

Budgetary Questions, which recommends how U.N. money and personnel should be allocated. These votes of confidence reflected the respect accorded to her by U.N. officials and her service on the committee helped her acquire a detailed knowledge of the Byzantine U.N. budget process.

In her position, Ms. Shenwick repeatedly found evidence of deliberate waste, fraud and mismanagement in the United Nations. When she began reporting such evidence to her superiors at the start of the Clinton administration, her reports were ignored.

For instance, Ms. Shenwick reported in February 1993 that she had seen pictures of large amounts of U.S. currency stored openly on tables in Somalia. Without any recourse to prevent such budgetary abuse, she began notifying key Members of Congress about what she knew.

It later became public in April of 1994 that \$3.9 million of U.N. cash was reported stolen in Somalia. Ms. Shenwick's work helped Congress force the U.N. to create an Office of Inspector General to end such fraud and mismanagement that occurred in Somalia.

Mr. Speaker, how has the Clinton administration and the State Department rewarded the stellar career of one of the most valuable civil servants this Nation has known? They began to sabotage her career by threatening her directly with removal from her position, with threats to destroy her financially and by beginning a process of false accusations and unsatisfactory reviews to harm her personnel files.

What they deliberately did to Ms. Shenwick was to set her up so that they could claim a cause for her removal. However, the evidence is abundantly clear that Ms. Shenwick was a remarkable civil servant dedicated to her job.

She has proven to be an invaluable asset for our Nation in confronting U.N. waste, fraud and abuse and mismanagement. She has been unfairly and illegally removed from her Federal position in contradiction to Federal law to protect civil servants, in contradiction to Federal laws to protect whistleblowers.

She should be reinstated to her former position, reimbursed for her personal expenses and have her personal files expunged of any unsatisfactory reviews or other false evidence to justify those reviews.

In fact, I offered an amendment to the State Department reauthorization bill that provided State Department employees such as she who, "in the performance of their duties inform the Congress of pertinent facts concerning their responsibilities should not, as a result, be demoted or removed from their current position or from Federal employment."

That amendment passed handily by a vote of 287-to-136, with 72 Democrat Members' support.

I believe we need to send a strong message by reiterating our belief that

such injustices cannot be allowed to continue.

Recently, 52 of my colleagues joined me in sending a letter to Secretary Albright requesting that the Ms. Shenwick matter be resolved.

Mr. Speaker, we must take a stand against the abuse of a Federal civil servant who has done nothing but protect the interests of U.S. taxpayers and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to let the State Department know that they cannot continue to punish employees who are whistleblowers.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OSE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Theodore Schneider, Bishop of Washington, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

A hush has fallen over the House, Lord, and well it should.

You are the creator and You sustain all things. Before You the generations rise and fall, before You, Lord, nations have come and they have gone.

We have been called by our people to manage the things of government. They expect of us integrity, wisdom and vision. They hunger for justice, for good and equal opportunities, so they may be all they are able to become.

We have been called by You, Lord, as stewards of lands, of resources, of human and social opportunities, and of the things that make for peace and foster posterity. You call us to be champions of justice and protectors of the poor.

Watch over us as we continue our debates upon fiscal budgets and the works of our government that initiate, protect and nurture hope and the well-being of our people and our communities. Keep before us the needs of all our people, especially those that would be so easy to forget; the homeless, the sick, the destitute, the aged, and all who have none to care for them.

Let Your Spirit nurture our thirst for the things that make for peace in our land and among the nations of this earth.

Through our people You have called us, Lord, to be stewards of all you have so graciously bestowed upon us. Clear our minds, open our hearts, and extend our vision so that we might be for our

people all Your grace enables us to become.

Turn this parliamentary pause, Father, into our perfect prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with today.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2116, VETERANS MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS ACT

Mr. STUMP submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2116) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of extended care services for veterans and to make other improvements in health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 106-470)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2116), to amend title 38, United States Code,