

the shareholders' expectations. If the stock went down, even briefly, the trial lawyers sued the companies and harassed them into settlements. The real winners in these cases were the lawyers, who recovered fees that dwarfed the settlements their individual clients received.

This especially hurt high-tech businesses which were easy targets because their stocks tended to fluctuate more than average. Because we wanted to keep America competitive in this vital market, in 1995 we passed the Securities Litigation Reform Act, overriding President Clinton's veto. That bill protected shareholders' legitimate interests but made it harder for the strike suit lawyers to coerce companies into unfair settlements.

The problem was that in inventing a new mousetrap we had forgotten how smart the mouses were. The strike suit lawyers began filing their suits in state courts, where our bill had little effect.

This bill realizes the intent of the 1995 bill by closing this loophole. Securities law is predominantly federal. This bill would prevent strike suit lawyers from abusing convenient state law by giving company defendants the opportunity to move strike suits filed in state courts to federal courts, where they would have the protection of the 1995 bill.

Mr. Speaker, this superb piece of legislation will protect shareholders, it will protect our growing high-tech sector from needless harassment, and it will protect the high-paying, stable jobs that these industries will create now and in the future. I urge my colleagues to support it.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. J.D. HAYWORTH**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 21, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Chairman, today we had an important vote regarding federal lands in our country. I believe Chairman REGULA did an excellent job of handling this difficult and controversial appropriations bill. However, one project that was left out of the bill was funding of the new Seba Dalkai school in my congressional district that has been on the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) priority list for several years.

As you may know, Mr. Chairman, Seba Dalkai is located on the Navajo Nation, the largest and most economically-challenged sovereign Indian nation. Education is vitally important for children to achieve their full intellectual and economic potential. A healthy learning environment is central to this goal.

Seba Dalkai has been patiently waiting for new school facilities, while educating their children in substandard conditions. They are presently the highest ranked school on the BIA priority list that has yet to receive funding. Unfor-

tunately, this has been the situation for several years. Seba Dalkai needs and deserves funding. It is my hope that since the new Sac and Fox and Pyramid Lake schools will be completed this year, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee will begin funding the new Seba Dalkai school in fiscal year 2000. I will continue to fight for funding for Seba Dalkai, although I am disappointed that the Subcommittee could not begin funding this important project in fiscal year 1999.

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER JOHN  
H. BLANK, RETIRING AFTER 33  
YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 1998*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Communications Manager John H. Blank. On July 31, 1998, after 33 years of distinguished service, he will be retiring from the police force in Milpitas, California, in California's 13th Congressional District.

Communications Manager Blank began his career serving the Milpitas community in October, 1965. He was sworn in as a police officer on October 1, 1965. He served in the patrol unit until January, 1970 at which time he was appointed as Supervisor of the Traffic Investigation Unit. In 1967, he cofounded the Milpitas Police Officer's Association. His concern for the welfare and development of employees of the Department as well as his knowledge and skills in the field of organizational development provided a solid foundation for the Association which continues to serve as an important resource for law enforcement officers today.

While serving in the Milpitas Police Department, John continued his education. He was awarded a B.S. degree from San José University in 1973 after completing the requirements for a double major in Public Administration and Political Science. Concurrent to his service in the Milpitas Police Department, he also served in the California National Guard. He completed his service in 1971, after attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant.

On July 1, 1973, John was promoted to Police Inspector with the responsibility of supervising the Records, Communications and Property functions of the Police Department. Under his supervision, the Department acquired its own dispatching capability and was able to upgrade its services substantially. In April of 1979, as a result of departmental restructuring, John became a Detective Sergeant. His responsibilities included investigating crimes against persons, property crimes, fraud and missing persons.

In 1980, John embarked upon a significant career change—he left service as a sworn employee to become a communications dispatcher. In 1985, he became an acting communications supervisor. In 1986, he became permanent supervisor, and, in 1992, he became Communications Manager. As Communications Manager, he managed the growth of this service by improving the size, staff training, and complexity of the Communications Center.

He oversaw many improvements during his tenure as Manager, including the change from

“status tags” to Computer Aided Dispatch, public safety tactical dispatching, and the development of a state of the art Communications Center.

He was a co-founder of an organization called C.O.M.A.—the Communications Operations Managers Association of Santa Clara County. C.O.M.A.'s goals are interagency cooperation, support training, and the furtherance of the public safety communications profession.

John has always been an active member of the community. He has lived in Milpitas for the last 15 years—in a home that he built himself. He has been a long time member of the Walnut Green Homeowners Association, he founded the Milpitas Tennis Association, has been very active in the Y.M.C.A., and has been a member and president of the Milpitas Kiwanis Club. He is also an active member of his church, serving as both a deacon and usher.

John has received numerous awards and commendations throughout his career. He has amassed over forty letter of commendation from citizens, his supervisors, and from a wide variety of governmental agencies. In 1987, he was recognized by the San José-Evergreen Community College District for his assistance in the development and presentation of the Basic Public Safety Dispatcher Development Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Communications Manager John H. Blank will be honored at a celebration dinner on the occasion of his retirement on August 7, 1998. I would like to thank John for his 33 years of dedicated service on behalf of the residents of Milpitas, CA. His professionalism and dedication will be sorely missed. I wish him luck in all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING SCRUGGS, INC.

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 22, 1998*

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Scruggs, Inc., a leading Knoxville business, has recently received national recognition as the “1998 Dealer of the Year” by “Foodservice Equipment and Supplies Magazine.” Scruggs, Inc. is a 66-year-old, third generation restaurant equipment and design company in Knoxville, TN.

Scruggs, Inc., founded in 1932, by Mr. Carlton Scruggs, now has over 55 employees and sales of over \$15 million a year. In a time where many family businesses may be experiencing difficulties, it is wonderful to see this family business doing so well.

The Scruggs family is one of east Tennessee's most respected families. I have known Mr. Jim Scruggs, who recently retired from the company, for many years. Now, the day-to-day operations are managed by his sons, Lee and Andrew.

I congratulate the Scruggs family on this well-deserved honor, and I wish them continued success. I would like to call to the attention of all of my Colleagues and other readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the article from the “Knoxville News Sentinel” concerning this outstanding award.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel]

"DEALER OF THE YEAR"; MAGAZINE AWARDS  
KNOX FAMILY FIRM SCRUGGS INC.

(By Jerry Dean)

Scruggs Inc., a 66-year-old Knoxville company which sells and services food service equipment, has come far since Earnest Carleton Scruggs of Sweetwater first bought such equipment on New York's Bowery for resale in Knoxville in 1932.

Named Foodservice Equipment & Supplies magazine's 1998 "Dealer of the Year" in May, Scruggs was featured in the magazine's 50th anniversary issue, which noted its "record of integrity, innovation and leadership."

"Exemplary customer service expresses the ruling philosophy of this company," said Publisher Sandra A. Smith.

Scruggs Inc., now with 55 employees, operates a 60,000-square-foot warehouse and an 18,000-square-foot showroom at 3011 Industrial Parkway East, northwest of Western and Texas Avenues, east of Interstate 75 in Knoxville.

Lee E. and Andrew D. Scruggs, brothers and latest of three generations to run the business, said 50 years by coincidence is how long their father, James Scruggs, has been associated with Scruggs Inc. Though retired, he remains a design consultant for its customers, including restaurants, soda fountains and grocers in East Tennessee.

"There's nothing magical about the firm's success," Lee Scruggs said. "We merely try to do what we say we'll do. And to look after our customers well."

James Scruggs began the business in 1948 and was joined in 1950 by elder brother E.C. Jr. and younger brother, Pat. James began by drawing floor plans, but after his elder brother's death, James learned sales and administration to assume leadership. In 1961, he helped found Equipment Distributors Inc., a buyers' group that helps all 22 of its area dealer-members prosper.

Scruggs Inc., with \$15 million in 1997 sales, maintains a tidy division of labors between brothers Lee, who administers the company, and Andrew, who directs sales. Lee, a UT graduate and former youth minister, joined Scruggs in 1980 as warehouse manager. Andrew, a Texas Christian University graduate, joined the firm in 1979 after working for a restaurant chain. Also working closely with the Scruggses are key employees like Ed Poore, the comptroller.

The firm opened a Tri-Cities sales office-showroom in April and expects it to help boost sales to \$25 million. Scruggs also operates a Nashville cash-and carry outlet.

Scruggs Inc. sells and installs such equipment as cook tops, 10-burner ranges, freezers and such "smallware" as glassware and serving utensils. Its 5,000 customers include restaurants, hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

SAVING MEDICARE FOR BABY-BOOMERS IS NOT HOPELESS—DEDICATING THE NEXT DECADE OF FEDERAL SURPLUSES FOR MEDICARE WOULD KEEP HOSPITAL TRUST FUND SOLVENT PAST 2030 WITH NO OTHER CHANGES

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in January, when the Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

first estimated that the budget surpluses for the next decade might total \$650 billion, many of us asked the Medicare Actuary how long that amount of money—if dedicated to the Medicare Hospital Trust Fund—would keep the Trust Fund solvent. The answer was 2020.

CBO is now estimating that the next decade's surplus will be almost \$1 trillion higher. I again asked the Office of the Chief Actuary how long that amount—if saved for Medicare and not given away on tax cuts—would fund the Hospital Trust Fund. The answer is past 2030.<sup>1</sup>

The year 2030 is as far as the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare seeks or dares to plan for the future of Medicare. The year 2030 is well into the retirement of the Baby Boom generation and is a point at which the percentage of retirees in our society stabilizes.

Without making any other changes, without any restructuring of the program, without any more provider cuts, without shifting costs to beneficiaries, without raising taxes, we can keep Medicare Part A solvent just by not giving away today's temporary surpluses.

This does not mean to suggest that the Commission should not recommend any changes to the Medicare program that makes the program work better for beneficiaries or that ensures greater cost predictability and containment. By making prudent savings on the provider side and saving the surpluses, we could actually improve Medicare and its package of benefits, or we could use some of these resources to also extend the life of the Social Security. The important point is that by just not dribbling away our present surpluses, we can make our future Social Security and Medicare problems much more solvable.

As Congress debates possible ways in which to spend today's budget surpluses, it is important that the Commission recognizes and publicizes this very important message: Saving today's budget surpluses will make it infinitely easier to solve the coming Medicare crisis caused by the retirement of baby-boomers. There is, in fact, no crisis if we saved today's temporary surpluses to solve the future's certain Medicare deficits.

#### ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today:

STATEMENT BY NAT WHITE-JOYAL REGARDING MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Hi. My name is Nat White-Joyal. I want to talk about the legalization of marijuana for medical and homeopathic uses.

<sup>1</sup>I asked the Office of the Chief Actuary what an additional trillion dollars in budget surpluses would save. They replied that \$1.65 trillion dedicated for Part A would save the Trust Fund to 2033. The CBO's latest estimate of surplus between 1998 and 2008 is \$1.548 trillion. Surpluses are expected for another year or two after 2008 before the Baby Boomers start retiring.

I think that it is necessary, for people who suffer from certain diseases where marijuana can be helpful to them, that it be legal. For someone to always be knocking on your door and wondering what that smell is and needing to have that to be comfortable and to sort of have—I don't want to say survival, but to have a more comfortable life.

I know that in several states, California and Arizona, that laws are either to be introduced or have been passed about legalizing medical marijuana. I am also aware of the pressure that these people who grow it and use it receive from the authorities. And I think that it is very important for these people not to have that pressure. I know from people that I know with certain diseases, hepatitis C and AIDS, that they need marijuana to improve their appetite so that they don't starve, so they can actually have some sort of energy. And I think that it needs to be passed, not only in certain states, but in the entire country.

I think it's something that is very important, and if you were to look at actual numbers, it does actually help people more than it hurts people. It is documented that marijuana does kill brain cells, but so does alcohol and cigarettes, and they are both legal, and they really don't provide any use for any other purpose except for taste and addiction.

Now, people would argue that marijuana is only used to—you know, people would only use marijuana to get stoned, but that is really not true. The people who I know who use it use it so that they can go on with their daily lives and, you know, hold down a job, not have to call in sick every other day. I feel it would be very important to have it legalized in Vermont as well, because, I mean, it is a very important crop for Vermont, whether it is legal or not.

STATEMENT BY EWING FOX AND DAMIEN WYZGA REGARDING YOUTH GROUP CENTERS

EWING FOX: This room looks a lot bigger from up here.

Many students have already mentioned the need for a safe teen environment. We think that we have a healthy alternative to some of the ideas that people have come up with so far. I think people have some good ideas, but I know a lot of kids feel that there is a stigmatism around community youth centers, and they're boring. There are too many adults, all you can do is sit on a couch and, you know, watch TV or something, and I think that Burlington's youth needs more than that to stay occupied.

We are modeling a center, a youth group center, that is called Main Street Park after a youth program that I visited in Massachusetts several years ago. It was completely run by students and volunteer parents. They had a snack bar, concessions and vending, which paid for a lot of the cost. It was housed in a public building. There were vending machines that were donated, there was pool playing, and the parents that would stay in an outer room that do the vending and admissions, there was a small admissions fee, and the majority of the center was run by the students. I think that a program similar to that could work in Burlington.

I think we can also address the issue around skateboarders in Burlington. I know I was eating lunch in City Hall park, and I was appalled by watching these skateboarders like, you know, walk up, take a jump, and get off their skate board, tiptoe down the street and walk back. I think that is so ridiculous, that some people have to be reduced to breaking a law to do something that is as simple as riding a skateboard.

I think also, for a center like this to work, we need to have a location. I know there is an empty building on lower Main Street where the old flea market was. It has been like that since I have been here, which isn't very long. And it is useless property right