

TRIBUTE TO JOHN O. HEMPERLEY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John O. Hemperley, the budget officer of the Library of Congress, who passed away last Saturday. As former chairman and now as ranking member on the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of Appropriations, Congressman VIC FAZIO, worked with John for many years and joins me in honoring his memory.

Appropriations Committee members and staff rely heavily on the expertise, efficiency, and responsiveness of agency budget officers. John embodied the highest standards of dedicated public service. Both Vic and I counted on his unsurpassed knowledge and understanding of the Library's budget. John fervently supported the Library's mission and the budget funding that mission. However, he always presented the facts honestly and faithfully executed the budget enacted by the Congress.

For 196 years, the Congress of the United States supported and nurtured the Library's development. Today, it stands as a unique and treasured institution—the greatest repository of knowledge in the history of the world. The Library continues to explore new frontiers, expanding its mission to provide electronic services to all its constituent groups while maintaining its traditional services to the Congress and the Nation.

John O. Hemperley was a unique and treasured individual. For the past 23 years, he developed and cultivated the relationship between the Library of Congress and the Committee on Appropriations. He will be sorely missed, not only by those who knew and loved him here in the Congress and in the Library, but by all those who may never have known him but who benefit daily from the enormous resources the Library provides. The challenges the Library faces will be more daunting without him.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of our Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, and for all other members of the Appropriations Committee, and our staff, I would like to express our great sorrow and extend our sincere condolences to John's wife, Bess Hemperley, their children, and grandchildren.

CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST
PRECIOUS POSSESSION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, our children are our most precious possessions. Both Republicans and Democrats theoretically and philosophically agree on this self-evident, but nevertheless profound truth. In practice and policymaking with respect to programs that benefit children; however, there is a deep chasm of disagreement between the two parties. Since

it gained control of the House of Representatives the Republican majority has waged a cruel and unrelenting war on children.

While trumpeting its support for the "right-to-life" for unborn children, the Republican majority has made survival much more difficult for living children. Aid to Families with Dependent Children has been eliminated as a Federal entitlement in House legislation. Within the next few weeks it is expected that the White House will surrender and agree to remove this Federal protection for poor children that has existed since the New Deal. The entitlement for Medicaid which protects the health of our poorest children is also under attack with all of the State's Governors voting to eliminate it. The new Government-health care industrial complex has already begun to endanger the lives of newborn infants and their mothers by forcing them out of hospitals within 24 to 48 hours after birth.

Immigrant children will now be searched out in schools and denied school lunches if Republican legislation prevails. And, of course, immigrant children will be denied access to Medicaid. Cuts in funding for education threaten the provision of opportunity for all poor children. Republicans have proposed to cut even the very successful HeadStart Program. Teenagers who have benefited from the Summer Youth Employment Program for more than 20 years may be the victims of the zero funding passed by the Republican majority and find there are no jobs in this summer of 1996. Children in poor working families will continue to suffer despite the fact that their parents go to work every day but are still unable to adequately provide for their families on the present hourly minimum wage.

The "right-to-life" is just an empty slogan unless it is accompanied by programs and policies which provide an even playing field of opportunity for all children. On June 1 the Children's Defense Fund is sponsoring a great summit in Washington called "Stand For Children." This is a gathering which deserves the support of all Members of Congress. We should all join the "Stand For Children" on that specific day. And for all the days before and after June 1 Congress should refocus on the business of protecting our most precious resource—children outside of their mothers' wombs as well as children inside the wombs.

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWBORN TO THE
FETUS

Man stay in there
The womb is where its at
Until tots slide out and breathe
The right-to-life is guaranteed
You never had it so good
Out here in America
They don't treat us
Like they promised they would
Right away at the hospital
They put us out
Cause my welfare Mom
Didn't have no clout
Stay where you are man
The womb is where its at
A smart fetus can live
Like a rich lady's cat
No food stamps for immigrants
But long picket lines protect
Our pre-birth rights
The womb they glorify
Outside they watch us die
The womb is where its at
Curled up in that nice nest
You always get the very best

But out here only fear
They'll take my entitlement
Man stay in there
Cash in on this fetus fetish
Be a hero embryo
Pro-life politicians
Offer nine months of love
But at birth's border
Immigrants from heaven
Receive a hellish shove
Until tots slide out and breathe
The right to life is guaranteed
Long protest lines protected
Our pre-birth rights
We crave the medals they gave
When we were hidden
Intimately way out of sight
The womb is where its at
Safely grow soft and fat
Immigrant school lunches are now gone
Budget cuts down to the bone
Newborns sound the trumpet
This land is littered
With ugly infant tombs
Babies must unite in battle
Make war to regain
Out wonderful respected wombs
The womb is where its at
Until tots slide out and breathe
The right-to-life is guaranteed
We appeal to the United Nations
We cry out to the Almighty Pope
The holy right of return
Is now our only hope
Man stay in there
The womb is where its at.

TRIBUTE TO MS. MARGARET
SIMMS

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a magnificent lady, Ms. Margaret Simms, who retired from 23 years of service to the National Democratic Club [NDC] at the end of March. She played an important role in the daily lives of Members of Congress, political party representatives, lobbyists, and friends of the NDC. She will be sorely missed.

Margaret labored faithfully on behalf of the NDC. She performed her job with grace and perfection. She greeted all patrons with respect and courtesy. My constituents, family, friends, and I were beneficiaries of her geniality on numerous occasions. She was cherished by all of us.

On April 2, Members of Congress and friends of the National Democratic Club gathered to pay tribute to Margaret and to thank her for making their lives in Washington more pleasant. I was among those Members who took time during the recent congressional recess to personally express my appreciation to Margaret. In addition, I presented her with a proclamation, designating Tuesday, April 2, 1996 as "Margaret Simms Day" in the First Congressional District of Missouri, in recognition of her dedication, excellence, and hospitality to citizens of the First District. It was an honor much deserved.

I wish Margaret Simms great health and wonderful fellowship in her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VARICK
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, April 20, 1996 the Varick Family Life Center will celebrate its official opening. The Center is a multi-service resource and support center for children and families in the Dixwell Avenue neighborhood of New Haven. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend this wonderful organization.

The Varick Family Life Center adheres to the Old African proverb "It takes a whole village to raise a child." The proverb encapsulates one of the main goals of the Center which is to make already existing services more available to the residents of the neighborhood. Parents will be guided through the use of family services and have an advocate as they seek the resources they need. Effectively bringing parents into contact with community resources will go a long way toward making parents feel connected to the community and neighborhood.

The second goal of the Center is to provide families with the tools to become self-sufficient. I believe that this dual focus of family and community will be the cornerstone of the Center's success. By integrating the many human services and programs available in New Haven neighborhoods, the Center hopes to insure that all the needs of the family are attended to and that no family slips through the cracks. By truly coordinating family services, the Center will make vital community resources more available to the families that need them.

The Center will maintain its focus on families by appointing four neighborhood residents and training them to act as Family Resource Specialists. These specialists will focus on the social, health and financial concerns of needy families. I believe that this is the most crucial aspect of the Center. The Family Resource Specialists will work with parents to help them become more proactive rather than reactive in situations that affect their lives and families. Economic and financial concerns are addressed by the Center through job training and educational programs in the areas of budgeting and money management. By providing parents and families with these valuable tools we are enabling them to become more self-reliant and independent. We are giving them a chance to make a difference in their own lives and to feel that they have some control over their life's course. This is ultimately the most important and best solution to the problems and challenges faced by the residents of the neighborhood.

I commend the congregation and leadership of the Varick Memorial AME Zion Church for their amazing dedication to this worthwhile project. They have every reason to believe that their vision and hopes for the project will be realized. The Center is a wonderful community resource that should serve as a model for other cities and towns in Connecticut and in the Nation.

IN HONOR OF DR. HENRY PONDER

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute to one of Nashville's favorite citizens, Dr. Henry Ponder. Dr. Ponder is retiring from his position as President of Fisk University shortly, and he will be missed at that fine institution and in the Nashville community more than words can say.

I am certain, however, that we will not find Dr. Ponder resting on his laurels. In fact, he will be coming to Washington to head an organization whose mission is to further the cause of minority higher education. I look forward to having Henry and his lovely wife Eunice as neighbors in our Nation's Capitol. I am certain he will continue to make all of us very proud.

I have had the great pleasure over the years to interact professionally with Dr. Ponder on several occasions. Most recently, he came to Washington and we both testified in front of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Lands in support of legislation I introduced that would provide much-needed monetary support for the restoration of historic buildings on the campuses of America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As a college president, Dr. Ponder has always attended to the needs of every aspect of university life. Not only was he responsible for eliminating a \$4 million debt at Fisk, he also staged an extremely successful 5-year, 25 million capital campaign that revitalized and reenergized the school.

By the same token, Dr. Ponder realized the importance of obtaining funds to restore badly deteriorating buildings, such as Administration Hall, whose history and significance are an embodiment of all that Fisk stands for. The health of the complete university—from fundraising to student recruitment to building maintenance to school spirit—is Dr. Ponder's mission. By all accounts, he is leaving Fisk University in a state of wonderful health.

Dr. Ponder is a native of Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor of Science from Langston University, his Masters Degree from Oklahoma State University and his Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Prior to becoming president of Fisk, Henry Ponder served in various academic and administrative positions at universities throughout the Southeastern United States: president of Benedict College in Columbia, SC; vice president and dean of the College of Alabama A&M University; chairman of the department of agribusiness and assistant professor of that department at Virginia State College in Petersburg, VA.

Henry Ponder is also an economist of national and international renown. He has served as a consultant for and on special assignment to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Philadelphia National Bank, Chase Manhattan Bank, the Irving Trust Co. and Omaha National Bank. Dr. Ponder also serves on the Bishop Desmond Tutu Southern Africa Refugee Scholarship Fund committee. In 1986, he was chosen as one of the "One Hundred Most Effective College Presidents in the United States."

On behalf of all Nashvillians, Dr. Ponder, thank you for all you have done to improve the

quality of life at Fisk and in the community. People with your dedication and energy are rare indeed, and those of us who have had the pleasure of working with you can only consider ourselves blessed for the lessons you have taught us and the example you have been. You have left an outstanding legacy of growth and achievement that will stand for decades to come. We wish you well in your new career. You will be missed.

SHERROD RAYBORN, LONGTIME
LAWRENCE COUNTY CHANCERY
CLERK, IS HONORED

HON. MIKE PARKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, today I stand in the Halls of Congress to ask you to join me in paying tribute to the late Sherrod Rayborn, who died March 24, 1996, at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center following heart surgery.

Sherrod Rayborn was elected to his first term as Lawrence County chancery clerk in 1972, and he served in that position for 24 years. At the time of his death at age 60, he had recently begun serving his seventh term. A native of Walthall County, he attended school in Lawrence County and spent his adult life in Monticello. Mr. Rayborn was a member of Bethel Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon. He also was minister of music at the church for the last 26½ years.

In addition to his career in politics, he also was known for his musical talents, his sense of humor, and his positive outlook. Several friends describe Sherrod Rayborn and his service to the county and the church as "irreplaceable." But I was particularly moved by what his friend Carey Hedgepath told a local reporter: "He was a man of character. You could take for granted the accuracy of anything he told you."

These words are a fitting tribute to Sherrod Rayborn. Indeed, he is irreplaceable and truly an unforgettable friend to those who knew him. He will be greatly missed by his friends and family. He is survived by his wife, Madeline; two sons, Mitch and Kevin; a daughter, Mali Rayborn Powell; a brother, W.T.; two sisters, Willene Alexander and Alyne Sumrall; and a grandson, Jerrod.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives, I ask you again to join me in honoring a man of character, Sherrod Rayborn, his willing sacrifice of his time and energy for the public good, and his representation of all that is good, true, and steadfast in our society.

CAMP TALL TURF MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to tell you about an extremely important and effective program for inner-city children and families in my district. Every summer since 1968, hundreds of