

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ANTHONY M. PILLA: CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to extend congratulations to Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, a resident of my congressional district and leader of the Diocese of Cleveland. On yesterday, Bishop Pilla was elected as the new president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In this influential post, he will serve as the chief spokesman for the Catholic Church and provide leadership for its 60 million American parishioners. Previously, Bishop Pilla served as vice president of this distinguished organization. On behalf of the residents of the 11th Congressional District, we express our strong support and encouragement to Bishop Pilla as he assumes the presidency.

Since 1980, Bishop Anthony Pilla has led the Diocese of Cleveland. Throughout his tenure, he has been outspoken on the social, political, and religious issues confronting our community and the Nation. His strong leadership and dedication has earned him the respect of the entire community. He is not only admired, but he is an individual of the highest integrity and commitment.

As he assumes the helm of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Pilla does so with the full support of the organization. In the election, he garnered 170 of the 238 votes cast, and bested 10 other candidates to win the 3-year presidency.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 17, 1995, the Cleveland community will express its pride in Bishop Anthony Pilla with a Mass being held in his honor. I take pride in expressing my personal congratulations to Bishop Pilla. He is someone whom I greatly admire, and I wish him well as he assumes this major post.

PICK-SLOAN PROJECT FACILITIES TRANSFER ACT

HON. PAT ROBERTS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, one of the key reform goals of this Congress is to examine all aspects of the Federal Government's involvement in the day-to-day lives of our citizens, and determine which of those Federal roles would be more efficiently managed on the local level and/or by the private sector. The portions of the Pick-Sloan project in Kansas and Nebraska, appear to fit this category.

However, the procedures established that allow the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer title—and the management and financial responsibilities—to the irrigation districts are often contentious and inordinately time consuming.

Today I am introducing a bill to expedite this process and so all interested parties can raise their issues and concerns relative to the title transfer of the Kansas and Nebraska Pick-

Sloan projects. There are sure to be provisions in this bill that some may find problematic. The introduction of this legislation will encourage a comprehensive discussion on this transfer to ensure all appropriate issues are adequately addressed.

The Missouri River Basin, Kansas and Nebraska, Pick-Sloan Facilities Transfer Act will contribute to our continuing efforts to reduce and reform the role of the Federal Government. And by the consideration of this act, Congress will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to register their concerns so they can be properly addressed.

ICC TERMINATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2539) to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, to amend subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code, to reform economic regulation of transportation, and for other purposes:

Mr. EWING. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you for moving H.R. 2539, the ICC Termination Act of 1995, forward in a timely fashion. As Members may be aware the Interstate Commerce Commission [ICC] will be terminated on December 5 of this year, and without new legislation in place, the existing cumbersome and obsolete 19th century ICC statute will remain on the books.

While there is solid bipartisan support for termination of the ICC, the difficulty of dismantling 100 years of transportation and commercial law has certainly become evident. However, in dismantling the ICC and moving its remaining critical functions to the U.S. Department of Transportation, care must be taken to protect vulnerable interests, like captive shippers.

The provisions of the bill which encourage class II railroads to purchase lines that would otherwise be abandoned by larger class I railroads must be retained or captive shippers could see their service disappear entirely. Unfortunately, adoption of Representative WHITFIELD'S proposed amendment would upset the careful balance in the bill and could discourage class II railroads from investing in lines scheduled for abandonment. Congress should not impose an unfunded mandate on class II railroads and create an environment where essential railroad service is lost because the costs of assuming existing labor agreements and severance benefits is prohibitive. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support the committee language and reject the Whitfield amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I also appreciate your willingness to address other issues of importance to American agriculture and for working with members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who represent agricultural districts. Agriculture is heavily dependent upon rail service to move products to market. For many rural and smalltown farmers there is only one grain elevator and one rail line available. The ability to move commodities in a timely fashion is critical to remaining in busi-

ness. When faced with these monopolistic circumstances some reasonable regulation is essential.

I am pleased the legislation before the House today clarifies the exemptions language in the bill, grants the adjudication panel the authority to deny abandonments, includes contract summary filing language, restores investigation authority, and restores the existing 20 days rate-change-notification requirement. However, I remain concerned about potential railcar supply shortages and the percentage of rolling stock that could be contracted out under the common carrier provisions of the bill.

Railcar shortages boost the price farmers and elevators must pay to move crops to market, thereby lowering the amount farmers receive for their crops. In fact, Midwestern agriculture is already facing acute railcar shortages resulting from increased demand, instability in the railroad industry caused by proposed mergers, and high barge shipping rates. While I am not advocating excessive regulation to protect agriculture, the final ICC termination legislation should not worsen the situation unnecessarily.

Mr. Chairman, I plan to continue working with you on this issue and I urge you to consider accepting the common carrier language contained in the Senate's ICC termination bill when this legislation goes to conference.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you for the leadership you have demonstrated in working with Members who represent agricultural interests. Although H.R. 2539 is not perfect, and some additional work is necessary, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2539.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 707, recorded on October 12, 1995, I mistakenly recorded my vote as yes—it was my intention to vote no on this particular measure. Although I recognize this statement does not change my vote I would like the record to reflect my intention.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER PAUL STAUD

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 15, 1995*

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Father Paul R. Staud, the parochial vicar at Saint Malachy Parish in Coraopolis, PA. Father Paul will celebrate 25 years of service in the priesthood with an afternoon liturgy at Saint Malachy on November 26, 1995.

Father Paul was ordained at Holy Innocents Church in Sheraden, PA, on October 31, 1970. He studied at Assumption School, Avalon High School, Point Park College, Saint Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati, John Carroll University, and Saint Vincent Seminary.

Father Paul has been parochial vicar at Saint Malachy Parish since November 1991. His service to the parish has been exemplary.