

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.

His service to the church has also included stints as parochial vicar at Holy Innocents Church [from 1970 to 1974], Saint Theresa Church in Munhall, PA [from 1974 to 1975], Saint Veronica Church in Ambridge, PA [from 1975 to 1978], and Saint Joseph Church in Mount Oliver, PA [from 1978 to 1983]. He subsequently served as pastor at Saint Alphonsus Church in Murrinsville, PA, and at Epiphany Church in Boyers, PA, from 1983 to 1991, and he was also in residence at Saint Columbkille Church in Imperial, PA, in 1991.

Father Paul was deanery director of religious education at the South Pittsburgh Deanery from 1979 to 1983, and deanery director of the Butler Deanery in Butler, PA, from 1984 to 1991. Father Paul has been a master catechist for the diocese since 1979, and he is currently the program manager for religious education at Saint Malachy.

Father Paul has provided 25 years of dedicated service to many of the Catholic parishes of southwestern Pennsylvania. I want to congratulate Father Paul on his silver anniversary.

THANK YOU MRS. RUTH MACDONALD FOR YOUR YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mrs. Ruth Macdonald of McLeansboro, IL for her years of dedicated public service to the people of Hamilton County. In 1976 she was elected as Hamilton County coroner. Three years later Ruth was appointed circuit clerk, and was elected to that position in 1980. She subsequently was re-elected in 1984, 1988, and 1992. Ruth retired on July 31, 1995 after serving 16 years as the Hamilton County circuit clerk.

A native of Kentucky, Ruth moved to McLeansboro in 1959 with her husband and three children. Since her arrival in southern Illinois Ruth has worked hard to ensure that her family and neighbors live in a community that strives for excellence. Through her tireless efforts as a mother and public servant she has helped her children excel and contribute to their communities. Ruth's daughter, Alice, is a circuit court judge in Wayne County, IL; her son, John, is an engineer in Cincinnati, OH; and her son, James, is a professor at Weber State University in Ogden, UT.

Mr. Speaker, until the 1992 election, Hamilton County still used paper ballots. Many times the election results were not known until noon the following day, and it was Ruth's office that would remain open to the public around the clock on primary and general election nights, serving coffee and food to those interested in the election outcome.

There is no question Ruth Macdonald has been a public servant of the highest standards, and she will be missed as circuit clerk. I take great pride in honoring her service to the citizens of Hamilton County and all others she served. Ruth Macdonald has set a very good example for all of us to follow, and I wish her the very best as she begins her retirement.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT  
AMENDMENTS OF 1995

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 1995

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. CASTLE, my good friend and chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, for allowing me to discuss some issues about the Defense Production Act.

The Defense Production Act has been an important tool for acquiring needed equipment and technology for our Armed Forces in the event of a national emergency. Yet, the Defense Production Act is a multi-issue law. Much of this expansive act deals with advising and working with commercial activities to study, invent, and produce materials that could be used in the event of wartime activity.

When the DPA came up in subcommittee, concerns were raised by other Members and myself. Besides the continuance of authorizing funds for such an outdated, all-encompassing and convoluted act—it also has sweeping authority given to the President. This nebulous language must be cleared to set a direct mission for use of DPA authority. What we have now can be interpreted as essentially a War Powers Act clothed in 1950's post-World War II language—language that gives heavy leeway to the executive branch.

Make no mistake, I am not favoring withholding vital equipment from our Armed Forces and thus I am favoring reappropriating this bill, but the report language fostered for this bill mandates the executive branch to review and to reform the outdated language and to set clear the mission for the DPA. It requires the President to provide an interim report and a final report before appropriations end in 1998. The goal of this report language is to help refine the bill, provide what is necessary for the Armed Forces by Presidential order, and to set a direction for a rewrite of the legislation before the next appropriation cycle.

Maintaining vital procurement in times of national emergency is imperative—but modernizing statutes to ensure proper legality is also extremely critical.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, it absolutely galls me that the President has chosen to play politics and shut down the Federal Government rather than join us in making a downpayment on a balanced budget and a brighter future for our children.

The Government shutdown is solely on the President's shoulders. He has provided no leadership and no plan for a balanced budget. Despite his rhetoric to the contrary, the President has no balanced budget. Never has.

I urge my colleagues not to give in to the scare tactics propagated by the White House. We need to stay our course and pass the remaining bills necessary to balance the budget.

We must remain committed to real reform—reform in welfare, reform in Medicare, and tax cuts for families. Once we have completed the bills, it is up to the President to do what is right and sign on for the future of America.

We have a promise to keep to America. A year ago this month, we promised to end business as usual in Government. The American people are counting on us.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN BEN  
SHEPPERD

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during the recent dedication of the Korean War Memorial and during last weekend's Veteran's Day memorial ceremonies in east Texas, I was reminded of the oratorical prowess of a legendary Texan and former constituent of mine, the late John Ben Shepperd (1915–90). John Ben was one of the first statewide officials that I met when I first entered politics in the 1950's. He was a kind and considerate man—so capable of friendship—and so strong as a leader.

The caption on the Korean War Memorial, "Freedom Is Not Free," is a phrase that was coined by John Ben in the late 1940's and used in hundreds of public appearances during his civic and political career. In 1953 he published an excerpt of his speeches and entitled the booklet, "Freedom Is Not Free." This and his book, "Freedom's Advocate," won him the coveted George Washington Medal from the Freedom Foundation of Valley Forge, PA.

John Ben would have been pleased and proud to see his language used to memorialize the sacrifices of American soldiers who defended freedom in distant parts of the globe, and I am sure that this pleases his widow, Mamie Shepperd, who lives in my district in Gladewater, TX. He would have joined in the praise and recognition, which is so long overdue.

John Ben was one of America's strongest advocates of democracy. He often reminded us that freedom is not a gift to be enjoyed, but an ideal that must be defended. He continually called on every citizen to uphold and promote our system of government and free enterprise.

In 1948, as president of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, John Ben organized the "Freedom Flight." According to Jaycee archives, he traveled over 250,000 miles and gave three hundred speeches heard by a quarter of a million people. As Texas Secretary of State and attorney general from 1950 to 1957, he continued to be an eloquent spokesman for democracy.

John Ben had a special concern for young Americans. According to our former colleague, the Hon. Jake Pickle, who first knew John Ben at the University of Texas, he passionately cared that future generations should understand their roots in order to appreciate the American legacy of democracy and heroism.

John Ben's phrase, "Freedom is Not Free," on the Korean Memorial is a stirring reminder to future generations and a fitting tribute to a dynamic Texan. Mr. Speaker, John Ben Shepperd leaves behind a powerful legacy