who submit themselves for public service need not began by taking a poll but by trying to lead public opinion and mold it, not just to react to it.

Senator Yarborough was a leader in the true sense, a genuine public servant. We are fortunate that he came our way.

There are those, of course, who refer to him as a firebrand, but when I visited with him, I always found that the fire that burned was a fire of justice, one who responded consistently when injustice affected the people of our State.

We thank you, Senator Yarborough, for a life well lived, and a State well served. You have served well not only those of us in Texas while you were in the Senate, but have benefited generations of Texans to come.

RESCUE OUR NATION'S CREDIT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this morning to say a few words about two cosmic issues. One is the state of disrepair in which our CR's and appropriation process have left Federal agencies. The other, of course, is the weightiest of all: the debt limit of the United States, our full faith and credit twisting in the wind as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has got to face up to its responsibility to come to cloture, to settle the Government so that the Government does not dissolve into chaos waiting to see whether continuing resolutions will be for a few days, a few weeks, or until September 30. Mr. Speaker, we avoided a shutdown and took a breath, but for some Federal workers and for some agencies, what has been left is virtually the same thing.

What should Federal agencies do? Some are on CR's that go to March 15, others to September 30. There are disparate amounts of money that the agencies may spend. For those on short-term CR's, shall they wait to find out what we are going to do or should they RIF now or cut back now? Of course, if they do, they may find that the layoffs were entirely unnecessary if we reach a budget agreement. What a position to leave the Government in.

How much worse is the position in which we leave people who happen to work for the Federal Government? Let us take the EPA as an example. Should they now fire almost 4,000 employees? Shall they plan for unpaid furloughs that could last almost 3 weeks? Or will we do something to make all of this unnecessary? Is it, by any definition, fair to leave people wondering about this set of choices?

What about the States? The States depend upon money that is holed up in these agencies that we have not let free. They will not be getting their Federal funds on which they too are relying. These are your States and my States.

What about the contractors? Often contractors are out there doing the work because we said they could do it more efficiently. What about contractors? Shall they lay off people? Shall they go out on a limb and take bank loans?

This is no way to run a corner store, much less a government. If we are going to cut people off, we ought to cut them off. We should not let people and agencies starve to death. Above all, we should take our full faith and credit and decide what we are going to do with it.

Believe me, Mr. Speaker, I think I know what it means to lose your credit, because I come from the District of Columbia. There is no higher authority than the Government of the United States. The Congress is that higher authority. The District of Columbia avoided default, but it has lost its credit. Moody's has said that we could lose our credit. A default may be unthinkable, but even a threat of default could raise interest rates on ordinary Americans. Almost nobody would be immune from the effect. Those who would feel it most immediately would be those with adjustable rate mortgages, which millions of Americans have, and pensioners whose pensions depend upon interest payments from annuities.

This week we must not go home without settling, bringing to cloture what is to happen to our Federal agencies. Of course we should not walk out that door into the street without rescuing our credit, the best credit in the world, from doubt.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Florida) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we come before You in this quiet moment of prayer with our petitions both great and small. We place before You our aspirations and hopes, our dreams and our ambitions, asking that You bless that which is good and honorable and show us the way of truth. May Your spirit correct us when wrong, amend our willful deeds, and teach us the power of faith and hope and love in all we do or ask or say. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2111. An act to designate the Federal building located at 1221 Nevin Avenue in Richmond, California, as the ''Frank Hagel Federal Building''.

H.R. 2726. An act to make certain technical corrections in laws relating to Native Americans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 2029) ''An act to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide regulatory relief, and for other purposes.''.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1543. An act to clarify the treatment of Nebraska impact aid payments.

S. 1544. An act to authorize the conveyance of the William Langer Jewel Bearing Plant to the Job Development Authority of the City of Rolla, North Dakota.

S. 1463. An act to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to clarify the definitions of domestic industry and like articles in certain investigations involving perishable agricultural products, and for other purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATION TO FRENCH PRESIDENT JACQUES CHIRAC AND NOT AGREEING TO FUTURE APPEARANCES TO ADDRESS JOINT MEETINGS OF CONGRESS BY HEADS OF STATE OF NATIONS CONDUCTING NUCLEAR TESTS

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I