

immediately. Canacar admits that the Mexican truck fleet is old and in general disrepair, and neither the fleet nor its crews are safely ready to compete with newer American trucks and its rested drivers.

So why does the Mexican Government continue to push for the cross-border opening? Because the Mexican Government does not seem to care much about its own citizens. Right now, the Mexican economic system forces truck operators to drive days on end, and, as reported in a story by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, most of these drivers are often fueled by narcotics. Mexican truck drivers freely admit that they would prepare for long hauls with beer, marijuana, pills, and cocaine.

According to one driver, "You must not eat too much meat on a long run, because it will make you sleepy and then you need more cocaine." Clearly, these drivers are sleep deprived.

As another driver, Juan Alvarez, put it, "The biggest problem is lack of sleep. I just drove 36 hours straight. Sometimes I get 6 to 12 hours off between loads." Juan does this for \$500 for every 15 days that he drives.

The Mexican Government and its company-sponsored union have forced these drivers into this predicament. Unlike American drivers, Mexican drivers have no right to speak freely or bargain collectively. They know little about the specifics of the NAFTA treaty, and their government likes it that way.

So this brings us back to the American truck drivers, who would be unfairly forced to compete against Mexican truck drivers that are treated with indifference by their own government. But American truckers realize that the Mexican truck drivers are not treated as people by their government; and that, simply put, is not the fault of Mexican truck drivers. It is the Mexican system that is at fault. It is our fault for entering into a treaty with a country that has a completely different socio-economic and labor-management structure than ours.

Thankfully, President Clinton did not open up the borders, as NAFTA called for, on January 1, 2000. Because if he did, we would have thousands of these sleep-deprived Mexican truckers driving all over our highways and byways throughout this Nation endangering other truckers and motorists on the road.

1845

In fact, many Mexican trucks and their drivers have already been found illegally in States throughout the United States of America. Most likely because their government tells them little about our current law.

Clearly, President Clinton made the right decision by keeping the border closed. For the sake of all American truckers' jobs and the safety of the American public, let us hope it stays that way for a long, long time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN MEMORY OF EVANDER S. SIMPSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to pay homage to Evander S. Simpson of Smithfield, North Carolina, who died on April 27 after a long and fruitful life. His passing has removed from North Carolina's Second Congressional District a giant of community service, a leader of humanity, and a man who has left the world immeasurably better than he found it.

The death of Evander Simpson leaves a void that will not soon be filled. Mr. Simpson was a member of what Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation." Those were the men and women who went off collectively to save the world when World War II was thrust upon them. And it was they who, when the war was over, joined in joyous and short-lived celebrations, then immediately began the task of rebuilding their lives and the world that they wanted.

Brokaw's description certainly fits the life of Evander Simpson. Born in 1914 in Sampson County to a father who served for 35 years as a teacher and principal, his future and career direction was foreordained. Mr. Simpson attended the University of North Carolina, eventually receiving a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and an advanced certificate for school administration from that institution. By the age of 24, Evander had become principal of Newton Grove High School.

World War II intervened; and Mr. Simpson, then serving as Secretary to the Committee on Education in the U.S. House of Representatives, volunteered for the Navy, answering the call, as Tom Brokaw said, "to help save the world from the two most powerful ruthless and military machines ever

assembled, instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs." Mr. Simpson served as a gunnery officer in action in the Arctic and in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

With the end of the war, Mr. Simpson came home to North Carolina, and for the next 3 years worked at North Carolina State University counseling the thousands of Tar Heel veterans who were flooding into our colleges and universities determined to make up for the time that they had lost while they were off fighting the war. A position as a high school principal followed, but in 1951 Mr. Simpson was appointed superintendent of Johnston County schools, a position which he would hold for 29 years and that would define the rest of his life and leave an indelible impression on the people of Johnston County and North Carolina.

Evander Simpson and Johnston County's schools were at the heart of the county's progress over those 29 years. Eighteen schools were consolidated into five. Accreditation for all schools in the country from the State Department of Public Instruction and the Southern Association of Schools was obtained. Teacher pay supplements were established, kindergarten programs were established county wide, and Mr. Simpson was deeply involved in the establishment of the Johnston County Community College. Mr. Simpson earned a reputation of being one of the top school superintendents in the nation during those years.

An indefatigable man whose devotion to his county was legendary, Evander found time to serve 14 years on the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, to serve as president of the North Carolina Education Association, to serve for 30 years on the Johnston County Board of Health, and to serve for six years on the board of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Mr. Simpson was a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International, a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Chamber of Commerce. That organization awarded him its Distinguished Citizen Award in 1969. He was a deacon, Sunday school superintendent, and Brooks Bible Class teacher for more than 35 years at Smithfield First Baptist Church.

No man has ever loved his country and its history more than Evander Simpson. Johnston County residents know that his every speech would include references to the great documents of this Nation. A speech to veterans might include George Washington's prayer on his inauguration as President. A speech to a civic club would include a reference to the Declaration of Independence or Lincoln's Gettysburg address, both of which he could recite to memory. The great speeches of history were fodder for his mill, including the great inaugural speech by President Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Generations of Johnston County individuals were influenced by the great good of Evander Simpson. He believed in the innate goodness of men and women, that people of good will could

find acceptable answers to any problem, that the spiritual needs of humanity must be served, that planning for the future was preferable to lamenting of the failures of the past.

The great sportswriter Grantland Rice could have had Evander Simpson in mind when he wrote the following: "For when the great scorer comes to mark against your name, he writes not that you won or lost but how you played the game."

Evander Simpson played the game with dedication to God and his community. We who are left can only thank a kind providence that placed him along beside us on this highway of life.

I am also pleased this evening to say to this body that I am also placing with this speech a tribute to Evander Simpson read by Miss Carolyn G. Ennis at Mr. Simpson's funeral on April 30, 2000, and that tribute follows my remarks herewith, Mr. Speaker:

A MAN NAMED SIMPSON

(By Carolyn G. Ennis)

And God stepped out on space
And he looked around and said,
I'm lonely, I'll make me an educator.
So God made many teachers and principals.
And the young children were taught.
And the young children learned. And God said, "That's good."
And God said, I'm lonely still. I need a dynamic leader
A man who knows how to look like a banker,
How to act like a gentleman,
How to think like a politician,
And how to work from sunrise to midnight
like a homegrown country farmer.
So God made many, many more educators,
But he was lonely still. And God said, "I'll make me an
Excellent educator:
A man with vision, values, agility and versatility;
A professional man and Crusader with a pioneering spirit.
One whom the power of office will not spoil nor kill,
One who has a conscience and a will,
To do the right thing at the right time, the right way.
So God sat down by the side of the river
In a place called Sampson County.
With his head in his hand he thought and thought.
Then God said, "I'll make me an extra-special educator
—A superintendent for schools.
A man for consolidation, accretion, and integration,
A man for providing sources and resources to develop
The best educational opportunities for all children and
For all teachers in Johnston County;
A man who will know how to "command" from his experience
In the military so others will learn how to march in unity
To the same drumbeat for excellence in education.
So God made this "Educator of Excellence".
And Johnston County, North Carolina, the United States of
America and the entire educational arena of the world
Have never been quite the same, since God created
Mr. Evander S. Simpson, who was and still is an extra-special, excellent educator. And God said, "That's Good,"

And today, we echo again in fond memory of
Mr. E. S. Simpson
Relections of your life to repeat. That's good

ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I first want to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JOHN T. WEED

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. What I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is to honor a young man who, 33 years ago on May 14, 1967, was a corpsman in the Navy, fought with the Marines in Vietnam, served his country extremely well, and on that particular date put his own life in danger to save my life while in an operation called "Union" in the northern part of South Vietnam.

That young man, who went to Vietnam in 1966, in November, stayed more than a year and not only served his country well, not only served the Marines very well, but he acted responsibly as an American and was a fine example of this country to that war-torn region and to the people.

That young man is with us today, Mr. Speaker. His name is John T. Weed from Texas. And I wanted to make this statement to salute his effort, his commitment, his courage, his grace, and his skill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and for his patience.

I just talked to former Corporal John T. Weed, who is with us today, and the gentleman who took care of our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), when he was badly wounded in Vietnam as a Marine Corpsman.

But what he said, which the gentleman from Maryland did not say, was that, in fact, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) saved his life twice. The gentleman from Maryland always manages to pass over that when he is talking about John Weed.

I have just had an opportunity to talk to him, and I have to agree with my colleague he is a great American, truly. And he mentioned another thing, and that is that the platoon sergeant, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), was the most stabilizing influence on his life as an 18-year-old trooper in the Marines.

So I wanted to add my two cents worth and add the rest of the story to the story told by the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate those announcements by my colleagues.

I have been working on Social Security for the last 5 years. I am very concerned that we are putting off tough decisions that are going to mean that we either, in the future, substantially raise social security taxes on workers or we cut benefits.

And we have done that before. In 1977, when we were short of Social Security funds to pay benefits, we both cut benefits and increased taxes. We did that again in 1983, when money was short in the Social Security Trust Fund. We again in that year cut benefits and raised taxes. So some people are suggesting that we add giant IOUs to the Social Security Trust Fund and assume that the Government is going to pay that money back at a later date.

Let me briefly review a pie chart that shows the budget of the United States for this year. As we can see, the bottom green pie is Social Security. It represents 20 percent of the total budget. Defense only represents 18 percent of the total budget. The 12 appropriation bills that we spend most of the year arguing about is even smaller than the Social Security budget, with 19 percent.

If we take all of the entitlement programs, it represents a little over half of the Federal budget. And here is what is projected by the Social Security Administration actuaries. They are suggesting that if we do nothing, social security taxes, taxes to cover our senior programs, will have to increase from the current 15-odd percent up to 40 percent within the next 38 years. That is if we do nothing. Two choices: either taxes are going to substantially be increased or benefits are going to have to be cut by over one-third.

That is why I think it is so appropriate in this presidential election year that we have an articulate discussion on how to save Social Security. I was disturbed last night when AL GORE started criticizing Governor Bush's proposal that he has not even made yet. So demagoguing this issue is not going to help come to a final solution. It is going to jeopardize being able to work together. Look, we are not going to do this unless Republicans and Democrats work together.

Here is a quick snapshot of the bleak future of Social Security. We have a short-term surplus coming in for the next 11 or 12 years on Social Security. After that we reach into somebody else's pocket to come up with the funds. The estimate from the actuaries is \$120 trillion that we are going to be short in terms of our commitment to Social Security over and above what is coming in in taxes.

SHOOTING AT ZOO AND GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Members back and inform