

and even a few within the law firm who felt it more appropriate that he spend his time on his government responsibilities as Independent Counsel. This does not take into account the additional time he has devoted to academic teaching and public speaking appearances unrelated to either his private law practice or his governmental duties.

It has also been observed that some of Mr. Starr's private representation has been in conflict with his duties as independent counsel. For example, his firm has represented the Republican party. He has also represented tobacco companies, an industry that the Clinton Administration has exposed for misleading and fraudulent tactics, and other corporations that have been in opposition to the Clinton administration policies or have been under scrutiny by federal agencies. In another instance, one or more of Mr. Starr's law partners has worked with the lawyers of Paula Jones. Notwithstanding the appearance of a potential conflict of interest, the law firm of which the Independent Counsel was a member took no dispositive action to remedy the situation. Even the legal ethics advisor to the Independent Counsel, Mr. Sam Dash, said that Mr. Starr's representation of private clients "had an odor to it."

Why would Mr. Starr leave his firm at this point in time as he moves into the fifth year of his prosecutorial responsibilities? Mr. Starr has explained that wrapping up the investigation will be a full-time job. This explanation may betray a failure on his part to understand that during the preceding four years, the investigation should always have been a full-time job. The beginning of his work should have been as important as the end of his work.

It is certainly high time that Mr. Starr has resigned from private practice. It should have come much sooner. Perhaps now the investigation will proceed, and the American people will be able to put the controversies created by allegations of Mr. Starr's abuses and excesses behind them in the near future. Regardless of these reservations about Mr. Starr's belated departure from his private practice, we can assure him and our colleagues that whatever report he submits to Congress will be given a careful and non-political examination. The House Committee on the Judiciary is committed to discharging its responsibilities in a way that will satisfy every citizen of our seriousness and commitment to due process for both the President and the Independent Counsel.

REGARDING H. RES. 507

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on July 30, 1998 Congressman HOEKSTRA stated during the debate on House Resolution 507 that "two IBT employees wearing green uniforms delivered an industrial size shredder to the office of the IBT communication director, Matt Witt, during the week of July 13, 1998, and that the noise of the shredder operating in that office could be heard on Saturday, July 18, when Mr. Witt was in the building." Later that afternoon, at the Committee on Education and the Workforce's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing, this accusation was again repeated by the Majority's co-lead

counsel Vicki Toensing who also alleged that Mr. Witt had resigned.

In an effort to determine the merit of these charges, during a break in the hearing, I met with Mr. Witt. I found him to be appalled by the crinations, which he stated had no merit. He asked that he be able to address the Subcommittee in order to deny the charges against him under oath. He told me that he would deny that he had resigned, would deny having a shredder delivered to his office, and would deny being in the building or shredding documents on July 18th. At the resumption of the hearing, Representative SCOTT asked for unanimous consent to permit Mr. Witt to deny the outrageous charges against him. Congressman HOEKSTRA refused to permit Mr. Witt the opportunity to deny the allegations, objecting to the unanimous consent request and ruling the Minority's motion out of order.

Unfortunately, this irresponsible allegation by the Majority has cast grave doubt on the Subcommittee's investigation. The Majority has made a serious allegation of criminal behavior and then refused to permit the person maligned an opportunity to rebut the charges. Rather than admit that their charges were baseless, the Majority refused to allow the individual about whom they made their allegation the right to defend himself. I find this unworthy of a Congressional investigation.

LAS CASAS NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the positive impact that can be made by people who care. In East Dallas, there's a small neighborhood that makes a great impact in the lives of many. The Las Casas Neighborhood Association, which is headed by the indomitable Mary Malone, has grown exponentially since its inception, and it has made that part of East Dallas safer and better for everyone in that community and in surrounding areas.

Early in its tenure, the Las Casas Neighborhood Association consisted of a few interested neighbors meeting occasionally to discuss problems in their community. Thanks to Mary Malone, the group has begun to meet more regularly, and its annual meeting draws as many as 300 people. At one time, this simple, neighborhood meeting drew more than 500 people.

Each year, Mary Malone's Las Casas Neighborhood Association annual meeting is the gathering of those interested in making a difference. From fighting crime to improving traffic safety, the Las Casas Neighborhood Association meeting joins residents of East Dallas, elected representatives, and public officials to discuss the status of efforts to improve the neighborhood and the lives of the families that live there. I know that the Mayor of Dallas, Ron Kirk, will be in attendance, as will members of the Dallas police force.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of acting as the Master of Ceremonies at this year's Las Casas Neighborhood Association annual meeting. Since 1993, I have been deeply involved with the Association and the Dallas Po-

lice Department in the fight against crime and drug activity in the neighborhood. And it's my honor to join Mary Malone, the President of the Association, because she has sacrificed to help so many others.

Mary Malone has been honored with a proclamation by the State of Texas. She has been honored by the Dallas Police Department, and I had the pleasure of attending an event in her honor at the East Dallas Rotary. There is not enough room in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to name the things she has done for the Las Casas Neighborhood or the awards she has received to honor her work. But I want my colleagues to know that, when friends, neighbors, and families join in an effort to improve their lives, we can make a difference. And there is no better example of this than the Las Casas Neighborhood Association and Mary Malone.

STEVE HORNİK HONORED BY MONMOUTH-OCEAN CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, August 19, at the Breakers in Spring Lake, NJ, Mr. Steve Hornik will be honored by his many friends at a testimonial dinner on the occasion of his retirement as President of the Monmouth-Ocean Counties Central Labor Council.

Mr. Speaker, Steve Hornik has been President of the Monmouth-Ocean Council for more than 25 years. His has been a career in which he came up through the ranks, serving the labor movement at virtually every level. Through it all, he has put first and foremost the needs of working men and women, whose interests he has defended so staunchly for decades. Indeed, you could say that his enthusiasm and dedication for fighting for working people is in his blood. His father, Stephen, was a truck driver and is a retired member of the Teamsters Union. His mother, Frances, was a counter girl at Woolworth's, who walked picket lines to try to organize her co-workers, and later became a member of Local 56, the United Food and Commercial Workers Union (U.F.C.W.).

Steve Hornik first became a charter union member when he was 14 years old while working at Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds as a vendor for Harry M. Stevens Concessions, where he helped to organize his fellow workers. He was later a member of the Teamsters Union Local 814, then the Mailers Union of the big six Newspaper Guild at the New York Times and John Sweeney's Local 32A, working nights while going to school. He later went to work at the Maxwell House Coffee Plant in Hoboken, NJ, where he became a member of Local 56, Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union of North America, which has since merged to become the U.F.C.W.

Steve Hornik has been a member of Local 56 for 40 years, during which time he moved up the ranks from Alternate Department Steward and Department Steward of 250 members, then Chief Steward of the plant of 1,200 members, after which he was put on the Local 56 staff as Organizer, Business Representative,

after moving on to the Officer's Staff as Press Secretary, First Vice President and Secretary Treasurer of the 16,000-member local for more than 20 years. He was a charter member and President of the Hunterdon-Warren Counties Central Labor Council for four years, after which he was elected President of the Monmouth-Ocean Counties Central Labor Council.

Some of the other responsibilities Steve Hornik holds or has held, representing labor, include: Chairman of the Rutgers University Trade Union Consulting Council, the Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board, United Way of Tri-State Board of Governors, and a Commissioner on the Governor's Employment and Training Commission. He is also on the Advisory Boards of Brookdale College, Monmouth University and is a member of the State Board of Arbitration and Mediation. He was previously on the Executive Board of the New Jersey Central and State Lung Associations, a Member of New Jersey Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz's Courts Committee on Efficiency, the Private Industry Council, the Congressional Award Council and the Manalapan Democratic Club. He has been a member of numerous State and County screening committees, and was a delegate to four of the last five Democratic Conventions. He remains a County Committee Member, a position he has held for the last 35 years. He has been and continues to be active with the Knight of Columbus.

Steven Hornik is also a devoted family man. He and his wife Arline have four grown children and 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, talking about my good friend Steve Hornik, citing his many accomplishments on behalf of working people and his many contributions to our community. At the testimonial in his honor later this month, many of these great accomplishments will be recounted, happy memories recalled and funny stories told. We will miss his hard work, his energy and his honest dedication to fighting for the interests of working people.

Mr. Speaker, labor unions have achieved many important victories over the years, fighting for safe working conditions, living wages, health care benefits and a dignified retirement. The battles fought and won by the labor movement have not only helped union members. America's broad-based economic growth, the expansion of the middle class, the existence of programs like Social Security and Medicare, and the realization of the American dream for tens of millions of families all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to labor unions. These days, unions are under attack. But I believe public support is still strong. I know that the unions will continue to fight for such basic rights as universal health care coverage, increased pension security and fair trade agreements that protect American jobs. It's great leaders like Steve Hornik who have made, and continue to make, the union movement strong.

I regret that Steve Hornik will no longer be at the helm of the Monmouth-Ocean Central Labor Council. But I know that we will continue to benefit from his contributions to the ongoing fight for social and economic justice for working people. Steve Hornik has contributed to that fight more than anybody I know. The example that he set will guide us all for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ISAAC DARKO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and to pay tribute to Mr. Isaac Darko, a constituent of mine and a distinguished student at Columbia University in New York. He will be recognized for his academic and scientific achievements as a participant in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (UGSP) on August 6, 1998.

Isaac graduated from the Health Professions and Human Services High School in 1997 and has just completed his freshman year at Columbia University. This summer he has been working at the NIH Department of Molecular Biology under the supervision of Dr. Alfred Johnson. He has been working on the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), which is expressed in such cancers as breast and prostate cancer and in other cancer cell lines.

Mr. Speaker, the UGSP scholars search is highly competitive and nationwide. Currently, the program has 24 scholars from all over the nation, from institutions such as Columbia University, MIT, Harvard, Georgetown, U.C. Davis, and Stanford. In order to participate in the program, a Scholar must either have a 3.5 Grade Point Average or be in the top 5% of his/her class. Candidates must also demonstrate a commitment to pursuing careers in biomedical research and must be from a disadvantaged background. The current group is composed of 32% Hispanics, 32% African Americans, 21% Asians, 10% Caucasians, and 5% Native American, with a balance between the genders of 52% female and 48% male.

Mr. Speaker, being selected for this program indicates that Isaac has demonstrated that he has the ability and the desire to be an asset and a role model in our community. We are proud of his accomplishments and I know he is taking full advantage of the opportunity presented to him. He is a terrific example for future participants in this program and others like it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Isaac Darko for his outstanding accomplishments and also in commending the National Institutes of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds for offering opportunities to students like Isaac.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify my vote on Roll Call vote 384, Mr. BASS' amendment to the Commerce, State, Justice, and the Judiciary Appropriations bill. Yesterday, I inadvertently voted "nay" when I intended to vote "aye".

Mr. BASS' amendment would have transferred funds from the Advanced Technology

Program (ATP) to the Edward Byrne grant program at the Department of Justice, an effort which I strongly support. The Byrne grant program is a valuable tool for local law enforcement in the fight against the crime and drug problems that threaten our neighborhoods. I believe that scarce taxpayer dollars are better spent in this anti-crime program than in the "corporate welfare" ATP, which I have consistently opposed.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ENSURE PROMPT CLAIM PAYMENT BY HEALTH PLANS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that addresses the issue of prompt payment, that is, ensuring health plans reimburse providers in a timely manner.

Although there have been numerous horror stories of health plans withholding reimbursement from providers the issue of prompt claim payment has not been addressed during the managed care reform debate.

My view is that the prolonged delay of claim payments by health plans interferes with the doctor-patient relationship.

By delaying reimbursements to doctors, health plans are turning care-givers into bill collectors—forcing them to hound both the insurance company and the patient for reimbursements which, in most cases, should already have been paid by the plan.

Unnecessary reimbursement delays by health plans create unnecessary rifts between the patient and the provider—causing confusion with patients about their health insurance plan at a time when they are most vulnerable and possibly even distrust by the patient in the quality of their provider.

The attached article from the August 2, 1998 Washington Post elaborates with specific, real life examples of the above mentioned issues.

Medicare, Medicare+Choice, & Medicaid already have statutory language requiring prompt payment by its contractors. Yet, when President Clinton extended managed care protections to federal employee health plans, he did not include the prompt payment language in his executive order.

Because of federal inaction, some states have taken the lead in this area. Texas, Florida, Tennessee, New York, and New Jersey have stat laws requiring prompt payment. Similar bills have been introduced in Georgia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Most of the state laws appear stricter than the Medicare+Choice model I propose. For example, in addition to establishing clean claim payment guidelines, Texas requires strict time lines for plans when notifying a provider that a claim is being investigated. The plan must explain in writing why they reject a claim, and make payments in 5 business days after notifying claimants that their claim will be paid.

New York, home of the infamous Oxford Health Plan, has by far the strongest penalties for plans that fail to comply with their prompt payment laws. New York plans can be subject