

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MANZULLO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO BILL EMERSON OF MISSOURI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address my colleagues on the sad occasion of the passing of one of our most honored and distinguished Members. WILLIAM EMERSON, Representative from Missouri, had a very distinguished career here in the House. He served for eight terms from his district in Missouri. His record for constituent services had no peer. He was a parliamentary law expert. His legislation filled volumes.

But above all, as a person he was, to many of us, especially freshmen and entering Members as they came to this body, a great teacher, someone who loved the House, who loved the legislative process and wanted the others to learn about it and do their best, always humble, always caring, self-effacing, low-key. This was a humanitarian extraordinaire.

BILL EMERSON cared about each person he met, was sincere in all his dealings. He was a model Congressman. He was an advocate for his people. He fought hard for them. He could listen to others' points of view without giving ground and without compromising principle, but always patient and open-minded. That was his hallmark as an outstanding Congressman.

It was noted at the beginning of this 104th Congress that there was one person who was here as a Member of Con-

gress now and was here the last time the Republicans were in the majority, and that person was BILL EMERSON because at that time he was a U.S. Capitol page, and he went on from that outstanding service to Westminster College, University of Missouri, law school, University of Baltimore, and he also distinguished himself in the U.S. Air Force.

Besides serving other Representatives in Congress, he had also great experience in the business world, for which we are all beneficiaries because of the legislation he brought about that was pro-business, pro-jobs and pro-economy.

BILL EMERSON, his life is a legacy of great service, and, Mr. Speaker, for those who choose to serve in this body, they only have to look to the life of BILL EMERSON as someone who is a role model, and for me and the other freshmen who entered the 104th Congress he is someone we will always remember. We will cherish our own experiences with him and hope that we can model our careers after someone who was so great, so humble and so dedicated.

TRIBUTE TO BILL EMERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized until midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker pro tempore, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. MICA, for his recognition this evening, and I would thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his word of remembrance of our departed colleague, BILL EMERSON of Missouri, and I would second the notion that BILL EMERSON was a great teacher in this House, and he taught all of us who were newcomers by example.

I daresay that the example of his courage in the wake of fighting his final battle with illness can only be described as exemplary, and indeed that word falls short for the courage displayed by BILL EMERSON, and his dedication to duty will rank as perhaps the greatest lesson he has provided to us.

Our sympathies go to his family and the people of his congressional district in Missouri, and whomever is honored with selection by those constituents to serve in this House will indeed have big shoes to fill.

Mr. Speaker, as evidenced by the debate tonight, the preceding debate, there are many important jobs and many important roles which we must fulfill here in the House of Representatives. We spoke earlier tonight of empowering first-time homeowners. We spoke of a variety of issues dealing with concerns on housing and the appropriation process that is so vital to conclude. Yet, Mr. Speaker, before this legislative day ends we would be remiss if we failed to mention other concerns that dominate the headlines of this

evening and indeed will reach into tomorrow and in the days to come.

We mourn the deaths and injuries of American servicemen abroad as we hear of a terrorist attack in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, overnight, and we will watch with interest and indeed work with the administration to determine exactly what happened, what type of preventive measures need to be taken by Americans abroad and how this tragedy could come to pass.

But again for now our concerns and our prayers are with the families of those who have perished and, of course, with those who have been wounded in this attack, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, while we are mindful that this issue is something that will warrant our concern and vigilance in the days to come, there are other developments in other stories and in other concerns that we must address.

My colleague, Mr. FOX, who preceded me, it should be noted, has resigned from the Government Oversight Committee to take another appointment, and yet that committee tomorrow, led by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, BILL CLINGER, will be asking some very serious questions of administration officials. Let me begin with what I believe is truly a positive and constructive note in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, as you are no doubt aware, a contempt of Congress citation was being prepared, indeed a vote would have occurred in this Chamber later this week, concerning the apparent lack of cooperation that the administration had shown in surrendering some 2,000 pages of documents needed to continue the investigation of what has become known as Filegate, possession of FBI files of prominent members of my party by the Clinton administration, and one official in particular, an Anthony Marceca, for examination over a long period of time.

□ 2345

As I noted, Mr. Speaker, this House, and indeed the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, asked for some 2,000 pages in documents, and it appeared that the White House was reluctant to turn over those documents. I understand now some agreement has been reached. The White House, as I understand it, will cease to offer its claim of executive privilege to these documents, and there has been some measure of accommodation so these documents may be examined by officials on the committee.

Even as we welcome this important action, I remember the observation of that great author and humorist, Mark Twain. From time to time I have recalled it here in the well of this House. It was Twain who observed, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it rhymes." And I believe that tonight again we see that strange similarity of actions that have gone on before, actions that, in all candor, caused great concern, precipitated a great crisis, and led, of course, to a change in the executive branch almost a quarter century ago.

It is very important, I think, to recall the lessons of history. Again, I offer the observation that I offered as this House began business earlier today, that oftentimes, while the dynamics of this institution often rely on partisanship as one of the mechanisms utilized to get business done during the course of the day, that even as we recognize we may have partisan labels, it is important to remember that at moments of great import, people of different parties have offered valuable advice.

I remember well a quarter century ago when the gentleman from Minnesota, the former Vice President and one-time Democratic presidential nominee, Hubert H. Humphrey, advised, in a public way, President Nixon to come clean, to offer a full explanation and accounting of the events that history now recalls as Watergate, to the best of President Nixon's ability for, as Senator Humphrey maintained, that action in itself would go a long way toward allowing the American people to address the problems, allowing the Congress of the United States to address the problems, and then to move forward.

Indeed, Mr. Humphrey was of the opinion that if President Nixon would take this action, the American people would be forgiving of the problems and President Nixon could move on in his second term.

Mr. Speaker, again, not to score partisan points tonight, and again, devoid of the one-upsmanship that so often characterizes political debate, honestly, and sincerely, I would call on this administration and this President, Mr. Speaker, to step forward with all the information at hand. For indeed if this administration will be forthcoming with the information and allow the American people to decide, while I cannot guarantee that the outcome would be similar to what Hubert Humphrey envisioned for Richard Nixon, I can say that the American people deserve no less than a full accounting because of the concerns we have in so many different areas, but because the questions raised by the possession of these FBI files have implications that strike at the very fiber of our Republic, for they deal with issues of vital import to every American and every American's individual rights as provided in this document, the Constitution of the United States.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the President and members of his administration have a duty to step forward with the whole story. The American people deserve no less than a full accounting of some of the questionable actions that have occurred with reference to FBI files, now with a suspicion, and indeed, the implication

that more FBI files, that indeed, IRS records may be involved, to a certain degree; and that by taking that step, the President will show true leadership, allow us to deal with this most fundamental of questions, and then move forward to address the other vital issues of the day.

I would suggest this Congress will continue to do its work, as witnessed with the various appropriations bills. This Congress will continue to do its work with reference to our concerns about a tax on Americans abroad. This Congress will continue to do its work, yes, with reference to legislative oversight of the executive branch, should the President's decision and that of his legal counsel turn out to be only a halfway or halfhearted approach in any circumstance.

But it is vital that this administration address these troubling questions for the American people and for the process of government provided for in our Constitution, and indeed, for the very fabric of our constitutional Republic.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I make this call not in the interests of partisan one-upsmanship or gamesmanship, for this is not a game. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, what this entire process should typify in its best sense is a competition, a discussion, a difference of ideas, a difference of opinions, a difference of philosophies and vision as to how best serve the American people.

As we approach the new century, do we take money, power, and influence out of the hands of Washington bureaucrats and, indeed, turn that influence, power, and money over to governments closer to home, and, indeed, ultimately by allowing the American people to hang onto more of their hard-earned money, allow the American people to make those decisions at home that directly influence their lives?

But in this context, Mr. Speaker, it is vital that this administration move forward tomorrow in a spirit of candor, in front of the committee of the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], to lay out the entire story for the American people, and quite frankly, to change a pattern of denial, evasion, and a new formulation of answers that seems to have typified the conduct of this administration with reference to these FBI files and with reference to so many other questionable endeavors.

Again, it is my hope that every Member of this House and that every American citizen would watch closely what will transpire in committee tomorrow, even as we work in this full House to deal with other vital issues of the day.

THE VA, HUD, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MICA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we are waiting for a resolution to come before the floor dealing with the bill we might have on the floor tomorrow, the motion to disapprove most-favored-nation treatment of China.

I just want to take a few minutes to talk about the bill we have on the floor today. It is the Department of Veterans and Housing and independent agencies appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1997, and in that bill we have, in my opinion, adequately funded the hospital-health care-medical care delivery system of the Veterans Administration.

□ 2355

That is so very, very important. Often we are asked the question, why should veterans have their own medical care? Just to point out what the need for it is that when many of our men and women enlist in the armed services of this country, they, in a way, even though they get so much out of it, they lose so much of their time on the advancement ladder. Just, for example, if you were a young man or woman who graduates from high school at the age of 18, and you enlist in the service instead of going on to college, you are working at what our minimum wage is compared to what your counterparts would be doing if they went into the private sector. All the way through life, these young men and women trail their counterparts who did not take the opportunity to serve in the military, whether it is in running their own business, whether it is advancing up the scale, up the promotion scale of success. Consequently, that is why we deal with earned benefits for our veterans of the armed services.

In this particular bill, I am very proud that we are now funding a national cemetery in my home district, in Saratoga Springs, or in the County of Saratoga. This will be a veterans cemetery which was named the Saratoga National Veterans Cemetery. It will be similar to Arlington Cemetery, and I will provide for the interment of approximately 75,000 veterans and their dependents for the next decade or so.

This is so terribly, terribly important. I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] and the entire appropriations subcommittee for funding the \$13 million that will provide the final construction money for the hospital.