break down monopolies and provide consumers with greater choice, the telecommunications bill returns us to a bygone era and resurrects the possibility that the emerging multimedia milieu will be dominated by a few communications cartels.

My amendment addresses two key issues in the bill.

REPEAL OF THE BROADCAST-CABLE CROSSOWNERSHIP RULE

This rule prevents TV-cable combinations within local markets. Adopted by the FCC during the Nixon administration, this rule helps to protect fair competition in the local media marketplace and safeguards diversity in mass media outlets within local communities. Simply put, this rule prevents a cable system from acquiring a local TV station in the same city.

Television broadcasters today rely upon so-called must carry rules to ensure their carriage on local cable systems. These rules are currently subject to litigation in the courts.

If the court invalidates these rules, the broadcast-cable crossownership repeal contained in H.R. 1555 could have adverse consequences. For example, if a cable company has a financial interest in one of the TV stations within the local market (or 2 TV stations if it is one of the new local duopolies permitted by H.R. 1555), some or all of the remaining broadcasters may be refused carriage or discriminated against in such carriage. Without safeguards, repeal of this rule would allow a local cable system-local television combination to utilize the bottleneck of cable system access to stifle media voices and distort the advertising market.

Yet even without any judicial decision with respect to the status of must carry obligations, repeal of this rule will have anticompetitive consequences. H.R. 1555 does not extend must carry rights to any new channels offered by broadcasters. In developing new section 336 of the Communication Act of 1934, the authors of H.R. 1555 stipulate that if the Commission decides to award additional licenses for advanced television services, the supplementary services or channels that a broadcaster may develop utilizing digital compression are not granted must carry rights on cable systems.

Although numerous broadcasters in a locality might be using digital compression technology to create 3, 4, or 5 additional TV channels each, the cable system is not obligated to carry these additional channels. This is a competitively neutral provision only if all the local television stations are treated by the cable system in similar fashion.

With repeal of the broadcast-cable crossownership rule, however, the local cable system could immediately favor the television station in which it had a financial interest. The cable system could do this simply by carrying the additional or supplementary channels and services of that TV station and denying such opportunity to the other broadcasters within the same community.

DEREGULATION OF THE NATIONAL TV AUDIENCE REACH LIMITATION

The bill would lift the current cap limiting television networks to 25-percent coverage of the Nation to 35 percent immediately. It would then be lifted to 50 percent 1 year later.

I believe that the relationship between networks and television affiliates has served our country well. H.R. 1555 does more than tip the balance between TV networks and their affiliates toward the networks. It completely disrupts that balance.

Local broadcasters in communities across the country are fighting to remain local broadcasters in this legislation. Increasing the national audience caps to 50 percent puts localism in jeopardy. The doubling of the audience cap will hurt diversity.

The nature of the network-affiliate relationship today is that networks must count on their affiliates to air national programming while affiliates count on the networks to provide national news, sports and entertainment to add to a mix of local news and independently-produced programming. tilting the balance too much toward the networks will create a concentration of nationally-produced programming and a corresponding loss of locally-oriented programming.

If networks can own stations that cover the largest markets in the country, we lose the tradition—and the capability—of having local affiliates pre-empt network programming to bring viewers important local news, public interest programming, and local sports. As Ed Reilly, president of McGraw Hill Broadcasting Co. said in testimony before the Committee: A network-owned station almost never pre-empts a network program to cover a local sports event or to air a local charity telethon.

Because American society is built upon local community expression, the policy favoring localism is fundamental to the licensing of broadcast stations. Localism permits broadcasters to tailor their programming to the needs and interests of their communities. Moreover, as trends toward national homogenization of the media grow—for example, cable channels and direct broadcast satellite service—localism increases in importance. Expansion of national media outlets increases the need for local media outlets with the locally ubiquitous reach of broadcast television stations.

In short, relaxation of the national audience caps is an anti-competitive proposal. Deregulation of the audience cap will intensify concentration in the hands of the vertically-integrated, national television networks. Once they are permitted to gobble up additional local stations, these mega-networks will have an increased ability to sell national advertising by controlling local distribution.

No one will argue that, in general, it is not more efficient to simply make local broadcast stations passive conduits for network transmissions from New York. Localism is an expensive value. We believe it is a vitally important value, however, and like universal service, it is a principle of communications policy rooted in the Communications Act of 1934. It should be preserved and enhanced as we reform our laws for the next century.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S KOREAN WAR VETERANS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to our Nation's Korean war veterans. Last week, the Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated to their honor—and it's about time. These men and women have waited too long to be recognized for their sacrifices. They fought, and many died, for "a country they never knew and a people they never met," as reads an inscription on one of the memorial's sculptures.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is a somber yet powerful monument to those who served in what is often referred to as "the forgotten war" of the 20th century. Many heroes of the Korean war have spent the last 40 years lost in the shadows of the triumphant victory in World War II and the national divisiveness sparked by the war in Vietnam. Yet, the Korean war was critical because it was the first test of the post-World War II order; our Nation's commitment to defend liberty and to arrest the growing threat of tyranny were being directly challenged.

Carved in stone on the memorial are the words, "Freedom is Not Free"—a truism con-

firmed by painful numbers. Over 5 million Americans were mobilized for the Korean war—103,000 were wounded in battle, 52,000 gave their lives and 8,000 prisoners of war are still unaccounted for. There are still over 140,000 Korean war veterans in New Jersey, 12,400 of them in the 11th Congressional District.

Today, as I speak, thousands of American troops work together with South Korean forces to maintain the fragile peace that their grandparents fought and died for along the 38th parallel. For 42 years now, they have stood watch. Ever vigilant, ever brave, they continue to guard what has become a thriving democracy and a vibrant culture. So, while a threat still looms from the north, our Nation's commitment to defend the principles of liberty remain steadfast.

The legacy of the soldiers who fought in the frozen hills of the Korean Peninsula is evident today in the stark contrast of a nation's people still divided. The morning before the memorial was dedicated, South Korea's President, Kim Yong-sam, addressed a joint session of the United States Congress as the leader of a free and democratic nation while Kim Il Jung of North Korea still shrouds his people in the cloak of communism.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial serves as a reminder to the United States, South Korea, and the rest of the world that freedom has a price and we ought never to forget those who paid it.

THE HAMPTON CLASSIC

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proclaim August to be Hampton Classic Month. On August 27, I will join with tens of thousands of admirers in Bridgehampton, Long Island, NY, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Hampton Classic. In addition to being one of the Nation's most superb horse shows, it is also an outstanding fundraising event. Thanks to the classic's program of charitable giving, the public's support of this wonderful event also makes possible a generosity that otherwise might not be available.

Since the inaugural show in 1976, Southampton Hospital has received more than \$500,000 thanks to patrons of the Hampton Classic. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the classic produces significant annual revenues for the Nassau-Suffolk Chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the U.S. Equestrian Team, sponsors of our Olympic and other international riding teams.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all our neighbors, friends, and visitors to the east end in extending heartiest congratulations and sincere thanks to everyone in the Hampton Classic family whose selfless devotion to this tremendous undertaking have made it a success. The Hampton Classic is a truly extraordinary event and, on behalf of a grateful community, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who support it.

HONORING DR. CARL E. WHIPPLE

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carl E. Whipple for a quarter century of service to the Housing Authority of Warren County, PA.

A native Pennsylvanian, Dr. Whipple dedicated himself to educating and encouraging others to achieve their goals. He began his career as a teacher, subsequently earning masters and doctoral degrees in education. Following a naval tour aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Ranger*, Dr. Whipple continued his devotion to education during a year mission to India.

Many regions across Pennsylvania also benefited from Dr. Whipple's lifelong commitment to community service. As a teacher, principal and superintendent of several schools, Dr. Whipple actively pursued improvement of the public school system.

In addition to his career as an educator, Dr. Whipple will long be remembered for the realization of one of his dreams. Following retirement from Warren County Schools, Dr. Whipple while traveling on a family visit to California, viewed for the first time a public housing complex for senior citizens. Upon return to Pennsylvania, Dr. Whipple led the charge to establish a similar program in Warren County. Not only did Dr. Whipple play an instrumental role designing the housing authority, he also served as chairman of the board of directors for 25 years.

From his first job as a high school teacher, and throughout his participation in the Pennsylvania Retired Public School Employees Association, the Rotary Club, and the Northern Allegheny Conservation Association, Dr. Whipple continuously demonstrated the depth of his commitment to mankind.

I am proud to recognize Dr. Carl E. Whipple for his outstanding accomplishments and extraordinary dedication to public service in Warren County and throughout the world. We, in northwest Pennsylvania, are fortunate to have such an individual who serves as a shining example of what community service is all about.

A SALUTE TO JAZMIN BROOKS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to salute an outstanding young woman from my congressional district, Ms. Jazmin Brooks. Jazmin was recently named a national winner of the "Voice of Democracy" broadcast scriptwriting contest which is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary. The competition requires high school students to write an essay on a specified patriotic theme. In 1995, over 126,000 students participated. Jazmin was sponsored by VFW Post 2875, VFW Post 94, Ship's Post 2432 and its Ladies Auxiliary. All are located in Honolulu HI. This year's theme was entitled, "My Vision for America" and I am pleased to share Jazmin's award winning entry with you.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

(By Jazmin Brooks)

The date: October 12, 1492. The Man: Christopher Columbus. A time in which the seas were an open book waiting to be written. A time in which the skies were the navigational tools for all explorers to seek. A time in which the new land was like a canvas anticipating an artist's touch. One of these artists was Columbus. His painting was the Americas.

With one small stroke, Columbus began the drawing. This drawing would contain wars, revolutions, and many a rivers of tears. But this drawing was the beginning of hope, freedom, and liberty. Had this Italian man known the "door" he had just unlocked for the future of the most dominant of all nations? Could he have "envisioned" what the future possessed? . . .

Vision is a common word we perceive as being connected with the action of eyesight. This is true, but it alone is not the only element to its significance. From where I stand I see three other essentials necessary to truly project and set forth the future which you desire.

One: a mind that is as open and free as the air soaring through the wings of the masterful American eagle, knowledgeable, tenacious, and wishing to teach all those who gather. Two: a heart stout enough to withstand the mightiest of all blows, yet gentle enough to concern and reach out for those less providential. Three: a lordly soul bearing the load of the mind, heart, and body, to guide and lead the way to utmost success.

The mind, the heart, and the soul are the keys to which many great leaders have found themselves and their futures. Learn from them, observe their past and present deeds to better yourself. We all share a trace of ignorance and therefore must thrive off one another to move forward. It starts with one small step . . . a dream and a vision.

I envision the future of America thirty years from now. I see a dividend of lifestyles between micro-computers and the "Jetsons." I see the animals being able to equally share the land with humans. I see no pollution due to the fact we can now change it into lovely household pottery! I see no vandals, gangs, guns, or drugs—these people overdosed to their death in their own self-pity and anger. I see no diseases, decaying, or unwanted pain. I see wholesome lives, unlocked doors, and nightly jogs because people are no longer afraid. I see racial harmony, with acknowledgement and acceptance of the past, and a "ready foot" to move forward . . . united!

This is all that I see. This is my dream. I have that mind, that heart, and that soul to make this real. I may not do it alone, but it will be done. It may not be now, but it will be soon. And I will be that leader who shall be looked upon as a true scholar. Young adults who will be entering the "real world" with little experience, but lots of energy just looking for a light to guide them through. I will be one of those lights burning brightly for hereafter.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my support for the important amendment by the gentleman from Michigan to restore the needed funding for the cleanup of the Nation's hazardous waste sites.

The Dingell amendment is absolutely essential for our Nation's environment.

The funding level in this bill is totally inadequate for a program that will protect the health and environment of the American people.

In the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee we have had six hearings on Superfund where I have attempted to question virtually every witness about how the program should be funded.

Reducing cleanups is not an acceptable answer.

Without exception, there has been no witnesses who has given a credible answer on replacing the revenue that would be lost if we repeal retroactive liability, which some in Congress want to do.

We now have a \$3 billion annual program with half the funds appropriated and half recovered through liability procedures.

This bill proposes a drastic reduction in the appropriated funds for cleanup. If we add in the repeal of Retroactive Liability, the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program in this country will grind to a halt.

I do not believe it is acceptable to the American people to halt the cleanup of hazardous waste from their communities.

If our goal is a Superfund Program that will show real progress in cleaning up hazardous waste sites, we must pass the Dingell amendment.

The funding level in the bill is a cut of \$416 million from last year's level.

This budget level put a halt to the start of 120 construction projects.

Superfund projects would not be allowed to move to the next phase, meaning that those communities that are waiting for construction to begin are simply out of luck.

This funding level tells the people of America who are threatened by Superfund sites to live with it.

This cut will affect cleanups in more than 40 States—a truly national reduction in environmental protection.

It means that more Superfund trust fund money, taxes which are being paid by the American people and by American businesses, will remain in the trust fund.

The money in the trust fund should be used for the purpose for which it was intended—cleanups.

With one in four Americans living within 4 miles of a Superfund national priorities list site, this funding cut will have a severe impact on millions of people.

Besides the environmental impacts, these cuts will result in 3,500 lost contractor jobs and further delays in returning Superfund sites in urban areas to productive economic use.

In Pennsylvania, cleanup construction is set to begin at the site of a former scrap wire recovery site. The ground water, sediments, surface water, and soil are contaminated with the volatile organic compounds and heavy metals, including lead.

The cleanup at this site will help protect the 52,000 people who live nearby.

Construction cleanup would begin at this site in the coming months if we provide adequate funds for the Superfund Program.

H.R. 2099 does not provide the needed funds.

It would leave the people who live near this site and many others like it waiting for many more months and years for cleanup to begin.

The Dingell amendment would provide the funds for these cleanups to move forward.

I urge passage of the amendment.

IN MEMORY OF ELMER CERIN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, Congress has lost one of its most precious resources.

On Monday, July 24, Elmer Cerin passed away. I join with many of my colleagues, our staff, and others whose lives intersect with our's on Capital Hill to mourn Elmer's death and to take a moment to celebrate his life.

Unlike many of Elmer's admirers, I only knew him for a short time. When I arrived in Washington in January 1993, I began, of course, to meet the Hill's personalities. I met the Speaker. I met powerful Senators. I met important Ambassadors. And I met Elmer. Bounding into my office 1 day with a huge smile on his face and a stack of Dear Colleagues under his arm, I first laid eyes on this incredible man, on this Capitol Hill institution.

One of my staff members, who had known Elmer for several years, filled me in. Elmer was a volunteer lobbyist for a number of important causes, including health care, religious freedom, and pro-Israel issues. Although he had reached the age of 80, he had the energy of the interns a quarter his age with whom he constantly bantered. He was kind and funny, I was told, but also incredibly persistent and persuasive. With the force of his personality and his shoeleather, Elmer won many more legislative battles than he lost.

Elmer had a long and distinguished career before he ever began his lobbying crusades. He served in the administrations of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, and also worked for the Postal Service for over 20 years. Subsequently, Elmer was a successful attorney in private practice.

When Elmer's beloved wife, Sylvia, was diagnosed with ALS—Lou Gehrig's disease—in 1977, he began the phase of his life that put him in contact with so many on the Hill. Elmer began a personal effort to lobby for more research funds for ALS. Over the years, he took

on additional health issues including breast cancer, smoking, and NIH funding. For many years, he worked out of the office of our colleague HENRY WAXMAN, who spoke eloquently last week at Elmer's funeral.

Elmer also had a desk in Steve Solarz's office where he worked with Steve on human rights and Jewish issues. I'm told that he helped Representative Solarz pass the famous yarmulke bill—which allowed Jewish servicemen to wear religious head coverings while on duty—by recounting to Members and staff the fact that Elmer himself wore his yarmulke while parachuting behind enemy lines in World War II.

Together with his second wife, Shoshana Riemer, herself an activist, Elmer was very involved in a host of civic and community affairs. He was legendary for his continuous vigil in front of the Soviet Embassy during the dark days of oppression of Soviet Jews. He and Shoshana were charter sponsors of the Holocaust Museum.

In a New York Times profile about Elmer written in 1986, Elmer said, "During my lifetime, if I can reduce suffering in this world a little bit, I will be more than rewarded for all my efforts." Sadly, Elmer's life has come to an end. But he did indeed succeed in helping many, many people. And he enriched and inspired those he left behind. The poet Thomas Campbell wrote, "To live in the hearts we leave is not to die." By this measure, Elmer will live on in all who knew and loved him.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address the section of H.R. 2099, the fiscal year 1996 VA-HUD appropriations bill, that will prevent the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA] from spending any further taxpayer dollars for work on flood insurance rate maps [FIRM] for the city of Stockton and San Joaquin County, CA. I have worked with this appropriations subcommittee to see that language is included in this bill that would ensure that these inaccurate and deficient maps are not prematurely imposed on the Stockton metropolitan area. This Congress must ensure that FEMA is a partner with the city and county in providing accurate and complete information on the risk of flooding and to assist in coordinating the completion of improvements to the existing levee system. Such a coordinated effort will more rapidly restore an adequate level of flood protection and enhance, rather than threaten, the regional, and State's economy.

Unlike most FEMA floodplain maps for urbanized areas, the proposed FIRM's for Stockton do not indicate flood depths. Such information is critical to determine insurance premium rates and building code requirements. Because FEMA did not provide this information during its most recent flood insurance study, the city and county can only estimate flood depths, thereby assuming liability for inaccurate estimates, in addition to its individual property owners incurring the costs of determining the appropriate flood depths. In order to minimize this cost to property owners, the city and county have stepped forward to fully finance the necessary flood depth study. This necessary study is expected to be completed in 2 years. The legislation we are adopting today will suspend FEMA's maps and ensuing process, at least for 1 year, while the study is conducted.

FEMA's draft maps also contain significant errors. Processing has already been delayed by FEMA because of omissions and inclusions that were not part of the initial draft. The city and county have already hired an engineering firm to review the maps, and numerous other errors have been found. Despite the fact that the city and county are moving rapidly to review the proposed FIRM's, the 90-day appeal period allowed by FEMA is insufficient time considering the vast area that has been remapped. My provision contained in the appropriations bill is intended to prevent the appeal period from expiring while more accurate data is collected and eventually provided to FEMA.

Mr. Speaker, FEMA has praised the city and county for the initiative they have exercised to respond to these maps and the potential for future flooding. Since being notified last November, that nearly the entire metropolitan area was being redesignated as a floodplain, the local governments have already established a joint powers authority [JPA], retained engineering and public finance consultants, and appropriated more than \$2 billion. The city and county JPA plans to construct the needed flood protection improvements without Federal financial assistance in order to expedite completion of the project. The JPA has already established a fast-track schedule that begins constructions in May 1996 and expects completion before the end of 1998. We must now ensure that FEMA's administrative actions assist rather than impede this effort.

JUDGE LLOYD TATUM, A GREAT AMERICAN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, August 5, 1995, Judge Lloyd Tatum of Henderson, TN, will celebrate his birthday, matching the Biblical age of three score and ten.

Judge Tatum is a highly respected West Tennessee lawyer, known throughout Tennessee legal circles for having served many years as a member of the Tennessee Criminal Court of Appeals. Upon his retirement from the active bench several years ago, he resumed private practice in Henderson with his son, Lloyd Rogers Tatum, while continuing to serve as a reserve judge.

In addition to being the husband of my beloved deceased sister, Inadene, Judge Tatum is a mentor of mine. He is a brother-in-law who is as close to me as a brother. He inspired me to become a lawyer, to engage in politics and to muster the self-confidence to stand for Congress.

We confer frequently about issues of the day, as well as our latest golf scores—such as they are—and I value his advice.

Saturday, his four children and their spouses, many grandchildren, other family and scores of friends are gathering to wish Lloyd a joyous birthday.

I hope that through his life, I can inspire just a fraction of the great number of people who have been inspired and encouraged by Lloyd Tatum.

I wish for him many more productive years and thank him for all he means to me, my family, and hundreds of friends and admirers. Happy birthday, Lloyd.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRY JAMES MCCOY

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to Terry James McCoy of Franklin, NC, who has been named a national winner in the 1995 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest.

The program was started 48 years ago and since 1958 has been sponsored each year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary.

Students competing in the contest write and record a 3-to-5-minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year more than 126,000 secondary school students nationwide participated in the contest competing for the 54 national scholarships.

McCoy, a recent graduate of Franklin High School, was named the North Carolina State winner for his script, "My Vision for America," and was awarded the \$2,000 Jesse A. Lewis Memorial Scholarship Award.

I congratulate Terry on an outstanding accomplishment and ask that his script be placed in the RECORD.

MY VISION FOR AMERICA

(By Terry James McCoy)

The United States of America was, and is, an experiment. In its brief two hundred and eighteen years as an independent nation, America has stood the test of destruction many times. Every time this nation is engaged in a battle, it is tested. Every time America experiences a lapse in its economy, it is tested. When American citizens burn the symbol of this great land, it is tested.

The Civil War was possibly this nation's greatest trial. Descension among citizens has never been this high. As states began to secede, hatred towards one another began to grow. Many were declaring this, "the end of democracy, and this nation." How fortunate, that from the fields of Illinois there came a tall, powerful man. This man has vision for America. He could see past the hatred and the violence. He saw America as it should have been. Abraham Lincoln led a nation out of its greatest test and left it far better than he found it.

The Great Depression is yet another potentially disastrous predicament that America has had to face. The United States' economy was in shambles. It was not only an economic depression but a social depression as well. Unemployment was at an all time high. Yet again there were those who said that, "capitalism has failed, its the end of this nation." Children were starving, families were destroyed, and American citizens were without hope. Through the midst of this terrible time, a great leader came to the forefront. He showed the American people that there was hope. He promised them that America could pull through this evil beast, called the Great Depression. Franklin Delano Roosevelt had a vision for America. Roosevelt knew that America could quickly become the worlds largest economic and militaristic super power. Franklin Roosevelt never saw the day when America became what he dreamed it to be. His vision is still very much alive in this country and will continue to be alive as long as American citizens are students of its history.

These two men contributed more to this nation than we will ever realize. Their visions are still very much a part of this country. However, their visions are not the only visions that have influenced America. Every citizen of this nation has had a vision for America's future. For example, Susan B. Anthony had a very simple vision. It was a vision in which all Americans had the right to vote.

Henry Ford had a vision in which all the people of this country could afford and own their own car. The Wright brothers dreamed of an America in which people could travel through the air to get to their destinations. These visions for America were not just fantasies that only existed in these dreamer's heads, but they were attainable ideals that many other American's shared with them.

What is my vision for America? It is one of idealism, but attainable idealism. I see an America in which citizens can put faith in those that govern them. I see an America in which if you destroy the United States Flag, the very symbol of our freedom and our pride, not only will you be breaking a federal law but you will be directly defying the United States Constitution. My vision for America is one in which we stand proud of those that have served this nation so well, both in military service and civilian service. I foresee a nation where school children are no longer afraid of violence in their own schools. I dream of the day when the people of this nation can once again stroll the streets in safety. I look forward to an America where people are proud of it and its rich history. This is my vision for America.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEDICARE PROGRAM'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 30th anniversary of the Medicare Program—three decades of commitment, service, and dedication to providing for the health care needs of our Nation's elderly citizens. Signed into law on July 30, 1965, by President Johnson, the Medicare Program has a rich history that all Americans can be proud of.

Prior to Medicare only 46 percent of the elderly had health care coverage, as a result of Medicare, today 97 percent of the Nation's elderly have health care coverage.

After the implementation of the Medicare Program, the death rates for all causes decreased dramatically. From 1960 to the present, the number of deaths for Americans ages 65 to 74 has decreased by over a quarter of a million—275,000—and for those over the age of 85 the number of deaths has decreased by nearly half million—427,000.

With good medical care, the life expectancy for Americans had increased by 6.1 years, increasing from 69.7 years prior to Medicare, to 75.8 years today.

In spite of Medicare's proven success in prolonging elderly Americans' independence, and its success in improving their quality of life, the Republicans have been steadfast in their commitment to kill the Medicare Program. Since day 1, they have attacked the Medicare Program from all angles—labeling it as socialized medicine, unnecessary, and ill-conceived.

Thirty years after the establishment of the Medicare Program, the Republican assault had not only continued, but as escalated and become even more mean spirited. Today, the GOP seeks to destroy the Medicare Program through the budget process. The Republican-passed budget resolution cuts \$270 billion out of the Medicare Program, threatening the health of millions of American elderly.

While the Republicans have never supported the Medicare Program, their decision to gut the program's funding in order to give a tax cut to the wealthy is one of their most callous acts—not only against the Medicare Program—but more importantly, against the elderly citizens served by the program.

The American people must not tolerate the Republicans' blatant disregard for the health care needs of the elderly—the GOP's assault on the elderly is unconscionable and inhumane.

Mr. Speaker, when President Johnson signed the Medicare Program into law, he stated:

No longer will older Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine . . . no longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years . . . and, no longer will this Nation refuse the hand of justice to those who have given a lifetime of service and wisdom and labor to the progress of this progressive country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Medicare Program on its 30th anniversary, and to pledge ourselves to making its absolutely clear—that we will not allow the Republican Party to make our Nation's elderly their pawn in the Republican-tax give away scheme for the rich.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY CARL EVERETT VAIL, SR.

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my most heart-felt congratulations to Mr. Carl Everett Vail, Sr., on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Mr. Vail was born August 12, 1895, the son of Floyd Wiggins, a farmer and market hunter, and Elizabeth Genin Penny.

Mr. Vail has served both Long Island and this Nation for many years. He volunteered for

the draft in 1917, and served valiantly in the 77th Division in World War I. He incurred a temporary disability during the war due to poisonous gas, and was discharged from the Army in 1919. Originally a farmer, Vail was unable to continue that occupation because of his disability. He decided to follow his interest in automobiles which began at the age of eight.

Through a combination of hard work, dedication, skill, and timing, Carl Vail built up his car dealerships from a single car—the Waltham, Massachusetts war-baby—to a multi-million dollar business. His success never tarnished his reputation for honesty and fairness. When the United States entered World War II, Vail again volunteered to serve his country. His wartime responsibilities included service on a civilian Army ordnance team that raised 2,200 men and officers for the regular Army ordnance. He was also eastern Long Island division captain in charge of Coast Guard Temporary Reserve with 200 men on part-time duty.

Aside from being a successful businessman and a national patriot, Carl Vail is also community-minded and a dedicated patriarch of the Vail family. His spirit of voluntarism lead him to actively participate in promoting automotive safety and driver education on eastern Long Island. He was also a founder and past commander of Raymond Cleaves Post, American Legion, Mattituck. Over the years, Carl Vail has been a dutiful husband, father, and grandfather. He has 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren.

Once again I extend my best wishes and congratulations on 100 successful years to Carl Everett Vail, Sr. He is a man whose life is an inspiration to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL FORGE CO., IRVINE, PA

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the new employee-owners of National Forge Co. in Irvine, PA. On June 29, 1995, these men and women purchased the company's assets and those of a subsidiary in Manchester, England. In so doing, they married the dignity of hard work with the passion of self-investment.

An internationally competitive producer of precision machined steel components, the company has thrived on a reputation for excellence in quality and productivity. From its founding in 1915 by Clinton E. Wilder to its most recent days under the leadership of his son, Robert O. Wilder, National Forge has grown steadily, continuously seizing new opportunities and enhancing its operations.

National Forge is a northwest Pennsylvania success story, but it is also a company of national significance. An exporter to customers around the world, it is a source of our country's global competitiveness. The award-winning service and products of National Forge also contribute to our national defense. In times of need—from the world wars through the gulf war—the company was a key supplier to our Armed Forces, and it remains one today.

Now, National Forge takes another bold step forward. The employees look forward to the future with a new sense of vigor, and stand ready to face the challenges of the 21st century.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the people of National Forge. With their skill, dedication, and confidence they are pursuing the American dream, and I wish them all of the best.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NCOA IN
CELEBRATING ITS 35-YEAR ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Non-Commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America [NCOA] in celebrating its 35-year anniversary. I have enjoyed working with the members of the NCOA and wish them the very best in the years to come. I want to share with my colleagues the following article which chronicles the history of the association:

NCOA CELEBRATES 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS, AND RE-
TIRES

SAN ANTONIO, TX, July 29, 1995.—In 1960, several retired U.S. servicemen founded the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) as a vehicle for enlisted veterans and military retirees to discuss military issues. Today, the San Antonio-based association has members around the world and is regarded as one of the most influential military organizations in America.

"NCOA's lobbyists have successfully defended military and veterans entitlements while striving to improve the quality of life for enlisted personnel and their families," says NCOA President Charles R. Jackson, MCPO, USN (Ret). "Additionally, NCOA members, located on nearly every military installation in the U.S. and overseas, have made lasting contributions to their communities."

Thirty-five years ago, Army Sergeant Major Orville L. Vickers broadened the scope of the original vision of NCOA. SGM Vickers included active duty enlisteds from all five branches in the organizational composition. The new association, SGM Vickers declared, would have four primary purposes: fraternal, social, educational and patriotic. It would also provide some commercial benefits and employment services.

On September 20, 1960, just three days after NCOA's charter was issued by the state of Texas, SGM Vickers officially created NCOA. As the Association's first president, SGM Vickers paid his \$12 membership dues and the dues of four NCOs who would form the board of directors. He also deposited \$100 into NCOA's brand-new bank account.

Membership grew slowly for the first year or two, and was confined primarily to the San Antonio area. But within just a few years, the word got out about NCOA and the Association began to build a sizable membership throughout the U.S. and the world.

The 1960s was a period of growth and self-examination for NCOA. Emphasis was placed on public relations, membership recruitment and an exploration of which goals and issues the Association should pursue.

By the 1970s, NCOA had taken its place as a leading advocate of personnel issues per-

taining to active duty military, veterans and retirees. The Association's lobbyists began appearing before congressional committees, defending endangered benefits and supporting progressive programs.

During the 1980's, the Association's membership and influence grew dramatically. NCOA members were now all around the world, in more than 200 chapters. In Washington, D.C., NCOA lobbyists had become well known. Based on their list of legislative achievements, NCOA had earned the respect of congressmen and senators. Perhaps one of their greatest accomplishments came in the mid-1980s, when President Ronald Reagan signed a bill (that had been passed unanimously by both houses of Congress) that granted a federal charter to NCOA. NCOA's federal charter was at that time only the 79th authorized by the U.S. Congress.

Today, NCOA has members and chapters worldwide. It employs a full-time team of registered lobbyists in Washington and provides a national network of service centers. NCOA's job placement assistance and veteran service programs have proven to be valuable assets to its members. Through the Association's Certified Merchant Program, members save dollars through consumer benefits and discounts.

NCOA membership encompasses the entire enlisted force—active duty, reservists, National Guardsmen, veterans and retirees from all branches of the U.S. armed services. Moreover, NCOA has committed itself to improving the lives of others. For instance, chapter members continue to support causes such as Special Olympics, Muscular Dystrophy Association, the NCOA Medical Trust Fund, the NCOA Scholarship Fund and the NCOA Disaster Relief Fund.

"NCOA certainly has come a long way in just three and one-half decades," says Jackson. "And we have lived up to our motto, 'Strength in Unity,' by fighting for servicemembers' benefits, helping them with problems, supporting important programs and providing unparalleled camaraderie. Simultaneously, through our commitment to benevolent acts, we have made a significant contribution to the civilian community," Jackson adds. "NCOA also remains the only national organization exclusively dedicated to representing enlisted servicemembers of all branches of the military."

NCOA's legislative highlights through the years:

In the 1970s, NCOA was:

The only military association to appear before the Veterans Affairs Committee to seek increases in veterans' compensation and DIC rates.

The first military association to appear before the House Budget Committee on behalf of military personnel (to seek increased sea pay).

One of only two military/veterans organizations testifying in opposition to law that barred persons in receipt of military retired pay from collecting unemployment compensation.

The first military association to suggest and testify for the opening of individual retirement accounts to active duty personnel, which later became law.

The first organization to seek a new GI Education Bill for members of the Armed Forces. A bill authored by NCOA was the first of its kind to be introduced in 1979 in Congress.

The only military association actively supporting increases in veterans' burial allowances, which subsequently became law.

In the 1980s, NCOA was:

Successfully recommended a 17 percent targeted pay raise for noncommissioned and petty officers in 1981.

Instrumental in fighting against subsequent military pay reductions and helping attain pay raises.

Influential in getting the Coast Guard's operating budget raised.

The first military association to provide a network of accredited Veterans Services Offices (VSOs) outside the nation's capital.

The first organization to open a veterans service office on a military installation.

The first military association to present its veterans affairs goals to a congressional panel.

Instrumental in preserving reemployment rights and retired pay eligibility for federal civilian employees who perform extended reserve duty in the Armed Forces.

A major player in getting the Senate to accept an increase in coverage for participants in Servicemen's Government Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Government Life Insurance (VGLI).

In the 1990s, NCOA has:

Successfully fought for enlisted widows to receive benefits equal to officers' widows under the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program.

Helped persuade Congress to expand the DoD family dental plan.

Successfully pursued legislation that protects retirement benefits for NCOs and POs who have completed 18 years of service, thus extending to enlisteds a benefit previously enjoyed only by officers.

Requested and received the introduction of the first enlisted involuntary separation pay proposals considered by Congress, which subsequently became law.

Supported the subsequent enactment of voluntary separation pay for enlisted servicemembers and was successful in efforts to have these benefits extended to the Coast Guard, National Guard and military reserves.

Supported the creation of mail-order pharmacies and health care options to serve retirees at base closure sites.

Successfully supported the creation of the Troops to Teachers and the Leadership Employment for Armed Services Personnel (LEAP) programs to assist veterans and retirees in gaining employment.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM "BOONE"
DARDEN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, Florida lost one of its finest citizens. I rise today to commemorate the life of community leader William Darden. Affectionately known as Boone, Mr. Darden had a long and distinguished career in law enforcement and public service. His career culminated in being named police chief in his hometown of Riviera Beach, becoming the first African-American police chief of a major city in Florida.

Born in Atlanta, Mr. Darden began his service to his country as a military policeman in World War II. Following the war, he became one of the first African-American policemen hired by the West Palm Beach Police Department. Throughout his life, he continued opening doors closed to minorities. When he rose to the position of lieutenant, he became the highest ranking African-American police officer in the South. In 1971, he was called in by Riviera Beach city leaders to help quell the devastating violence and calm the atmosphere of

anger created by the integration of public schools. Using his considerable mediation skills, Mr. Darden single-handedly brought peace to his fractured community. He was promptly named police chief of Riviera Beach and set to work cleaning up and revitalizing the chaotic police force which at the time was a symbol of racial division.

A model of goodwill and a hero to many African-American youth, he was reknown for his community work with troubled children. His popularity spread across Florida and was widely regarded as a major force in State politics. He was the vice chair of the State Democratic Affirmative Action Committee and subsequently rose to hold a seat on the national executive committee of the Democratic Party. Having close ties to the Carter White House, Mr. Darden participated in a diplomatic trip to Algeria at the behest of President Carter. After a remarkable rise from patrolman to chief, Mr. Darden retired in 1983 to devote his time to his family. As well as being a respected community leader, Mr. Darden was a devoted family man, and he is survived by his wife, Rose, his daughter, Kimberly, two sons, William, Jr., and Darell; and a grandchild, Dominique.

A pioneer, peacemaker, and a dear friend, Boone Darden was an exceptional man. Mr. Speaker, Florida has lost one of its great citizens with the passing of William "Boone" Darden. His courageous life is an inspiration to all of us, and a blueprint of the American dream. We can only hope that his life emboldens those that face their own mountains to climb.

DISENFRANCHISING TENS OF MILLIONS OF ELDERLY AND LOW-INCOME AMERICANS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, the president of the National Association of Public Hospitals, Larry Gage, testified before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health on the pending Medicare cuts.

I'd like to reprint here two paragraphs from his outstanding statement—a statement that every Member should read before voting on the excessive, destructive Medicare and Medicaid cuts proposed by the budget resolution:

Despite rhetoric to the contrary, these programs have achieved their results for the most part efficiently and economically. Medicare in particular has seen provider payments capped at a growth rate less than inflation for most of the last decade. And current projections for growth in the Medicaid program are largely due to demand for long term care and the growth in the number of recipients, with the poor elderly being a major factor on both fronts.

For these reasons, it is simply impossible for most analysts to imagine reducing spending in these two programs by almost half a trillion dollars over the next seven years without destroying both programs and disenfranchising tens of millions of elderly

and low income Americans. Surely, it is impossible to contemplate implementing positive reforms such as are envisioned in the Committee's new proposal in the face of such reductions.

TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE SHIR SHALOM

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 1, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of a new home for Temple Shir Shalom of West Bloomfield, MI. Temple Shir Shalom was founded in June 1988 with just 30 committed families. For the past 7 years, congregants worshiped in rented space in an office building at the same time promoting and planning for a permanent home.

Today Temple Shir Shalom is the proud congregation of 650 members, and their new home reflects the commitment and diligence of the entire congregation—the clergy, the staff, and the congregants. I commend them on their achievement of reaching the day they had looked forward to for so long.

To everyone at Temple Shir Shalom, I extend every good wish for many, many fruitful years ahead.