

change that took place in that free and open election. They decided that they would form a new government and, again, create an opportunity for that country, which has had a thousand years of oppression, to be free and independent. Once again Slovakia will form a Western-leaning government.

My grandfather was a Slovak American immigrant, and I know the oppression that that country has seen with domination not only by the Nazis, not only by Russia and Stalin, not only under its own communist regime. Even as part of the Czech Republic they did not have the opportunity to be a free and independent nation.

So today we celebrate a free, independent election, the potential to continue as a free and independent nation, and Western-leaning democracy. Because of its importance, Slovakia, which juts out into the west between Hungary and the Czech Republic now has an opportunity to participate as a full partner in NATO, in the European Union and as a Western partner.

The world has seen many great leaders from Slovakia, and I know great leaders will emerge from this coalition that is to be formed in the new government.

Alexander Dubcek, a Slovak, in 1968, led the revolution, the revolution that was oppressed by Soviet tanks that trampled Slovakia. Now, for the first time, that country has an opportunity to be new, to have a new "Spring" of freedom. That revolution has been known as the "Prague Spring" but it was really the "Dubcek Spring," sprung from the heart of a native Slovakian.

So we as Americans, we as Members of Congress, we as Slovak Americans, salute these free and independent elections. This bright new opportunity for freedom, the standard that was set by Alexander Dubcek, can now rise, and the Soviet domination of the past is behind us; the Nazi domination and a thousand years of oppression are behind us. A bright future for Slovakia is before us.

I come to the floor as a Slovak American, as an American, as a Member of Congress, to salute the Slovak people on their great accomplishment, their new opportunity for freedom and independence and express my hope and prayers for a new government that will work closely and participate with other Western Democracies.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN HARRIS FAWELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their re-

marks in relationship to the honor we wish to pay to a remarkable Member of the Congress and of our committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FAWELL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, before we honor the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FAWELL), I just want to make sure that my good friend, the gentleman from West Virginia understands that perhaps his committee did not do everything he wanted to but he would sure be offended if he were a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Just to mention a few things that we have done, the Higher Education Act, the Reading Excellence Act, the school nutrition bill, the vocational technical education bill, quality Head Start bill, a charter school bill, Individuals with Disability Education Act, prepaid college tuition plan, job training reform, bilingual education reform, emergency student loans, equitable child care resolution, juvenile justice, just to mention a few. So do not paint us all with the same brush. We have been hard at work.

It gives me great pleasure to have this special order this evening. I have served with HARRIS on the Committee on Education and the Workforce for 14 years, back when it was the Committee on Education and Labor. I have always looked to HARRIS for his expertise and his enthusiasm on labor issues to help me appreciate the finer points of labor law. As a matter of fact, I would be willing to say there is not anyone on the committee, with the exception of HARRIS, who truly understands labor law, who truly has been made it a labor love to understand it, and to try to improve it and try and get us into the 21st Century so we can survive as a great Nation.

I also know that over those years, he may have been challenged many times but he had always done his homework 100 percent better than anyone else on the committee, and I think the only other person that I can remember who really understood what they were talking about when they talked about labor law was probably John Elernborn, who I served with also.

In fact, HARRIS is so renowned in the House, among other things, for his focus on the details and for his expertise in health care and pension law. In fact, he speaks so lovingly about ERISA that I only recently found out that his wife's name is actually Ruth. I thought it was Erisa.

When he first came to the committee, we Republicans were in the minority, and he always led the fight against any excesses proposed by the other side on many issues. Because of differences in our seniority, I never had the luxury of sitting next to him and see him take all of those notes so that he was ready to fire back as soon as somebody made a statement and they did not know what they were talking about, because

he knew what was in the law. He always did his homework prior to any hearing or any markup, and then fought passionately in support of his position on every issue, much to the exasperation of his adversaries.

I can remember one time when Chairman FORD became so exasperated by HARRIS' insistence on an issue that he finally said to HARRIS if he would simply agree to drop his opposition to the amendment, BILL said he would retire from Congress. HARRIS hesitated for a few seconds and then he leaned into the microphone and simply said, "Do not tempt me."

□ 1715

And the room, of course, went up and laughter. The incident demonstrates why HARRIS was such an effective member of the committee and of the House as a whole. He always fought for what he thought was right, never compromised his principles, and he still kept his sense of humor.

In the 14 years that he has served under our committee, he has worked tirelessly to better the lives of working Americans from his leadership on health care to his efforts to improve productivity, safety, and health in the workplace, and his overall philosophy that there should be a level playing field between labor and management. He has been on the front lines of all the major work force policy debates in the Congress, and, HARRIS, we certainly are going to miss you.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, HARRIS has been a true friend and fellow Illinoisan, and I will miss him.

There is some benefit to being a new Member of Congress, and that is getting a chance to meet some of the great personalities of this Republic. And I include HARRIS FAWELL in that. A real "Pork Buster" before pork busting was cool. And as we have now a conservative Congress that looks at saving money, he was in the trenches long before many of us realized the importance of that fight.

But I am really here to read a statement from your staff, HARRIS, that they have asked me to read. And it is a great honor for me to carry this message from your staff to you in this opportunity. Envision me as your staff. They are a little more efficient than I am.

"We count ourselves tremendously lucky to have worked for you. Your kindness and humility, quiet leadership, the fact that you listen to us and care what we say shows us each day what it means to be a true public servant.

"In these cynical times, it is easy for staffers to become disillusioned with government service. Working with you has shown us how an honest and caring man of integrity can still make a difference here in Washington. Our time spent with you has maintained our faith in leadership. You have forever

influenced our understanding of policy with your dedication to thorough analysis and your commitment to knowing what is right, or as you sometimes put it, '20th century stuff.' We watch you earnestly and tirelessly advocating for these things.

"You inspire us to think harder, care more about each policy or person we come in contact with. We feel lucky that we have been included in the Fawell family, privy to your oatmeal recipe, popcorn lunches with stories about growing up as a "Fighting Fawell," Ruth's snickerdoodle cookies, and late-night show tunes and quotes from Broadway plays.

"Among us we do not know anyone who has worked for you, or works for you, who would not do anything for you. HARRIS, they say that the ship reflects the captain. We count ourselves lucky to have been on the Fawell ship. We can only hope that we have been a reflection of you and that we will be, even as you sail on other seas."

I think that is a great tribute, HARRIS, and I appreciate the opportunity to convey those messages from your staff.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Chicago (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) for yielding me this time and giving me this opportunity to share some comments about my colleague. I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished gentleman and my colleague from the 13th District in Illinois, Congressman HARRIS FAWELL.

Congressman FAWELL has represented the 13th District and the constituents of that district since 1984. He has been a lifelong resident of Illinois and attended law school in my district in Chicago at Chicago's Kent College of Law. Therefore, we claim some representation for his success and for all that he has been able to do.

Congressman FAWELL has distinguished himself as an efficient, effective, and professional legislator. He has served with distinction on both the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Science. He leaves behind a legacy of committed service to his constituents and to this Nation.

I believe that the tribute paid to him by the Members of his staff represents the kind of esteem in which he is held.

The Illinois delegation will not be the same without Congressman FAWELL. We shall miss you and wish for you all the best.

Therefore, on behalf of all the residents of the Seventh Congressional District, we salute you for your fine service and trust that in retirement you will experience peace and contentment, that your years of service serves you well, and that you so rightly deserve. Best wishes and good luck.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I now yield

to another subcommittee chair, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER).

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for allowing me to speak at this time. And as an individual who has served with HARRIS, I guess I am 2 years short of his same tenure, and we have been on this committee together for 12 years, as far as I am concerned there was always one person I could count on.

He had one labor subcommittee, and I had the other labor subcommittee, and when things got rough and the Democrats, since we have been in control, had nothing else to do, so the whole right-hand side was just full of people. But on our side, HARRIS and I were alone. He was either in front, and I was standing there to second whatever he did. We had the votes, but we just did not have the people, so we had to work together on this thing.

I still remember, because I had joined his organization. He and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) invented this idea of the Pork Busters. And talk about an individual who does not mind getting bruised and beat up. Anybody in those days when the Democrats had absolute control of this body here and somebody standing up trying to cut the budget, it did not make any difference how difficult it was, there was no way that we as Pork Busters were going to accomplish our purpose. And most of us had enough sense not to stand up and get beat up the way some of us did, and Harris was one. He must have enjoyed getting beat up, because in reality he would get up and fight and lose. The next day he would get up and fight and lose.

I just have nothing but absolute admiration for somebody that will stand up alone and try to reduce the budget that way.

I think the one thing that almost everybody has to admit, and anybody in this whole organization, is a thing called ERISA. It is a type of operation that protects large corporations that have plants all over the United States, different areas, and it keeps people, they have the same law, they have a Federal law that says if a company has a plant in New Jersey and a plant in Massachusetts and a plant in California, they all have the same law, Federal law, to affect their retirement and to affect their insurance and so forth. And nobody in this body understands that any better than HARRIS FAWELL.

In fact, most of us that listen to this discussion that HARRIS will sometimes have with his professionals do not even understand what he is talking about. If my colleagues have ever thought of a lawyer speaking insurance, those are two completely different languages, but he can do them both at the same time and fool us all as to what it really means.

Our chairman of our committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), mentioned a whole bunch of

bills that had been passed through this committee, and most all of the ones that were mentioned were education bills. And I commend the gentleman, because our chairman is a past educator. But HARRIS and I have been on the labor end of this thing. And you cannot get them all passed, but some of the names that he has come up with are just beautiful. Any artist would have said this bill should have passed.

The first one I am looking at, "Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act." Now, who in the world could possibly be against a bill like that? Well, the Democrats were. There is another one, "The Sales Incentive Compensation Act." Now, there is nobody that would recognize the free enterprise system existing in any better fashion than that particular method. "The Faculty Retirement Incentive Act." Harris was always full of incentives one way or another.

And I think the greatest one of all is the "Paycheck Protection Act." Now that one I would have gone down forever and ever if we could have ever passed that. Most of these bills we actually got out of the House, but somehow there is a body on the other side of the building over here that has to have 60 votes to cut off a filibuster. And once they do not have that 60 votes, a lot of HARRIS'S bills and my bills just never appear again.

But with beautiful names like the "Working Family's Flexibility Act," who could ever vote against something like that? That is a fabulous idea. And the "Team Act." Anybody that recognizes the way this country operates must know that the "Team Act" is one of the most important things that we could have passed, but we did not.

And I would like to add one more thing about HARRIS as the chairman of our little subcommittee where I sat with him. For those people that do not know the way we operate up here, there is a little machine in front of the speaker. It has a red light, a green light, and a yellow light, and speakers are limited to 5 minutes. When the green light is on, your five minutes are working. The yellow light comes on, and you are just about to get turned off. And the red light comes on, and you are through, supposedly.

But Chairman FAWELL always was kind enough to say that I think I have overused my minute or so, maybe even 10 minutes or so, but he was always willing to give the Democrats the same benefit. I thought it was unbelievably kind of him, especially one day when I first got on the committee and did not realize the way HARRIS operated.

He was sitting right next to me, and he made the motion that he would be allowed to talk on the bill, and he talked, and his 5 minutes was up, and I was going to come next. HARRIS said, "Cass, will you let me have a minute of your time?" And being a very naive little freshman I said, "Sure, go ahead." And so Harris got the word, and he used up every minute of my 5 minutes. I have never been so deeply hurt.

But anyhow, he is a wonderful guy. He is the most dependable, honest, sincere individual I have ever known, and I cannot say anything good enough for him, and I hate like the dickens to see him leave. Like I told him always before when I had my hearing in my subcommittee, he was there, and we could take care of each other. We would do the same thing for each other. And now that he has run off and left me, I think my choice of words earlier was "I am dead meat now." When the time comes around and the Democrats want to get me, I will not have that white-haired gentleman there taking care of me.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, prior to my yielding to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), I wanted to say that I did not get down in time to pay tribute to him, and I certainly want to do that. I certainly have enjoyed my service with the Congressman from New York. I also enjoy visiting his district, particularly Saratoga. And he has just been a wonderful, fair chairman on the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) at this time.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for those flattering remarks. And, yes, I do represent the oldest racetrack in America and the most beautiful. It is called Saratoga, New York, and my good friend from Pennsylvania comes up there quite often, because he has a love of horses the same as I do.

But he mentioned that I am retiring, and I guess the only time that I have ever become upset with HARRIS FAWELL is when I found out that he was retiring as well. Because I had made up my decision a while ago and I figured as long as he was here, there was going to be somebody on this floor who thought like Jerry Solomon and who would look out for the taxpayers of this Nation. That is really why I am here today to pay tribute to him.

The greatest compliment we can give to any Member of this Congress is when we walk on the floor and the vote is taking place and we look up there and see how that Member voted. "This Member" being HARRIS FAWELL. You do not even have to look any further. You do not have to find out what the bill is. All you have to do is vote exactly like him.

Mr. Speaker, he was not here more than 6 months when I realized that I could walk on this floor, and we are all busy, and if HARRIS FAWELL was voting "no" on the bill, I did not have to have any other information. I voted "no," too. That is how much respect I have for him and his philosophy.

I just cannot say enough for the man. He has been one of the outstanding Members. I was doing an interview with one of his press the other day, I do not know whether it has been in the paper yet or not, and the reporter said, "What best represents Harris Fawell?" And I said, "Two words: Due diligence," because when HARRIS FAWELL,

either in committee or on this floor, when he rose to speak, he knew what he was talking about. He has done his homework. He never came on this floor without being prepared, and that is a tribute to a great man.

So, HARRIS, my time is up, but I wanted to come down here and tell you, I will not be here to miss you, but I will miss your being here to represent the views of the people who are really concerned about the spending that goes on in this Congress to make sure that it is done the right way. And you certainly have done that, my friend, and I salute you and wish you the best of luck.

□ 1730

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to another subcommittee chair, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA).

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and it is good to be here to pay tribute to my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (HARRIS FAWELL).

It was in 1993 that I came to Washington for the first time, and I believe out of that class of 47 Republican freshmen I was the only one that said my first choice for committees is to serve with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FAWELL) on the Committee on Education and Labor. That was at a time when we were looking for people to serve on that committee.

And I have never regretted that decision, because it has enabled me to work on a couple of issues that I have a passion for, education and labor, but it has also enabled me to work with, I think, some very good people here in the House of Representatives, the chairman being one and Mr. FAWELL being the other.

But since Mr. FAWELL is the one who has decided that he is going to leave the rest of us here to fend for ourselves, I think now is the time to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Illinois for the work that he has done.

I came here new to the legislative process, new to the process of understanding America's labor laws, understanding the spending habits of this Congress, and Mr. FAWELL has taken the time to take many of us through that process, to outline for us what was good in Washington, areas that maybe we ought to take a closer look at, and also being very articulate in pointing out the things that were not right here in Washington.

I want to give my colleagues a couple of areas where I think HARRIS really helped us as new Members. HARRIS has been here for 14 years. We thought in 1993, the class of 1993 and 1995, that we were the real people that broke the mold; that we were going to be the ones that were going to take us to a balanced budget, and I think, in many ways, we helped do that. But to be able to get to that point, a foundation had

to be laid, and a foundation had to be laid by people in the 1980s and early 1990s that highlighted the information and put out in public view the information that said the American government is too big and it spends too much and here are some examples.

HARRIS FAWELL, through his efforts in Pork Busters, laid that foundation. The rest of us were able to build off that foundation. It was, what, just 6, 7 days ago that I think we reached the objective that HARRIS has been fighting for for 14 years, where we closed our books and we will have a surplus for the time since 1969. HARRIS FAWELL has been instrumental in making that happen.

HARRIS, you can leave with the knowledge that you have created a foundation; that we have a surplus that will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$70 to \$80 billion. And we now need to build off the work you have created to start paying down the debt, to start reforming Social Security to make sure we can save it, and to start to reducing taxes. But without the work that you did in the 1980s, we would not have been able to move and tackle these issues now in the 1990s.

For the last 12 months I have had the opportunity to travel around the country and take a look at reforming American labor laws; what works and what does not work. At the same time, we could talk to HARRIS FAWELL and get much of that information, because HARRIS understands the types of reforms that we need to make in America's labor law to make sure that we are the most competitive country on the planet today. He has been a champion.

He has championed not only some of the reforms that we have seen, but some of the activities that were so important in the company that I worked in in the private sector. I think the best example of that is the TEAM Act. HARRIS has taken the lead in making sure that we pass legislation that really unleashes the potential of every American worker by allowing them to be more fully engaged in their workplace and working together, and taking 1930s and 1940s era labor laws and saying there is a new way to do it, there is a better way to do it, and this is one of the things that we need to do.

So, HARRIS, you have been a champion on the TEAM Act and a number of other labor reform issues that I hope that the next Congress can move forward, and we can take the vision you have had and we can implement those types of ideas to ensure that we will be competitive into the next century.

No discussion about HARRIS FAWELL would be complete without talking about ERISA. This is the challenge that I believe the chairman feels, that I feel, that I know the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) feels, and that is who is going to take us through the world of ERISA. We always knew that whenever there was a discussion on ERISA and what the implications of a legislative or a policy

change would be, as our eyes might kind of glaze over and say we do not quite understand all of this, we always knew that there was a person that we could go to who knew the ins and outs of a very important and a very complicated piece of legislation, but who could give us a very clear, not necessarily always concise, but when we had a question, we knew we could go to HARRIS and we knew we could get the right answer.

Now, the good thing here is I have had the opportunity to talk to HARRIS and ask him how we are going to get through this, and HARRIS has said he is going to be more than willing to come back and take us through that mine field and make sure that we continue doing the right thing, or at least we understand what we are doing.

But, HARRIS, you have been a wonderful colleague. You have taken the time and energy necessary to take someone new through the process. You have taken your time and energy to teach us what you have known. And I hope that you have taught us well, I hope that I have learned well, so that I can take this with me into future Congresses and we can continue to carry forward much of the visions that you have had.

Thank you very much for your 14 years, and congratulations on some great work here in the House of Representatives.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), and I want to say to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), that I think he missed four words in his closing remarks, "as a paid consultant", I believe.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. He actually did not say that.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to join in this "Farewell to Fawell."

As we listen to some of the remarks that have been made, the discussions that centered from the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) about issues like ERISA, and I know there has been a great deal of discussion about higher education, I think I would like to move slightly beyond the higher education area to say that HARRIS FAWELL played a key role in teaching me an awful lot, and one of the most important things had to do with an issue called electrometallurgical treatment of nuclear waste.

This whole issue of nuclear waste disposal is something that came to my attention from some people that I was meeting with in California. And late one night we had the chance, with Mr. FAWELL calling me a half dozen times to make sure that I came over to speak on behalf of a very important amendment that dealt with the issue of electrometallurgical treatment. I want to congratulate him for the tremendous persistence that he has shown in dealing with these very, very important and complex issues.

One of those issues that, frankly, got a great deal of attention, something of

which I am extraordinarily proud, is that Mr. FAWELL and I had the privilege a couple of years ago of both being categorized as "super heroes" by an organization known as Citizens Against Government Waste. All it meant was that the two of us were working long and hard to make sure that we would deal with the horrendous problem of government waste. And it is one that continues to go on and on and on. And that is why, as I heard earlier mentioned, HARRIS has been really at the forefront of this issue, with an organization known as Pork Busters, in trying to get rid of all of the waste in government.

That is why I am particularly saddened that HARRIS has decided to leave, not only because he has been a great friend to so many of us, but because he has really been in the vanguard of that issue of focusing on particular areas where we are able to try and reduce the size and scope of government and encourage individual initiative and responsibility.

So I would like to say that even though HARRIS told us months and months and months ago that he was going to be retiring, and many of us were very saddened then, as we head towards the waning days of the 105th Congress, I think that we will recognize that the contributions that HARRIS FAWELL has made for the years that he has served here are very, very great, and he will be sorely missed when the 106th Congress convenes in January.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), a distinguished member of the committee.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I am delighted to be here this evening to take part in this tribute to HARRIS FAWELL, who I serve with on the committee.

As the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) just mentioned, we have commonality on the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations, a subcommittee that I enjoy very, very much and, in particular, I think I enjoy it because of HARRIS FAWELL.

HARRIS is someone that I am going to miss very much, his presence in this body and on that committee, and, frankly, in the cloakroom or wherever I might have caught him. Because along with his ability and capacity to deal with subjects that are beyond the realm of most of us, I say that honestly, he had a sense of humor that went well beyond that and made him into, I think, a genuine friend of this entire body and someone that we all looked up to.

I marveled at the comments of the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) about the Pork Busters. I recall when I first came to Congress that was one of the events I guess I looked forward to because, again, it was Congressman HARRIS FAWELL that led the way.

And, incidentally, even though he was against pork of all kinds, some-

times there were those who suggested that corporate welfare was something that he should be aware of. And HARRIS, in defense of honest cases where corporate welfare was not corporate welfare just because somebody said it was, he stood up, defended the right of some of these programs to stay in existence because they were meaningful and they did not fall into the trap of corporate welfare.

As my colleagues have already heard, HARRIS FAWELL is the only Member, I think of either the House or the Senate, who truly understands ERISA. Some would wonder why anybody would tackle that subject, but HARRIS Fawell did, and he does understand it and it shows in his work. His leadership on this issue will be sorely missed in this body.

When I think of HARRIS FAWELL, I think of three words: I think of thoughtfulness, of thoroughness and being considerate. And he is that way with committee members, he is that way with the public, and he is that way with everyone.

He has never been shy about tackling big issues while showing, as I said, an interest in everything from ERISA, to Salting, and the National Labor Relations Act. And I have to confess I do not know why anybody would be interested in the National Labor Relations Act the way HARRIS was, but he dug into it and literally assessed it, analyzed it, and scrubbed it with his own opinion.

HARRIS FAWELL is cordial to work with. He has been willing to listen, and he has conducted himself in a very friendly manner throughout all of his dealings with Members of Congress and with this body. Perhaps most importantly he has demonstrated a deep knowledge of the issues that have been before the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations.

It has been, for me, a true pleasure to serve under his leadership. And his presence, as I have said, will be sorely missed in this body. I wish HARRIS FAWELL all the best in the future, and his family the best.

I presume that we have alluded to Ruth at some point along the way, because he has a very lovely wife, and she, in her own right, is a remarkable person. So to them and their family, whom I have had a chance to meet just last week, I wish them the very, very best in the future.

I suspect part of their future will be along Lake Michigan shore, my home State. You have chosen a lovely spot to at least spend part of your time. So to you, HARRIS FAWELL, and your family, all the best.

□ 1745

Mr. GOODLING. HARRIS, it is your time to fight back if you wish. I would recognize the distinguished gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say thank you very much to my colleagues who came down this

evening to say some nice words. I do very much appreciate that. I will admit that I shall miss Congress and all of you folks. It gets in your blood and after 14 years you just cannot walk away from something like that without having ambivalent emotions. The 14 years have been so very rewarding as far as I am concerned, the people I have met here in Congress. There is an old saying that everybody you meet every day of your life is your teacher. We have here a teacher who is our chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, who certainly is as revered and respected as any Member in this Congress, who has given so very much to education, and labor, also, being the two subject matters of the committee that he heads. But I can say that about all of the Members who took some time to drop in here this evening, for instance. I have learned from all of them a great deal.

You hope as you get along in life you will do that more. And when I heard that letter from the staff, I have had as we all have over the years a lot of different staff, mostly very young people who come in and do not know a great deal about what is going on here in Washington, but they learn very, very fast. I would say that I have learned there from all these young people, and the committee staff of our Committee on Education and the Workforce, and especially the staff that served in the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations. I have had the privilege of helping to hire some of them as they came along, brilliant attorneys, top-flight people, people who basically have a credo in life that my job is to serve and to help people, and then say thanks, too. They are that kind of people. They are people that they do like that ERISA statute, they do understand the arcane labor laws which have to be understood to be able to speak about them and do the right thing for the working people of America as well as for the small businesspeople and the businesspeople in general in America. With all the staff I have learned so very much. I think I had been to Washington twice in my life before I came here. I remember flying in the first time and saying, "Oh, there's the Capitol" and so forth and so on. But I have learned to actually love this city of Washington, D.C. Ruth and I have always lived right in D.C. We found the neighborhoods where we have lived to be peopled with just tremendous people that we have grown to like and to love, and as I have said, all the young people who come and serve in Congress.

My colleagues. My gosh, there are brilliant people in this Congress. It is a wonder, on both sides of the aisle, you figure all the talented people we have, why we do not have a better product. It is a case where the parts do not add up to the total as they should. There is a lot of political rancor at times that takes place, but I am just here to say that this body is composed of men and women that are extremely talented,

they are backed up by staff that are a wonder, young people, and when I see this and I see people coming to Washington, I can remember a couple coming in just a couple of weeks ago, a mom and a dad who looked very, very young to me, and little Samantha and her sister Maria. Their eyes were just big. They loved this country, they were just ecstatic about a tour that we arrange for our constituents, going through the Capitol Building. I see so many people coming to Washington and giving so much. The SAVER bill, for instance, a lot of people from all over the country at their own cost, coming in to share their expertise and their beliefs. I guess I could sum it up by saying 99.9 percent of the people in Washington, D.C. are tremendous people, are a loving people who want to serve, who want to help. That even includes the news media out there. They are breaking their backs really to try to make sense about what all we do down here and so forth. To me, it is 14 years of a tremendous education. I never could have gotten it any other way.

I came to Congress as an accident because I was on a group that was to select John Erlenborn's successor and when we had two people fink out on us, eventually the finger pointed to me, and I ran. I just want to say thank you to all of you folks who have expressed these kind words. I shall always remember my experience in the U.S. Congress, which is winding down now to the very last days, theoretically not until January 3rd of next year, but I will not be hanging around these halls too much longer.

Thank you very, very much for being thoughtful enough to arrange this, Mr. GOODLING.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express good luck to our colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. FAWELL, who is retiring from the House at the end of this Congress. It has been my privilege to serve with Mr. FAWELL on the Committee on Education and the Workforce throughout Mr. FAWELL's congressional career. During that time we have more often taken opposing points of view regarding legislation, particularly legislation affecting the labor laws. However, our differences have been political, never personal. Further, though our views may have differed on most issues, those differences have not prevented us from working together when we have been able to find common ground. When we have found common ground, we have successfully enacted good legislation.

In the last Congress, I joined with Mr. FAWELL in support of legislation to provide an exemption for police and fire departments from the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. In this Congress, I supported the efforts of Mr. FAWELL, and the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, to enact the Saver Act. I also participated in the national summit on retirement savings that the Saver Act created. I believe both the first summit and the subsequent summits that will occur as a result of enactment of the Saver Act will serve to better educate workers regarding the importance of retirement savings. As a result, more workers will have financially secure retirements.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Mr. FAWELL for his work on the Faculty Retirement Incentive Act. Recently enacted as part of the Higher Education Act, this law permits certain voluntary retirement incentive plans for college faculty. I was not initially a supporter of this legislation. However, Mr. FAWELL worked diligently to address concerns raised by myself and others and the final product is one in which we all, and especially Mr. FAWELL, may be proud.

Mr. FAWELL first came to Congress in 1985, following the retirement of John Erlenborn. Mr. Erlenborn had a substantial reputation in this body as both a leader for conservative positions on labor issues and for his role in the enactment and subsequent development of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. Many thought Mr. Erlenborn's shoes would be difficult to fill. But let me say for the record that, from my perspective, HARRIS, you fully filled the shoes of your distinguished predecessor. I wish the best for you and your family in the years ahead.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those honoring Congressman HARRIS FAWELL.

Anyone who wants lower taxes, affordable health insurance, or retirement security can thank HARRIS FAWELL and consider themselves fortunate that he has served in Congress for the past 14 years.

Dedication to public service has marked HARRIS' life. He was elected to the Illinois State Senate at the age of 33, and he served in that body for 14 years. He has built an impressive list of legislative accomplishments since his election to Congress in 1984.

He has championed small businesses and advocated measures designed to help workers obtain affordable health insurance. Recently, he served with me on the House Working Group on Health Care Quality to develop the Patient Protection Act, legislation that expands access to health care and provides protections for people in managed care plans.

The Patient Protection Act includes HARRIS' Association Health Plan proposal which allows small businesses to band together through national trade associations to obtain affordable health insurance for their employees. The Chicago Tribune called it "the best piece" of the Patient Protection Act because it provides the best patient protection of all—insurance.

Congress also enacted the Savings Are Vital to Everyone's Retirement (SAVER) Act, legislation HARRIS introduced to educate Americans about the importance of retirement savings. It created a successful National Summit on Retirement Savings held in June.

I could go on and on about HARRIS' legislative accomplishments, but I would like to close by reading from an opinion editorial written by a congressional page I sponsored this summer, George Palaidis. He wrote: "People don't run for Congress just for the paycheck. Members run because they want to do something to help our country. Not too many people in this Nation are willing to sacrifice a sometimes higher-paying job and the normal routine of life for something they believe in."

Mr. Speaker, Congressman HARRIS FAWELL exemplifies this ideal. He has served his constituents, his state, and his country with honor, integrity, and an abiding commitment to do what is best for this Nation. I am proud to call him a colleague, and more important, a friend.

Mr. GOODLING. There are many others, Harris, who wanted to participate,

but you know the scheduling around here, as I do. Again, we thank you for all you have given to the committee, to the Congress, to the country, to your constituents and wish you the best, whether you are with ERISA or whether you are with Ruth, I wish you the best both ways.

TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE
ESTEBAN TORRES ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to host a special order this evening in honor of my friend and colleague Congressman ESTEBAN E. TORRES. ESTEBAN has served the people of the 34th Congressional District of California for 16 years. Those were years in which our country lived through the administrations of President Reagan, President Bush and President Clinton. During this time, the world witnessed the fall of communism in the Soviet Union, the rise of democracy in Latin America, and the end of billion-dollar U.S. budget deficits. Through it all, ESTEBAN has been a part of that history, not only by serving here as a Member but by being an active participant in these events. He has traveled throughout the world and met with the leaders of every superpower. In these journeys he has not only learned about the problems facing other countries but he has conveyed the meaning of freedom and the significance of democratic institutions that value the integrity of individual choice. I can think of no one person whose life better illustrates the American dream than ESTEBAN TORRES. Well, maybe my mom and dad, ESTEBAN. But here is a man who truly pulled himself up by his bootstraps.

He is the son of immigrants who came to this country seeking a better way of life. How often have we heard that? He struggled as a young man to overcome some tough times, growing up in the barrio of east Los Angeles. He is a veteran of the Korean Conflict and rose through the union ranks to the international of the United Auto-workers. From there he went on to serve the Carter administration in the White House and then he ran for his seat in this House. Through it all, he and his wife Arcy raised their daughters Carmen, Rena, Selina, Camille and their son Steve, and they have been blessed with 11 grandchildren. I know that his family is as proud of what he has accomplished as the people who are privileged to call him their friend. He has distinguished himself as a subcommittee chairman and as a member of the Banking Committee and Appropriations Committee.

No one will ever forget the leadership, ESTEBAN, that you showed during

the passage of NAFTA and the establishment of the North American Development Bank. Throughout your career, you have been more than a friend. You have been a role model and you have been a mentor. There are many of us serving in government and business who claim and can claim that they got their start and their learning by following the example of ESTEBAN TORRES. I can say that he not only enthusiastically supported me when I first ran for office but was always there to give me advice and support during some very difficult and dark days. For your courage and your willingness to stand by me, I want you to know, ESTEBAN, that I am eternally grateful.

ESTEBAN, you will be remembered in this House not for cutting things and stopping projects but for building, for building opportunities for people and confidence in people and yes, for the hope that people carry in their hearts because of your example and what you have done. While I for one will miss your advice and counsel, I am happy that you are moving on to do other things that interest you and that will help our community in the long run. I know you will not be idle but very active in pursuing these other concerns. I know you will not be a stranger to this institution. I look forward to seeking your guidance. On behalf of all the people whose lives you have touched in so many different ways, you have really made an impact. I know when I see young children, and they have your name on their lips, of mentor and role model.

Thank you for the service you have given to this House and thank you for the service that you have given to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I also thank the gentleman from California. Unfortunately I have some meetings going on upstairs in the Rules office. I wanted to go back up, but before anything else, I wanted to be on this floor to, Mr. Speaker, pay tribute to a really great American, and when I say that, I say that from my heart.

There was a time back in 1950 when communism was on a roll. It looked like that atheistic philosophy was going to take over the world. The United States Government with a President named Harry Truman, and I was a Democrat back in those days, ESTEBAN, when Harry Truman saw fit to send American troops to Korea, and that is where we stopped communism dead in its tracks. If it were not for that, who knows what the world would be like today.

I never had the privilege to serve in combat in Korea and, ESTEBAN, you did. You and I went there last August, as a matter of fact. We went up to the 38th parallel to the DMZ. On our way, we stopped and we saw the terrible flood damage that was done by the floods that took place there which de-

stroyed \$300 million worth of American equipment and living quarters for our soldiers. As we stood on that 38th parallel, you could see that ESTEBAN TORRES was overcome, having been there at the time. I just wanted to stand up here and tell you, ESTEBAN, that you are a great American. You have been a great Congressman. We are going to sorely miss you. I will not be here to miss you, but you and I are going to keep an eye, you from California and me from the Adirondack Mountains, we are going to keep an eye on these other two Californians here and make sure that things are going right. I am sure they will.

I just want to wish you and Arcy, you have a wonderful wife, I wish the two of you the best and hope we continue to see each other. I salute you, sir.

Ms. SANCHEZ. I thank the gentleman from New York. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding. I would like to begin by thanking her for taking this time for a very important special order.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few things that every Member hopes to hear upon retirement from this institution. We want others to say that we have been effective, that we worked hard to represent the interests of our districts, and that we will be missed by our colleagues. As one who represents a neighboring district, who worked with ESTEBAN TORRES on both the Banking and the Small Business committees and who because of redistricting has had the opportunity to represent many of the same communities and the same people, I can say all of those fine things about my colleague from West Covina. I am saying that he is from West Covina by letting a secret out that he actually is a constituent of mine and I am very proud of the fact that when I got West Covina back in that reapportionment process that he chose to stay in West Covina with me as his representative.

His work was critical to the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement which I truly believe is one of the greatest bipartisan achievements of this decade. When the House debated the NAFTA, he worked with the Clinton administration and those of us on both sides of the aisle to create the North American Development Bank which built support for the agreement and secured important votes for its passage.

□ 1800

I have also had the opportunity to work with my neighbor on important local issues such as clean up of ground water in the San Gabriel Basin where ESTEBAN led the effort to authorize the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project. This demonstration project along with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority has enabled residents and businesses in the San Gabriel Valley to pursue a locally led response to the problem of ground water