

changed. Currently, a typical tenant must rely on public housing as permanent housing, and receives public assistance. Public housing projects in recent years have been plagued by a downward spiral of public assistance, lack of job training, and high crime rates.

The Providence Housing Authority decided to face the problem head on. Existing units within the system have been modernized. Repairs have been undertaken ranging from complete rehabilitation to emergency repairs of rotting roofs. Maintenance repair orders are completed swiftly rather than languishing unfinished for months. Security in the Providence properties has improved, allowing residents to build a community. The agency has built up its cash reserves, improving the financial management of the housing authority. Perhaps most important, the Providence Housing Authority has introduced high caliber non-housing services for residents, such as job training, life skills, and youth recreation programs. They have developed after-school programs for children, and self-sufficiency programs for adults.

In recent years, the Housing Authority, which is monitored by HUD, has consistently received higher grades in its annual report-card-type ratings. Since 1991, when HUD started their rating system, the Providence Housing Authority has improved its scores every year. And recently the Housing Authority has achieved "high performer" status, by scoring 97 out of a possible 100 points.

This turn around would not have been possible without the leadership and support of the eleven member Board of Directors of the Providence Housing Authority. These men and women, led by Stephen O'Rourke, have worked hard and persevered in turning around a crumbling system. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Providence Housing Authority of a truly remarkable turnaround.

IN MEMORY OF GABE PAUL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable man in Cleveland Indians baseball history, Gabe Paul.

Born in Rochester, N.Y., Mr. Paul had a penchant for baseball as a young boy. He was a bat boy for the minor league Rochester Red Wings in 1920 and witnessed the early days of baseball history. His love for the sport grew and he decided to devote his life to it. He joined the Cincinnati Reds as publicity director in 1937 and advanced his way through the Reds' management until he became General Manager in 1949, the youngest GM in baseball history at the time. Paul showed his true passion for the sport when he married his wife Mary on Opening Day, 1939.

Mr. Paul arrived in Cleveland to the posts of general manager, president, and treasurer in 1961. Through 1972 and from 1978 to 1984, he led the Indians through good times and bad times. He maintained until the end of his term that the Cleveland Indians were a "sleeping giant" and would one day emerge from their losing streak as a contender in baseball. Mr. Paul was right and with the construction of Jacobs Field, the team began its current success.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the life of a giant in the baseball industry and a true fan of the game, Gabe Paul.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, last night, during the Rollcall vote on Mr. MCGOVERN's amendment to H.R. 6 (No. 124), the Higher Education Amendments of 1998, I inadvertently voted "no" when I wished to vote "aye."

VISIT OF MEMBERS OF THE IRISH DAIL TO THE U.S. CONGRESS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, last night at the Library of the Congress both you and I were honored to welcome members of the Irish Dail here to the Congress, as we opened the second session of the Irish American Inter-parliamentary exchange, you so wisely reinitiated two years ago.

The relations between Ireland and its warm and generous people and our great nation are long, historic and very close. The remarks of the Speaker of the Dail, the Ceann Comhairle Seamus Pattison of Kilkenny which were delivered at the Library were particularly important, and best summarize this long and very important relationship between Ireland and the United States.

At this important moment in Irish history, I believe my colleagues would be particularly interested in the Speaker of the Dail's comments on the U.S./Ireland relationship, and I insert his full and important remarks for the RECORD.

REMARKS BY MR. SEAMUS PATTISON, T.D., CEANN COMHAIRLE AT DINNER HOSTED BY MR. NEWT GINGRICH, SPEAKER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador ÓhUiginn, parliamentary colleagues both Irish and American, friends.

I am delighted to respond to your kind remarks and would wish, at the outset, to thank you most sincerely for hosting this dinner in honour of the visit by Irish Parliamentarians. It is a great honour to have dinner here at the Library of Congress and I would like if I may introduce the other members of the delegation: Mr. Desmond J. O'Malley, T.D., Chairman, Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Michael P. Kitt, T.D., Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D., Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., Mr. Matt Brennan, T.D., Mr. Dinny McGinley, T.D., Dr. Pat Upton, T.D., Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., and Mr. Thomas Gildea, T.D.

As you know Mr. Speaker, official contacts between the Oireachtas and the U.S. Congress were put on a more formal footing in the early 1980s. The Friends of Ireland group was established in Congress in 1981 and the Ireland/United States Parliamentary Group in the Houses of the Oireachtas in 1983. Under the auspices of those groups a number of exchange visits took place with delegations from the Friends of Ireland visiting

Dublin in 1982 and 1985, with Irish delegations visiting here in 1983 and 1985. Official links between the two groups lapsed, however, by the mid 1980s but contacts did continue on a more informal basis. The question of re-establishing these links were raised on a number of occasions in the early 1990s. My predecessor Seán Treacy raised the issue with you Mr. Speaker leading to a congressional delegation visiting Ireland in February 1997 to confirm our Parliament's interest in reviving formal links.

The formal announcement of the re-launch of the Ireland-U.S. Inter Parliamentary Group was made by you at the St. Patrick's Day lunch in honour of the then Taoiseach John Bruton. We in Ireland were delighted to hear that you had asked two very distinguished Congressmen Ben Gilman and Jim Walsh to co-chair the U.S. side. I want to pay a very special tribute to both of them whom I got to know during the very successful visit to Ireland in November last year for the work they have put into the work of the group since its re-launch last year. I look forward to co-chairing the first session of our meetings tomorrow when we discuss the Irish peace process.

The people of Ireland deeply appreciate the tireless efforts of both the Friends of Ireland and the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs to bring about a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland. As Speaker of the Irish House of Representatives and on behalf of the delegation I too wish to express my appreciation for those efforts which has led to the Good Friday peace agreement. The agreement offers a truly historic opportunity for a new beginning within Northern Ireland. It is balanced fair and comprehensive. All parties will find aspects to their liking but will have difficulties with others. However, the reality is that people on the island of Ireland want peace. It is my belief that the requirements of the people have been met and it is my expressed hope that confirmation of this will be a resounding yes vote in the referendum being held on 22 May.

During the current peace process we have had enormous encouragement and goodwill not only from the international community but especially so from the United States. President Clinton and his administration has taken a deep personal interest in the search for a lasting and just peace in Northern Ireland. That commitment was demonstrated through his visit to Belfast in November 1995. He was the first sitting U.S. President to undertake such a visit.

Congress too has played a very important part. A number of those leading Congressmen I have referred to earlier but I also want to include the other co-chairmen of the Ad Hoc, Peter King, Richard Neal and Tom Manton and many others who have been good friends to Ireland and have been active on a range of political and economic issues over the years. Senator Ted Kennedy too has been a true friend of Ireland and I look forward to meeting with him on Thursday morning. I cannot emphasize enough the key role played by Senator George Mitchell, the independent chairman of the talks whose patience and dedication helped to bring the talks to their successful conclusion.

I also want to mention, Mr. Speaker, how much we value your own personal interest and support. I know that your concern is year round, but your generous hospitality in hosting the annual St. Patrick's Day Speaker's lunch on Capitol Hill has been especially welcome. The event in recent years has brought together the main political leaders from north and south. There is no doubt that the opportunity for dialogue which this year's Washington programme afforded the political leaders greatly helped in laying the ground work for their eventual historic agreement on Good Friday.

I look forward to meeting with you when you visit Ireland next summer. I can assure you of a hearty *cead mile failte*, and repaying the generous hospitality you have offered to us this evening.

On the day the talks were concluded (Good Friday) I was attending the spring conference of the Inter Parliamentary Union in Namibia. I was delighted to receive the best wishes from international parliamentarians on the successful outcome of the talks. It was pleasing that during the conference the Inter Parliamentary Council congratulated all concerned on the outcome of the talks and a letter expressing those congratulations, signed by the president of the council, Señor Miguel Angel Martinez of Spain, was forwarded by me to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern.

As Irish politicians, it encourages us greatly to know that we can count on U.S. support. The two groups in Congress with a strong interest in Ireland—the Friends of Ireland and the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs demonstrates to us the interest of the United States to hearing of the happenings in Ireland. One of the practical ways in which this is shown by Congress is through the support for the International Fund for Ireland. Your desire to address the economic impact of the troubles through voting each year economic assistance to the fund assists its efforts to bring economic hope to the most disadvantaged areas. Since its inception the fund has supported in excess of 3,400 individual projects involving expenditure of over \$350m. These projects have helped to create in excess of 29,000 jobs. Total investment related to expenditure to the fund amounts to over \$900m as public and private sectors sources also contribute to the fund. The delegation visiting Ireland last year availed of the opportunity to visit some of the projects which have been assisted by the fund.

We in Ireland identify with the success of our Emigrant communities around the world but especially here in the United States where, I believe, some 44 million claim some Irish ancestry. It is hardly surprising therefore that many of the households in Ireland have American cousins. Our emigrants here in the United States have played a huge role in making it the most powerful nation in the world. We in Ireland owe a great deal of gratitude to countries like America. Just over one hundred and fifty years ago, the Great Irish famine was at its worst. Ireland was devastated as over one million people died of starvation with another one million emigrating in its immediate aftermath. The majority of those emigrating came to the United States in conditions of incredible hardship with nothing to sustain them when they got there, except a willingness for hard work and an overwhelming desire to succeed. Most Americans can identify with the quintessential story of the emigrant. The U.S. has continued to provide a home from home for Irish people ever since those dark days of famine.

In more recent years the United States has become the adopted home for many of our young emigrants. We are particularly grateful for the role played by our friends in Congress in securing visas for them under the Donnelly, Morrison and Schumer Schemes. As our economy has bounded ahead in recent years, the nature of emigration has changed. Many of our emigrants now return home to Ireland bringing vital skills learned in America, having made a real contribution while they are here. We know these are difficult issues, but we strongly urge you, in both our interests, to continue to make provision for our young people to come to the U.S. and to learn the American way.

The strong presence of foreign investment has been one of the keys to our recent econ-

omy success. Therefore it goes without saying that the United States, with over 500 companies, is the largest single investor in Ireland and has played a critical role in the growth of our economy. These U.S. firms are not coming to Ireland out of altruism. They are coming for a variety of reasons, not least of which is that, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Ireland is the most profitable location for U.S. investment in Europe.

A number of U.S. companies have announced several major projects in job creation—Boston Scientific Expansion plans of 40m with over 2,050 jobs being created, Oxford Health Plans—500 jobs in insurance claims processing, Bausch and Lomb—650 jobs and Hewlett Packard's announcement of a second investment at its Leixlip plant with an expected 2,000 employees by 1997 to mention but a few.

While there are no official figures available on the value of Irish investment in the U.S., several of our major Irish companies including Smurfit, Masstock, James Crean, Bank of Ireland, AIB, Kerry Group, Avonmore and Bord Baine have already acquired substantial interests here.

There are a myriad of historical connections that bind our two countries. One of the areas that stands out is our common interest in the democratic process and politics in general. Irishman and women have distinguished themselves right across the U.S. in Federal, State and local politics. As you know a number of Irishmen were signatories to the Declaration of Independence. I have earlier referred to Senator Ted Kennedy whose great-grandfather came from New Ross which is located just a stone's throw from my own constituency of Carlow-Kilenny, a constituency I have had the honour of representing for nearly 37 years. I am therefore the only sitting member who was present in the House to hear the addresses of the 3 American presidents during joint sittings of the Houses of the Oireachtas—President John F. Kennedy was the first distinguished guest to address the Houses when he visited Ireland in 1963, President Reagan did so in 1984 and more recently we had the address of President Clinton.

I am looking forward to our working sessions here in Washington over the next few days. It may be that we may only manage to scratch the surface on a number of issues but we will try to cover as much ground as possible. I wish all the participants in the sessions every good wish.

I will conclude now Mr. Speaker by thanking you once again for hosting this dinner in our honour. It has been a privilege to meet with you and to discuss with you matters of mutual interest.

I would ask you all to raise your glass to the continued success of Ireland/U.S. parliamentary friendship.

“BREAKING THE RULES”

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, among the outstanding civil servants working for the people of Chicago is my good friend, Lois Weisberg. As Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, Lois has sponsored a series of cultural events which have brought a glow to the City of Chicago and to Mayor Richard Daley.

Today, an article appears in The Chicago Sun Times which truly delineates the warm

active personality and character of Lois Weisberg. I am sure my colleagues will enjoy reading this perceptive account of her life and activities:

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, May 6, 1998]

BREAKING THE RULES

RENEGADE ARTS MAVEN ADORES HER JOB

(By Lori Rotenberk)

Her movements and the rapidity of her speech defy age. Both are nonstop.

So, too, her brain. And so, too, the puffs on her cigarette (“I’m quitting!”) sending a snake of smoke from her ruby lips.

Every little thing about her seems to travel at the speed of sound. Even her black city-issued car, as it pulls out of a downtown alley and into the Chicago night.

The cops wouldn’t dare.

Lois Weisberg, the city’s renegade Commissioner of Cultural Affairs, turns 73 today. In her eighth decade, she is still a woman who treads the fringe.

“Ugh. I can’t work where everybody follows the rules,” Weisberg says, “My whole life has been about breaking rules.”

This attitude has helped her leave a dramatic mark on the city—even if you don’t know her, you know the programs she has created over the years, Blues Fest, Gospel Fest, many ethnic fests, the watchdog group Friends of the Park.

A typical idea: She put a birthday hat on the Picasso at Daley Center to celebrate the statue’s birthday. “Everyone thought I was crazy when I suggested it. They didn’t know how to do it. I didn’t know how to do it. Then I found a group of Mexican nuns who made papier-mache. They delivered it in a big truck. And that’s when I began to learn how to get around all of the bureaucracy.”

Last month, Weisberg received an award from the Illinois Arts Council for her contribution to city arts and culture. Soon, one of her favorite programs, Gallery 37, the nationally recognized student summer art program in the Loop, will raise its tent along State Street.

Weisberg is the scratch to Mayor Daley’s itch.

What he dares to imagine, she’s damned to create.

To say she loves her work is a mistake. Weisberg adores it, lives it. She stays awake until 3 a.m., answering all of her own correspondence. “Everything I see, hear and do gives me an idea,” she says.

Acquaintances and friends alike speak of her huge and good heart. Weisberg admits she can’t say no to anyone. “I try to do something for everyone who asks me for help,” she says.

“Lois Weisberg is one of those unique people who can think very creatively and very practically at the same time,” Daley says. “I can call Lois with an idea and know without a doubt that she will find a way to make it happen.”

Born on this day in 1925, Weisberg grew up in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood. She walked the streets with her nose always dug into a book, the odd child “of two perfectly normal parents.” Later, she briefly attended the University of Illinois, then transferred to Northwestern, where she graduated with a degree in radio. “Right at the end of its golden age,” Weisberg says accusingly. “I couldn’t find a job anywhere because television was coming in. So I got a job writing a TV program called ‘Baby Talk,’ a simply horrible program.”

She winces at the memory. She wears eyeglasses studded with rhinestones, lighting up that Muppet face like the Chicago Theatre marquee, and clatters around the mosaic floor of the Cultural Center in white leather boots, faux fuzzy fur around their ankle-high tops.