

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.