

without reliable facts and figures, our effort would have been for naught.

As commanding officer of Lakehurst, Captain Farr was undoubtedly between a rock and a hard place. He knew the facts; he knew the figures. But as a Navy officer, Captain Farr could not and would not violate his chain of command. At the same time, as a Captain, a pilot, a former air boss, and the current commanding officer of Navy Lakehurst, Captain Farr knew better than anyone just how devastating the close Lakehurst scenario would be for national security and pilot safety.

It was an unusual situation where one's own military command was supporting a plan not in the best interest of the military. A predicament in which a man of less character, less courage, less fortitude and less grit might decide to look the other way—and let the chips fall where they may. But not Leroy Farr.

Captain Farr drew strength from his own personal skills and attributes enabling him to strike a balance between the plans of his Pentagon and the needs of his Nation. I remember his wife, Barbara, telling me just how much he grieved for the future of Navy Lakehurst and the future of any pilot who might fly off an aircraft carrier without the support of the skilled workers and artisans at Navy Lakehurst.

I had the good fortune of sitting in on Captain Farr's many briefings when BRAC officials would come to the base to see for themselves what went on at Navy Lakehurst. It was in these skillful presentations that Captain Farr laid the groundwork for the ultimate reversal of the close Lakehurst scenario. Captain Farr was informed, clear, concise, fair, direct, honest, sincere, and always careful to never publicly repudiate the Pentagon's plans.

Yet, on those critical points and questions when the facts simply did not fit the Pentagon's proposal, Captain Farr was sure to let the facts speak for themselves.

And the facts spoke volumes. Each fact introduced or underscored in a Captain Farr briefing became amplified by our community effort. We catapulted—to coin a phrase—the information to the BRAC Commission who in turn were persuaded not by rhetoric but by data—real hard evidence. They reversed the Pentagon proposal and secured the future of Navy Lakehurst and naval aviation and the safety of every Navy pilot.

Captain Farr's love of his country and love of his military—and his ability to withstand the heat—enabled him to educate and guide all of us who could openly and publicly challenge the Pentagon on the basis of military value and pilot safety. He did it not in a brash, self-promoting, self-serving or destructive manner but with class, dignity, firmness, integrity, valor, and resolve. And in this effort Captain Farr demonstrated that he is the personification of what our future military leaders should always strive to be: brave, decent, honorable leaders who put the safety of the Nation at the forefront of every decision.

It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have worked with Captain Farr and I know I speak not only for myself but for all who support Navy Lakehurst and are dedicated to a strong, capable military defense when I say that we will sincerely miss you and your brand of military leadership. Our gratitude for your dedication, contribution, and success is immeasurable.

We wish you the absolute best in your future endeavors with your wife Barbara and your children, Patty, Sherry, and Andrew—you, Captain, have earned it.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) establishing the Congressional budget for the U.S. Government for the fiscal year 1998 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, Governor Rosselló has proposed an economic growth incentive for Puerto Rico that would encourage U.S. companies to stay and expand on the island. This program has been endorsed by the President and has received bipartisan support in Congress. Senators D'AMATO and MOYNIHAN have introduced legislation in the Senate to implement this proposal. It is a priority of most of the Hispanic Members of Congress. This has the unified support of the public and private sectors in Puerto Rico. This job creation incentive should be included in legislation being considered this year to spur economic growth for the Nation as a whole.

Puerto Rico has paid a very high price this decade to fund legislation which expanded existing economic incentives or created new ones from which it will not benefit. In the 1993 budget bill, for example, business operations in Puerto Rico saw a net tax increase of almost \$4 billion, while individuals and businesses on the mainland enjoyed \$25 billion in new or expanded tax benefits.

In 1996, Congress again increased taxes on commerce in Puerto Rico by \$11 billion while reducing taxes on mainland businesses and individuals by \$30 billion. The 1996 changes are especially harmful to economic growth in Puerto Rico. In effect, Congress eliminated altogether the Federal economic incentives that help attract companies to the island. Sections 936 and 30A of the Internal Revenue Code will continue for ten years but at a significantly reduced level and only for companies and lines of business that were already on the island on October 13, 1995.

As a result of these changes, Puerto Rico now has no Federal economic incentives to attract new business. Further, companies subject to the 10-year phase out may not, without losing all of their incentives, introduce new lines of business.

The 1996 tax bill enacted a number of special tax incentives for small businesses and tax credits for both small and large companies. The 1996 small business tax credits were intended to help companies offset an increase in the minimum wage. Ironically, while employers in Puerto Rico are subject to the minimum wage, they also saw the elimination of their Federal economic incentives.

These changes present the Government of Puerto Rico with a serious threat to its goal of expanding private sector employment while reducing the size and cost of both Government and welfare. Without any economic incentives for new job creation or investment, it will be difficult to stop employers from leaving the island for foreign locations.

Moreover, without any incentives, the Puerto Rican economy, where per capita income is less than 30 percent of the United States mainland, and where unemployment is two to three times the average in the States, cannot possibly catchup; it can only fall further behind, with implications for state and Federal balanced budget goals.

The D'Amato-Moynihan bill would modify the wage credit in section 30A to: (1) Apply to new business; (2) eliminate the "cap" limitations that were put in place last year; and (3) remain in effect until Puerto Rico increases its economic performance. These modifications would be made without reducing in any way the economic incentives that apply to existing business operations in Puerto Rico that are being phased out.

There are compelling reasons to act now.

Most importantly, we should not wait until there are visible declines in the Puerto Rican economy. These job creation incentives take time to generate results, and Puerto Rico needs results now. Deferring this program until all incentives for existing operations terminate is like playing Russian roulette with the 4 million Americans in Puerto Rico.

As time goes by the cost of providing new economic incentives for Puerto Rico will increase, especially as the negative impact of the 1996 tax law changes are felt. It will be far less expensive to keep companies in Puerto Rico by acting now, rather than to try and get them back after they leave.

Moreover, should Congress and the President agree on a long-term budget plan this year, it is unlikely that a major budget or tax vehicle will be considered for some time to come. As a result, this may be the last best opportunity to act.

It is in the national interest to establish these economic growth incentives for Puerto Rico this year.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 3

9:30 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Communications Subcommittee
To resume hearings to examine the Federal Communications Commission implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, focusing on efforts to implement universal telephone service reform and FCC proposals to assess new per-minute fees on Internet service providers.
SR-253

JUNE 4

9:00 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold oversight hearings on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.
SD-226

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings on the nomination of Michael J. Armstrong, of Colorado, to be an Associate Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
SD-406

Small Business

To hold hearings to examine small business perspectives on mandates, paperwork, and regulation.
SR-428A

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.
SD-192

JUNE 5

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine instances of contaminated strawberries in school lunches.
SR-332

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Library of Congress, General Accounting Office, and the Government Printing Office.
S-128, Capitol

JUNE 10

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold hearings on miscellaneous water and power measures, including S. 439, H.R. 651, H.R. 652, S. 725, S. 736, S. 744, and S. 538.
SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the offices of the Secretary of the Senate, Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Architect of the Capitol.
S-128, Capitol

JUNE 11

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings on the State-side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Appropriations

Defense Subcommittee

To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense.
SD-192

JUNE 12

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To resume a workshop to examine competitive change in the electric power industry, focusing on the benefits and risks of restructuring to consumers and communities.
SH-216

JUNE 16

2:00 p.m.

Special on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the problem of pension miscalculations, focusing on methods for educating people on the steps they can take to protect themselves and their pension benefits.
SD-628

JULY 23

9:00 a.m.

Finance

International Trade Subcommittee

To hold hearings with the Caucus on International Narcotics Control on the threat to U.S. trade and finance from drug trafficking and international organized crime.
SD-215

JULY 30

9:00 a.m.

Finance

International Trade Subcommittee

To resume hearings with the Caucus on International Narcotics Control on the threat to U.S. trade and finance from drug trafficking and international organized crime.
SD-215

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 22

2:00 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Russian case studies on proliferation.
SD-342