

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTS, IL

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following Resolution for printing in the RECORD:

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF ROBERTS, ILLINOIS, ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

Whereas 125 years ago, in 1872, a small village was established in central Illinois by Francis Alonzo Roberts, along the lines of the Illinois Central Railroad; and

Whereas this village, known as Roberts, has maintained a tight yet diverse community throughout its 125-year history, including a variety of religious denominations and ethnic backgrounds; and

Whereas the residents of this agricultural community have displayed great service not only to their village, but also to one another, first when they rebuilt their village after a fire in 1873, and recently, when the citizens renovated their school gymnasium to serve as a public activity center; and

Whereas this treasured example of small-town America has maintained over the past 125 years the values and ethics that the village founders cherished, caring for each other and building a sense of community that stands as a model for others to emulate:

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That, the House of Representatives congratulates the Village of Roberts, Illinois, on the 125th anniversary of its birth, and on its growth into a village that has been, in the words of its citizens, "a good place to live," and will continue to be so in the future. Our country stands in grateful recognition of the contribution the residents of Roberts have made to the improvement of our great nation.

GOP WELFARE PLAN

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an important editorial that appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Monday, June 16, 1997. It brings to light the harsh reality of a GOP plan that deprives welfare participants of minimum wage.

[From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, June 16, 1997]

GOP WELFARE PLAN INSULTS THE POOR

Just when GOP leaders were promising to put a compassionate face on their social-reform initiatives, they show us their ugly side. Witness the party's unconscionable opposition to paying the minimum wage to some welfare recipients. The GOP's anti-family plan is an insult to human decency and fair-labor laws. This idea is the party's response to President Bill Clinton's recent order that the minimum wage apply to workfare participants employed by public agencies and nonprofit groups, just as it would apply to private-sector jobs.

Rep. William L. Clay of St. Louis says the GOP's proposal "reminds me of slavery's cruel exploitation of human labor." GOP Rep. James Talent of St. Louis County responds that job earnings of welfare participants would be boosted beyond the minimum wage through other benefits—Medicaid, child care, housing subsidies and food stamps.

That's like saying middle-income workers don't deserve pay raises because their incomes are indirectly inflated by subsidized health insurance, subsidized housing in the form of mortgage deductions and other benefits. Perhaps GOP leaders should go further and recommend pay cuts for federal lawmakers because of the innumerable subsidies—we call them perks—that come with their jobs.

Maybe Republicans don't realize that workfare participants need the income. A single mother on welfare with two children must earn at least \$12,590 just to stay above the poverty line. If she earned \$19,370, she would be earning just 55 percent of the U.S. median income for a three-person family.

It's misleading for Mr. Talent and others to suggest that subsidies, such as those for child care, compensate for a lower-than-minimum wage. In all likelihood, these working mothers will have to pay part of the cost of their child care. Also, there's no guarantee the mothers will continue qualifying for Medicaid once they take jobs. And let's not forget such incidentals as work-related transportation costs.

If the GOP is serious about workfare being a declaration of independence for poor women, then the party must make the work financially viable. Stigmatizing welfare mothers by paying them sub-minimum wages is hardly an incentive for them to take jobs.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BUD" SPILLANE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Representatives TOM DAVIS and FRANK WOLF to pay tribute to Dr. Robert "Bud" Spillane, a distinguished educator and retiring superintendent of Fairfax County public schools. Dr. Spillane has managed, with great proficiency, the Nation's 12th largest school system, which encompasses 150,000 students, 25,000 employees, 225 facilities, and a \$41.2 million budget.

During his 12 years with Fairfax County, Dr. Spillane has fostered and improved the school system's national reputation for excellence while the county has experienced growing student diversity. Ninety percent of all seniors take college entrance exams. Scores are well above national averages and dropout rates are low. Dr. Spillane has instituted rigorous academic standards and established high expectations for all students, lengthened the school day for secondary students, and focused on improving programs for early primary children.

Dr. Spillane developed a teacher performance evaluation system, encouraged sitebased management initiatives and greater accountability measures. He cultivated strong support for education in the business community, which has led to expanded school partnerships. He launched an internationally recognized high school for science and technology.

During a period of budgetary austerity in 1991, Dr. Spillane substantially reduced the number of central office personnel while improving organizational efficiency. More recently, he increased public school choice by fostering increased focus on magnet schools

at the elementary level and other special programs in secondary schools.

Dr. Spillane is the author of many papers and professional articles and a frequent speaker on educational issues. He has won many prestigious awards, including the 1995 Virginia Superintendent of the Year Award and the 1995 National Superintendent of the Year Award. He is currently in the process of writing a book tentatively titled, "The School Superintendent of the Future," for Aspen Publishers.

Mr. Speaker, parents, teachers, and former students wish Dr. Spillane the very best in all his future endeavors and share my appreciation for his dedication and service to the people of Fairfax County.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RECENT EVENTS IN SIERRA LEONE IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT MILITARY COUP D'ETAT OUSTING THAT COUNTRY'S FIRST DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my Africa subcommittee colleagues in introducing this resolution, expressing the United States concern for the plight of Sierra Leone's people in the face of the May 25, 1997, coup that ousted the country's democratically elected government. A year ago, I stood with my good friend Congressman HOUGHTON to congratulate the people of Sierra Leone on holding elections that we all prayed would consolidate the peace and usher in a new era of stability, economic progress, and human and social development for the war torn country.

Sadly, we now come together to deplore the coup of May 25, 1997 and express the United States' contempt for the actions of those who would subvert Sierra Leone's fragile recovery from years of bloody civil conflict, and plunge the country back into chaos, suffering, and ruin. In introducing this resolution, we add our voices to those of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations Security Council, and the European Union in strongly urging Major Johnny Paul Koroma and his supporters to step down and peacefully restore power to the democratically elected government of President Kabbah.

The ties between Sierra Leone and Ohio's third district go way back. Nearly 100 years ago, Daytonians were among the first missionaries to Sierra Leone, and today our district is enriched by a small but vibrant community of Sierra Leonean immigrants. A Dayton company, Nord Resources, has long operated the Sierra Rutile mine, which is the nation's largest private employer, taxpayer, and foreign exchange earner. Prior to the coup, the company was in the final stages of re-opening the mine site, with the assistance of a laboriously negotiated loan package. The coup effectively suspended the Sierra Rutile project, jeopardizing 2,000 badly needed jobs for Sierra Leoneans, along with the prospects for the country's overall economic recovery.

For the sake of Sierra Leone's people and the country's future, it is my fervent hope that