

House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to join my Republican colleagues tonight in recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week, and in doing so I want to recognize and pay special tribute to a teacher who does not live in my district and is one who in fact never even voted for me, but one that I love very deeply and one who has had a profound impact on my life. His name is Dr. Robert Lasley.

Let me tell my colleagues a little about Bob. First, he was born in Doud, IA, in 1930. His family moved to California in 1934 after his father's business failed as a result of the Depression. He had his first job when he was 4 years old picking prunes on a farm. He laughingly refers to his family as fruit tramps. They settled in Red Bluff, where he attended schools.

He first served his country in the United States Air Force when he enlisted in 1950. Then he transferred to the United States Army. He attended Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1952. He served until 1956 and left the military as a first lieutenant with a wife and 3 children.

He entered City College of San Francisco in 1956 and became the first member of his family to attend college. He received his Bachelor's Degree in English in 1961, his Master's Degree in educational administration in 1971 and a Doctor of Education in 1983.

He married his present wife, Jerry, while he was teaching at Ben Franklin Junior High School in Daly City, CA. Between the two of them, they have 6 children. Now, when Bob was growing up, he was the first member of his family to attend college. Each one of Bob and Jerry's 6 children have college degrees, three of them have Master's Degrees.

Bob has taught at San Diego State University and Imperial Valley Campus. He served as a department chair in drama at San Francisco Community College and worked as a superintendent in the Hopeville, Gustine and Lamont School Districts.

But I want to go back to one of those assignments that I mentioned earlier, his tenure at Ben Franklin Junior High in Daly City, CA.

Mr. Speaker, in 1970 and 1971 I was an 8th grade student at Ben Franklin Junior High, and I had a rudimentary interest in government and politics and we had one elective class that we were allowed to pick, so I chose a class called Advanced Government, taught by Dr. Robert Lasley. There were three other boys in that class who were good friends of mine, one named Roger Mahan, one Clint Bolick, and one named Dan Swanson. It was an incredible class. For an entire year we had a model United States Congress, where we represented individual States.

Bob Lasley taught us parliamentary law. He taught us procedure, he taught

us how to debate, he taught us how to introduce bills. Mr. Speaker, I still have my class notes from that 8th grade class, and the parliamentary law he taught me a quarter century ago still serves me well in this Chamber.

That class not only taught me an appreciation and a love for the institutions of government and particularly a reverence for this Chamber; it taught me how to be a better citizen and it taught every other child that went through that class how to be better Americans.

Bob did a good job in that class. Dan Swanson today is a senior partner at a prominent law firm in Los Angeles. Roger Mahan works for the United States House of Representatives serving as a consultant on the Committee on the Budget. Clint Bolick is one of the premier constitutional scholars and lawyers in the United States and is right down the street on Pennsylvania Avenue as the cofounder of the Institute for Justice.

I am the failure of the group, I am the one who went into politics and have the privilege of serving today in the Congress of the United States.

Those three friends and myself, if Bob were here, would offer him our heartfelt thanks for a life of public service and for what he has done for us. And if Bob is listening tonight, I want him to know that there are a generation of young people who have grown up under his tutoring and under his leadership. He has been a great teacher. He has been a role model. He has been truly an educator. He is a patriot and a very fine American, and so I salute him during Teacher Appreciation Week and I thank him from the bottom of my heart for all he has done for our community and for our country.

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

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

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, Dr. Mike McKinney, head of the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, traveled to Washington. He had been invited by the Clinton administration to discuss a compromise to allow Texas to move forward with its welfare reform plan.

It has been 10 months since the administration promised Texas an answer. So everyone thought. They were ready to bring to the table a proposal that would give Texas the ability to move forward and start implementing its welfare reforms.

We were dead wrong. After a 2½ hour meeting with Clinton officials, Dr. McKinney left the meeting empty handed. The meeting was a charade, a scam, a total waste of time.

This just proves that the administration has no intention of ever granting Texas the authority to make reasonable changes to its welfare system.

The administration could care less about the parents and children who would benefit from these bold and innovative proposals. They only care about elections, money, labor, and power.

The President has lost sight of what the welfare bill he signed is all about. It is about flexibility, State control, and helping lift welfare recipients out of poverty into work and prosperity. It is for our children.

Now the President's Deputy Secretary of HHS, Kevin Thrum, said that the Texas plan violates certain Federal Law, lacks credibility. I guess the Secretary herself is unwilling to face the issue. The statement clearly contradicts an April 4th memo to the President from his boss, the Secretary of HHS, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the chief domestic policy adviser which allowed Texas far more leeway and discretion than he described.

It is simply amazing the political games that the administration is playing with the lives of welfare recipients and their children. The State of Texas simply wants to enter into a public-private partnership to streamline, integrate, and consolidate its welfare system into a one-stop center to help recipients and children receive benefits.

It has been estimated that this plan would save the Texas taxpayers over \$10 million a month or \$120 million a year. That is enough money to provide health care to an additional 150,000 children in Texas each year.

The administration's latest actions also continue to support the reported news accounts that the White House is beholden to the big labor union bosses. It seems that they own the White House. Their continued control of the President denies Texas the ability to help the poor and needy escape poverty.

The control is spelled out in plain English in the April 4th memo where a chart was drawn that lists three options. The first is the Texas proposal. The second is the union proposal. The third is a proposed administration compromise.

I wasn't aware—and I'm sure most Americans are not aware—that the welfare reform package signed by President Clinton called for union approval of welfare reform proposals.

Let me state once again, if the administration continues to put the unions' political agenda above the real concerns of the citizens of Texas, we will not hesitate, in both the House and Senate, to go forward with legislation to give Texas the approval it deserves.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to do what's right. Our States are our most valued resource. Texas and any other State should have immediate approval so they can make welfare reform real and help the children and the needy families of America.

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

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