EXPAND EFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. BROADCASTING

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today we adopted H.R. 2998 authorizing the establishment of Radio Free Afghanistan to create a surrogate radio broadcasting service in Afghanistan. I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I look forward to its serving as a valuable complement to the important contribution already made by the Voice of America (VOA). We need to increase and improve our public diplomacy in the Arabic-speaking world. We can reach millions and provide fair, accurate information about America, its principles and policies by increasing our VOA broadcasting in this way.

A constituent of mine who is an Arabic linguist has written to me regarding his thoughtful idea about how we can better utilize information we already receive and make it even more useful in our information-sharing efforts here and abroad.

The Smith-Mundt Act (22 U.S.C. 1461) should be amended to allow the release of materials such as manuscripts upon request and further assist U.S. linguists to receive these materials. As we respond to the events of September 11, I believe this modification would expand the effectiveness of VOA and allow qualified private institutions greater access to information so vital for intercultural exchange.

I urge my colleagues' consideration of allowing this greater use of the information we are already receiving, and will be working to accomplish this through my membership on the House International Relations Committee.

CONGRATULATING MARIO G. OBLEDO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Honor Mario G. Obledo for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Orange Cove. Mr. Obledo received the award at a ceremony held on July 20, 2001.

Obledo has an extensive educational background as well as a long career in public service. He received a degree in pharmacy in 1957. Three years later he earned a Doctor of Law degree. Mr. Obledo served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, and also served as Secretary of Health and Welfare in the State of California. He has also served as a member of the faculty at Harvard Law School.

Along with his time in public office and teaching in the classroom, Mr. Obledo is active in several community organizations. He is the co-founder and president of the National Hispanic Bar Association and the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund. He was national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens and co-founded the Southwest Voter Registration Project.

Mr. Obledo has received several prestigious awards. In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. He also received Mexico's highest civilian award to a foreigner. He was Pharmaceutical Planning Service, Inc.'s Distinguished Person of the Year in 1999 and in the same year was given the National Hispanic Hero Award by the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mario G. Obledo for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the City of Orange Cove. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Obledo many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidable detained from the House of Representatives on November 6, 2001. I therefore missed Rollcall votes Nos. 426, 427, and 428. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on all three items. And I ask for unanimous consent that my votes and remarks be included in the proper place in the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on Rollcall No. 428, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea''.

RECOGNIZING MARCIA CAMPBELL MATHEWS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcia Campbell Mathews for being named a Farm Advisor Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. The Friends of Agricultural Extension will recognize Marcia at their annual awards dinner.

Marcia is the Stanislaus County Agronomy Farm Advisor. She has developed a program on the subject of the ''Use of Dairy Lagoon Water as a Nutrient Source for Crops.'' Through her program she has developed practical tools, such as a Nitrogen Quick Test and a flow meter/valve configuration, to help crop producers evaluate nutrient levels achieved by the application of manure products. Marcia is continuing to refine and promote the use of these procedures, as well as several other valuable nutrient management techniques.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Marcia Campbell Mathews for being named a Farm Advisor Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Marcia Mathews many more years of continued success.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS FOR H.R. 3167

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, due to House Rules, unfortunately there were several Members of Congress who wanted to cosponsor, H.R. 3167, the Gerald B.H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001, but were unable to be officially listed by the House Bill Clerk under our House Rules. The distinguished gentleman from Texas [Mr. THORNBERRY], the distinguished gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN], the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. BORSKI] and the distinguished gentleman from New York [Mr. SWEENEY] all contacted my office to cosponsor; however, their names were not added as cosponsors since the House International Relations Committee reported the bill on November 5th. This Member regrets that they were not added, but wants to recognize their intentions in this fashion.

COURT RULING ON PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 7, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for upholding the rights of workers and preventing the President from arbitrarily unilaterally, and unfairly restricting those rights.

On February 17, 2001, President Bush issued Executive Order 13202 prohibiting Federal agencies or recipients of federal funds from entering project labor agreements, prehire agreements that typically establish wages and working conditions for the employees of contractors and subcontractors on a construction project. Bush's Executive Order was permanently enjoined today in a decision issued today by Judge Emmet G. Sullivan. The lawsuit overturning the Executive Order, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL–CIO, et al., v. Joe M. Allbaugh, Director Federal Emergency Management Agency, et al., was brought by the Building and Construction Trades Department, the City of Richmond, California and the Contra Costa County Building and Construction Trades Council. My congressional district includes Richmond and Contra Costa County.

Today's decision is a clear victory for working Americans. The court found that project labor agreements are expressly protected by the National Labor Relations Act and that the President's Executive Order harms workers by altering the bargaining power between employers and unions. In effect, by trying to impose new limits on the right of the workers to bargain collectively, the President was undermining the ability of workers to protect and improve their wages and working conditions. In our system of government, however, a President may not unilaterally undermine the laws that Congress has enacted. The District Court's decision is a victory for due process