

INTRODUCTION OF WELDON RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING A CITIZENS' COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 1997*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a resolution to reform ethics oversight in the House of Representatives.

This measure would establish a 14-member Commission on Congressional Ethics composed of private citizens, while eliminating most responsibilities of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. The resolution would grant the Commission power to investigate Member and staff ethics violations, sit and hold hearings, subpoena as authorized by the House, and report and recommend actions to enforce ethics to Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Not only will this remove Members' conflict of interest in policing their colleagues, but it will give people a hands on role in shaping all the administrative operations of the House. The best way to reform the People's House is to get more of the people involved.

The American people want change and are demanding reform. It is time for us to act. This measure is not a complete solution to the public confidence crises, nor the last word of reform in this body. But it is a positive step in the right direction.

The recent investigation of the Speaker by the House Ethics Committee demonstrated the conflict of interest and the difficulties that will arise when Members must police each other. I believe this resolution will enable the process to work more effectively.

During the 104th Congress we made great progress in the area of institutional reform. This legislation will enable us to continue that reform and to strengthen America's trust in their elected representatives. I will press for adoption of this proposal in the House. I look forward to the support of all Members in this body.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 1997*

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX, for 50 years of excellence. As an alumnus, I am proud of the many contributions the University of St. Thomas has made to education and to our community.

Fifty years ago, the University of St. Thomas became the first independent, coeducational Catholic Basilian college in the United States. Rev. Vincent J. Guinan presided over a freshman class of only 40 students and a faculty of 8. Since then, the university has grown over fortyfold, with an enrollment of 2,500 students and 200 faculty.

But the University of St. Thomas has not just grown in enrollment, it has grown in importance. It is recognized as one of the top re-

gional universities in the country, offering a curriculum—from accounting and finance, to philosophy and theology—that attracts top students from around the country and around the world. The Cameron School of Business, opened in 1980, leads the way in teaching Houston's future business elite.

Over the past 50 years, the University of St. Thomas has flourished because of its commitment to not only education, but to the community. St. Thomas enriches Houston through a number of free lectures, exhibits, concerts, and seminars—all open to the public. Through these events, the University of St. Thomas has forged bonds to the community that can never be broken.

The University of St. Thomas has also led our community in architectural excellence. The main academic complex built in the 1960's is among the first works by world renowned architect Philip Johnson, who later designed much of the Houston skyline. It is only fitting that as St. Thomas achieves its half century mark that a new Johnson work, the Chapel of St. Basil, will close out the complex.

As a member of the class of 1982, I take great pride in commemorating 50 years of achievement at the University of St. Thomas. The people who have made St. Thomas what it is deserve our praise and our thanks.

The community's pride in the University of St. Thomas is reflected in the following editorial printed in the January 30 Houston Chronicle.

UST—FROM AN ACORN ON MONTROSE TO A SPLENDID UNIVERSITY

Since its humble founding 50 years ago, the University of St. Thomas has contributed much to the Houston community.

Nationally recognized as a top regional institution and one of the best buys in higher education, the University of St. Thomas has been the source of a fine education for thousands of students with its small classes and quality professors.

But it has been more than just a university of Houstonians. It also has given cultural and intellectual enrichment to the community through its numerous public lectures, concerts and exhibits.

Fifty years ago the Basilian Fathers, with the help and hard work of a group of dedicated laymen and laywomen, founded the university on Montrose Boulevard as an independent, coeducational Catholic institution of higher learning. The freshman class numbered 40. There were only eight faculty members. Today the University of St. Thomas has an enrollment of 2,500 students and 200 faculty. It offers 33 fields of study with a core curriculum in philosophy, theology, the humanities, social sciences, mathematics and science. The campus has grown to 22 acres, but the original building, the historic Link-Lee mansion, is still used.

A special dedicatory Mass on Friday marks the beginning of the university's 50th anniversary commemoration.

From a small acorn, a thriving university has grown, nourished through its commitment to instill a love for truth in its students.

Bricks and mortar do not make a university. People do. So as the University of St. Thomas begins commemorating its 50th anniversary, Houstonians should say well done to all the men and women who have made the university the splendid place and community asset that it is.

IN AN EFFORT TO SETTLE A PARTISAN SCORE, THE HOUSE SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 1997*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I fear that the passage of the resolution reprimanding Speaker GINGRICH has opened a Pandora's Box that may ultimately threaten the very integrity of this noble institution. While I support the report of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the reprimand, I feel that the monetary reimbursement is excessively severe and sets a dangerous precedent in the name of political expedience. It will mean that only the wealthy will be able to afford to serve in office.

There is a problem that should be of greater concern to all of my colleagues. The ethics process is in dire need of reform. We must all come together and create a swift, efficient, and fair new process. If we fail in this endeavor, the American people will slip even farther into the apathy that has gripped our political system for too long.

ENGLISH MUST BECOME OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 5, 1997*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, the notion that our Government should address all citizens in English and encourage all citizens to learn the language seems simple common sense. This is the primary reason that when the issue has been voted on in statewide referendums, it has not lost. California, Florida, Colorado, and my own State of Arizona have all chosen to make English their official State language. The bill I am introducing today, the Declaration of Official Language Act, follows State governments and localities in designating English as the official language of our Federal Government. It has the strong support of citizen organizations such as English First and the Veterans of Foreign Wars as evidenced by their letters of endorsement I have included for the RECORD.

Not only do many American people generally agree on the matter, but so do our Nation's immigrants and language minorities. The Latino National Political Survey data released on December 15, 1992, shows Hispanics, even recent immigrants, speak English and want their children to learn English. Hispanics agreed by more than 90 percent that U.S. residents should learn English to take full advantage of the services afforded to them. As these immigrants know, English is the language of opportunity in America.

Unfortunately, our Federal Government encourages official bilingualism. The practice of producing Government documents in multiple languages assumes that being given translations of official Government documents easily helps those who do not speak English. This logic goes against what bilingual individuals know all too well. Providing a word-for-word translation of anything between two languages is often impossible.