

one of my good friends, Hamilton Fish, Jr. Together with my family, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Ham's family and urge them to be strong in this time of loss.

Ham was a respected Member of this institution and a mentor to me when I was a young Member of this body. He was respected by all who knew him for his deep and abiding respect for the Constitution, his knowledge of the law and his wisdom as a legislator, his sense of decorum and the importance of this institution, and for his ability to work on both sides of the aisle to find consensus on controversial issues.

Ham was also a fighter for the things he believed in, a fighting spirit that was demonstrated in his courageous battle against cancer. Unfortunately, he has now lost this battle.

As chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Subcommittee, I want the Members of this body to know that I take the heart the courage shown by Ham in his battle against cancer, courage that too many Americans facing this dread disease must muster every day. And I want the Members to know that I will continue to do all that I can to bolster research funding for the National Institutes of Health, including the National Cancer Institute, in the hope that we can make greater progress against this disease and, by so doing, honor Ham's memory and the memories of those who, like him, have shown such courage.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the late Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr., an outstanding American of great compassion, decency, and dignity.

Known to his friends as "Ham," he dedicated his life to serving the United States. As a young American, he interrupted his education to enlist in the Navy during World War II. Later Ham joined the U.S. Foreign Service and served in Dublin as Vice Consul to Ireland from 1951 to 1953. In 1968 he began his 26 years of dedicated service to the people of New York's 19th Congressional District as their representative to Congress. His constituents appreciated his leadership and hard work, electing him by overwhelming margins as a result.

I observed Ham's legislative skills while serving with him on the Judiciary Committee. He was a master at working together with all Members to achieve a consensus. While in Congress, Ham focused his skills on passing legislative landmarks, such as the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act. In addition, he was a leader in crafting copyright and antitrust law.

While he was well known for his legislative accomplishments, Ham Fish was best known as a great American. Friends and foes alike respected and admired Ham. His affable and kind personality positively impacted all who knew him.

Today America has indeed lost an outstanding citizen. I offer my condolences to the family and friends of the late Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr.

WHY THE NEED FOR THREAT ASSESSMENT IN HAITI?

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to associate with the extraordinary outpouring of tributes to Ham Fish by so many of our colleagues. They bring back many happy memories of a wonderful man, and I join in the sympathies sent to Mary Ann and the family.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday when we began hearing from some of our acquaintances down in Haiti regarding a sudden and apparently secret surprise increase in American troop presence, we were not sure what was going on. Despite the high level of interest in Haiti, of many offices on the Hill here, no one in the administration appears to have taken the time to notify anybody of this new deployment. Frankly, this kind of uncertainty falls far short of adequate when we are talking about committing more American troops anywhere, especially in Haiti, especially today.

Because we took the time to ask around, we now think we have confirmation that indeed a force from the 82d Airborne has arrived in Haiti. Billed as an extension of Operation Fairwinds, which is an operation there, 200 members strong, civil engineering mission that has been in Haiti. Apparently company size or so, about that many troops have been sent on a mission of reconnaissance and threat assessment.

Mr. Speaker, this brings up a number of questions, questions that certainly are going to be of interest to the taxpayers of this country who have already seen the Clinton administration spend something like \$3 billion in Haiti.

One of the first questions that has got to be answered is, how much is this latest operation going to cost and is this just the beginning of something that is going to go on and be something larger? Then I have got to ask, why does a good will operation like Operation Fairwinds, which is supposed to be an engineering operation, require reconnaissance and threat assessment with company size strength and additional soldiers of the 82d Airborne who are there in humvees, and machine guns and battle dress, I am told.

These are the crack troops that we send to deal with hot spots. I am curious why we are sending these troops to this place that the Clinton administration keeps telling us is a success story in their foreign policy annals. What prompted this deployment? Is it a tacit admission on the part of the administration that things are not going as well as we are told in Haiti? Does this new deployment arise from concerns brought on by a Haitian court's decision on the Guy Malary murder trial earlier this week?

Should we infer that there are credible threats against Americans and American interests in Haiti which regrettably we have had reported? Or perhaps this is an extraction force set up to implement an evacuation plan. What does reconnaissance or threat as-

essment mean in this sense by the 82d Airborne? I think it is very important that we have answers to this.

I know there are some that have already suggested that this force is being sent to determine what kind of firepower it is going to take to keep law and order in Haiti at least through November. I do not know. That is certainly cynical, but I do not know whether that is a question that needs to be asked. Will there be a follow-on mission? That is something we all would like to know.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I think the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] raises some very serious questions.

As I understand it, none of the committees have been briefed on this operation, at least to my knowledge. I know our Committee on International Relations has not been briefed. I know the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the committee of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS], has not been briefed.

We are very curious just why we are sending this crack division of military people, the 82d, into Haiti at this time allegedly to protect a road-building operation. There are some very serious questions we would like answered, and our committee intends to seek out those answers in the very prompt, early days of next week.

Mr. GOSS. Reclaiming my time, I thank the distinguished chairman for being part of this. It is this kind of thing that makes it very hard to work cooperatively with the administration because we have had so many assurances they are going to keep us apprised of events. This is a significant event.

You do not send the 82d Airborne someplace quietly and not expect to have somebody ask some questions. Are we putting troops back in harm's way? So rather than have the spin doctors down at the White House spin yet another story, I want to know what is going on, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the administration is listening, is going to take the trouble to brief the Hill.

Mr. GILMAN. I want to thank the gentleman for raising the issue to the floor, and I hope we can get some early answers to these questions.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] is recognized for 33 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to reflect on what was accomplished here on the floor of this House today where we finally got around to what was labeled last week as reform week but came down to essentially reform hours, about 2½ hours