

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MOVEMENT TOWARD PERMANENT PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's recent visit to the north and south of Ireland, has enhanced the momentum toward finding lasting peace and justice on the whole island. The President is to be commended for his efforts in this important cause.

The peace process that has seen a ceasefire in the north of Ireland honored on all sides for more than 15 months, has yet to produce the critical all-party inclusive talks essential to finding through political dialogue, a lasting reconciliation and a permanent peace. The people of all Ireland clearly desire those goals, as was demonstrated by the joyous, supportive, and warm reception the President's peace visit received in both parts of the island.

The Congress was well represented on this important, historical trip of President Clinton to help advance the peace process in Ireland, at a point in time when it was stalled, the momentum lost, and a return to violence a real possibility.

A strong bipartisan delegation of both House and Senate members led by my good friend JAMES WALSH (R-NY), the chairman of the Friends of Ireland accompanied the President. The congressional delegation met with all the parties in the north and south, and engaged in an important and further dialogue to help sustain the progress toward peace, which President Clinton's visit had motivated.

The bipartisan congressional delegation issued a statement, which in part unanimously stated, that the delegation urges that " * * * a fixed and concrete date be promptly set for all party inclusive talks following the completion of the International Body's findings under the leadership of former United States Senator George Mitchell of Maine."

The arms decommissioning issue that this International Body will address by mid-January 1996 has sadly too often been a smoke screen, and unfortunately used as a totally unwarranted precondition by many to stall and prevent critical all-party inclusive talks and dialogue. What the north of Ireland needs in order to truly get the arms held by both sides out of the process, is really a decommissioning of the mind set of the many who are resistant to change on both sides. That must and can only take place across the bargaining table in this long, tragic, and deeply divisive "troubles" that must come to a permanent end.

Once the arms issue report is completed by the International Body in mid-January next year, it is hoped that no more excuses, delaying tactics, nor any one side's veto will be tolerated by the interested governments. We must soon thereafter have a fixed concrete and nonnegotiable date set for all party talks at the peace table. The target date for these

talks in late February, can not, and must not, become a moving target.

The delegation is commended for its firm statement and understanding of what needs to be done. Talks must soon begin in earnest, and the future of all Ireland settled at the bargaining table by the warm and generous people of Ireland, not by any bombs or guns.

The future generations of Irish youth and Ireland's many friends here and all around the world will be following very closely the progress toward lasting peace which President Clinton's visit has stimulated once again. We in the Congress will do all in our power to see that this momentum does not slip away.

Mr. Speaker, I request that the full text of the bi-partisan delegation's statement be included at this point in the RECORD.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION APPLAUDS MOVEMENT TOWARD PERMANENT PEACE AND RECONCILIATION; URGES CONTINUED PROGRESS
(Dublin, Ireland, December 1, 1995)

Chairman James Walsh (R-NY)—Head of the Bi-Partisan Delegation accompanying President Clinton's visit to Ireland issued the following statement on behalf of the delegation.

"The enormous celebration of Peace we have all witnessed among people of both the north and south of Ireland is a reflection of the enormous desire to make the current peace permanent, and find lasting justice on the whole island of Ireland. The young people of Ireland's future must be secured through the removal of violence as a means for change.

"After seeing an obvious display of support for peace by the people of Ireland, and after meeting with all political parties, north and south, the delegation is firmly convinced that a lasting political solution can, and must, be found through political dialogue. Specifically, we support the recent twin track agreement.

Mr. Walsh went on to say, "I applaud President Clinton's continued leadership in helping move the peace process forward and using the influence and moral will of America to help advance the peace process."

Mr. Walsh concluded by saying, "The delegation was unanimous in urging that a fixed and concrete date be promptly set for all-party inclusive talks following the completion of the International Body's findings under the leadership of former United States Senator George Mitchell of Maine."

A TRIBUTE TO EARL WESLEY BASCOM

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud, yet saddened, to bring to your attention today the recent passing of Earl Wesley Bascom of Victorville, CA. Earl was a cowboy hero and a true inspiration to many of us, particularly in the West. I'd like to take a moment to share with you a glimpse of Earl's remarkable life and the legacy he has left for future generations.

Earl was born in a sod-roofed log cabin on a ranch near Vernal, UT, on June 19, 1906. His grandfather, Joel Bascom, was one of the very first frontier lawmen, and his father, deputy sheriff John Bascom, chased the outlaw Butch Cassidy in the late 1880's. Earl showed an early interest in art, drawing scenes of his young cowboy life on pieces of scrap paper. This interest blossomed when his family left Utah by covered wagon to start a new ranch life in Alberta, Canada in 1914. There he worked as a cowhand for a dollar a day and furthered his dream under the direction of renowned western artist Charlie Russell.

In 1933, at the age of 27, and having never graduated from high school, Earl was accepted to study art at Brigham Young University. He was the first student to pay his way through college exclusively as a rodeo cowboy, giving him the title of "Rodeo's First Collegiate Cowboy." As an early pioneer of rodeo, he invented innovative rodeo equipment still used today. He graduated as one of the great rodeo legends, with his art degree, in 1940.

Earl retired from rodeo, married Nadine Diffey, and moved to Los Angeles in 1940 to pursue his art career. As that developed, he worked in construction, ranching, taught, and even did some film work with Roy Rogers. In 1968, Earl began sculpting, and 5 years later, he and his youngest son, John, set up their own bronze casting foundry to produce magnificent works of western art.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Earl's family and many friends in recognizing Earl Bascom's extraordinary work and remarkable life. Earl lived one of the most interesting lives ever known in modern cowboy history. "I've tried to portray the West as I knew it—rough and rugged and tough as an old boot but with a good heart and honest as the day is long," he said. It is only fitting that the House recognize Earl Bascom today.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM F. ARMSTRONG

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. William F. Armstrong and 1995 marks Mr. Armstrong's 50th anniversary of being founder and president of Armstrong Ambulance Services.

Mr. Armstrong is certainly dedicated. He dutifully served his tour of duty in the U.S. Marine Corps. Upon his return, he established his very own ambulatory service. This personal service currently thrives as the Armstrong Ambulance Service.

Mr. Armstrong's perseverance and hard work to benefit and safeguard the well-being of others is exemplary. He lived on call for others 24 hours a day, for over five decades.

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