

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS ACT— VETO OVERRIDE ATTEMPT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 1996

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard from our constituents about the Government shutdown. Closure of our National Parks and Forests has attracted a great deal of attention. In my district—where we have National Park Service units and national forest land—over 500 Federal workers have been furloughed. Those that are at their jobs are working without pay.

However, the situation is even worse for those who rely on visitors to western North Carolina for their business. Concessioners, for instance, are private enterprises and are losing money because of the reduction in tourists to our area. These people will not receive the back pay that the Federal workers will be getting.

I was extremely disappointed that President Clinton vetoed our bill on December 18. As you know, we worked very hard to craft a bill that the administration could support—one that addressed the concerns expressed by various administration Representatives. I don't know if the President was even aware of what was in this bill—I think he simply vetoed it to pander to the more radical environmental groups who claimed it would severely damage the environment.

But of course these claims are completely false. This bill does not harm to our natural resources; in fact, it addresses many concerns expressed by this administration.

This bill increases funding for the National Park Service's operations and maintenance. We are well aware of the backlog of needed projects in our National Parks—basic projects like updating the sewage system at Certain Park sites or upgrading Visitor Centers. This bill will allow those projects to be completed.

This bill also provides additional funds for our country's Native Americans. The administration requested \$110 million more be added to the Senate's \$3.5 billion for Indian affairs. We added \$137 million more.

We restored the mining patent moratorium that the administration requested.

We lowered the ceiling on logging in the Tongass National Forest from 450 million board feet to 418 million board feet.

In fact, we responded as best we could—give the severe budget confines of this bill—to all the administration's concerns. And yet, President Clinton vetoed the bill and jeopardized the livelihood of thousands of Americans.

We keep hearing that a clean CR will fix the current situation. This is not true. A CR is simply a temporary solution. This bill is the true cure. Rather than keeping Federal workers at these Federal agencies guessing about whether they will be shutdown in 2 weeks and then another 2 weeks for the rest of the fiscal year,

this bill will fund the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service for the remainder of the fiscal year—9 months rather than 2 weeks.

Again, I cannot be sure that the President knew of the wonderful things we had in this bill. He listened to the radical leftwing environmental community and vetoed this bill to pander to them. Let us not continue this terrible travesty. Support this bill, vote to override the President's veto and let us put these fine men and women back to work.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 1995 MIAMI NORTHWESTERN H.S. STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Northwestern University isn't the only educational institution by that name making waves in the world of sports. On December 16, 1995 the Miami Northwestern High School Bulls football team captured Florida's class 6-A state football championship, igniting a burst of pride and jubilation throughout all of Liberty City—one of Miami's oldest and most storied black communities.

Northwestern is the first of Dade's seven predominately black high schools to win a state football championship and the 11th Dade County high school to win a state football championship since 1963—the first year of state playoffs. Northwestern's victory is its first state football championship since 1964 when it won the last of Florida's black high school championships in what was then segregated leagues.

In the east, high school football is a cultural exercise. On the west coast it is a tourist attraction. In the Midwest, it is cannibalism. But in the South, it is religion, and game day is the holy day.

Sports has a way of bringing people and communities together like few events. Some 25,000 fans turned out for the regional football championship game between Northwestern and Carol City High School, and about 6,000 Bulls fans travelled the 250 miles from Miami to Daytona to cheer the Bulls on to victory. This victory, like no other, has pulled this community together bringing generations of Northwestern, Carol City and Central High School graduates from the 1960s to the 1990s together in support of a single cause—community.

In addition to the proven excellence of its athletic program, Miami Northwestern High School consistently leads the state of Florida in sending its players to college. I am proud to join with our entire community in congratulating Miami Northwestern High School for a job well done.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JERRY GHERMAN OF SAN ANTONIO, TX

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 5, 1996

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize a distinguished resident of the city of San Antonio, TX. Mr. Jerry Gherman of San Antonio was recognized last night with a dinner for a lifetime of outstanding achievements on behalf of the people of San Antonio, of the State of Texas, and of the United States.

Jerry Gherman was served this city as a fireman for 30 years. It takes discipline, compassion, and courage to fight fires, and Jerry Gherman has those qualities in abundance. But fighting fires was only the start for Jerry, because he was involved in every great matter of public life. And Jerry performs every task with the energy, skill, and dedication that characterizes him.

Jerry started out by serving this Nation in the U.S. Navy. He remains active in veterans affairs as a member of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association and the American Legion. He worked for his fellow firefighters and workers everywhere as legislative director of the San Antonio Professional Firefighters Association. Over his long career in labor, he served as chairman of the committee on political education and both first and second vice president of the San Antonio Central Labor Council of the AFL-CIO.

Throughout his career, Jerry has been outspoken about his beliefs and worked hard to make them into reality. He has worked in many political campaigns in San Antonio, the State of Texas, and the Nation. But he does not just walk away after the campaign: Jerry remains involved, working hard with the city council and the State legislature to improve conditions and benefits for his fellow firefighters. Jerry was also instrumental in helping fire departments across the State, serving on the Texas Commission of fire commission's allocation advisory committee.

But on top of his hard work at the San Antonio Fire Department, and his dedication to his fellow workers, Jerry has always been deeply concerned and active in education and in helping young people. He has served as coordinator of Cub Scout Troop 360, and has compiled over 10 years of service as a coach for the Catholic Youth Organization. He was a member of the Holy Name Elementary School Board and as a member of the San Antonio Archdiocesan School Board, in each case donating 6 years of service. He is also a member of the board of St. Gerard's Catholic High School, where, in addition, he coached the girls' softball team. In addition, he is a member of the Holy Name Catholic Church Men's Club.

Over the past 30 years Jerry Gherman has truly compiled a record of achievement and involvement in the life of his community, his State, and his Nation, which is worthy of recognition by this Congress. In addition to his

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