

Human Resources in the other body across the Capitol, he brought forth the Coal Mine and Health Safety Act; increases in the minimum wage in 1966, 1974, and 1977; the Vocational Rehabilitation the Alcohol Rehabilitation Act; legislation preventing discrimination against pregnant workers; legislation preventing age discrimination; the Migrant Labor Health Act; legislation for special education; the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972; legislation for college tuition assistance for needy students; legislation protecting the rights of workers to organize; and Meals on Wheels. Let me repeat: many of these are landmarks in American history. And that is not all; Pete Williams also produced legislation providing elderly housing, open space, arts funding, and marine mammal protection, and he led or contributed to many other laws. As my colleagues here know, it is customary for the President to give a pen from an important bill signing to each legislator who played a significant role in the bill. Pete Williams had seventy Presidential pens.

As a young man working in the Senate, I first watched Senator Williams debate the 1964 Civil Rights Act and was impressed by his intellect and sincerity, qualities that defined his work as a United States Senator.

Sometimes called the "Voice for the Voiceless," Pete Williams spoke for many Americans who never knew him—never even knew of him. He did not need to work on the Migrant Labor Act; not many of those farm workers voted. He thought of those without privilege. He created the first standing subcommittee on aging and the first standing committee on issues related to physical disabilities. I noticed back in 1963 and 1964 that Senator Williams was a man who paid attention to those who were sometimes invisible to others like him—the cafeteria workers, the pages, the elevator operators, the support staff. He was not a showboat, although New Jerseyans were so devoted to him that he was reelected with acclaim for four terms. In fact, he was the only Democrat in the state up to that time to be re-elected to the Senate.

But he was not to be the "Senator for life" as he was sometimes called. In his fourth term in the U.S. Senate, he was implicated, along with six members of this body, in the so-called Abscam bribery sting and resigned under a cloud and served time in prison. His colleagues and historians have not known how to remember this man, how to tell his complicated story, how to commemorate his legacy—a legacy that includes what is one of the greatest legislative records for the benefit of Americans.

Fighting expulsion from the Senate, Senator Williams averred his innocence and maintained that "time, history and Almighty God [would] vindicate" him. I hope historians will find the way to do justice to this man and his work.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan described his friend and colleague Sen. Pete Williams as "thoughtful, decent, and determined in all he did." Many colleagues wondered how sad a man could fall from grace. One might try to blame judgment weakened by alcohol or perhaps overzealous or dishonest federal agents or simple political vindictiveness. His is a cautionary tale for anyone in elective office or public service. The lesson is that there are always those who would take advantage of one's weaknesses. Pete Williams, author of

the Vocational Rehabilitation Act and the Alcohol Rehabilitation Act, learned that there was no political rehabilitation act for him. But there is a more positive lesson, too; one person who works hard and shows compassion for others can improve the lives of others. History should not lose that more positive lesson of the career of Senator Pete Williams.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2417,
INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to one provision of the conference report before us today, which causes me to vote against the entire measure.

This legislation authorizes classified amounts in fiscal year 2004 for 14 U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. government—including the CIA and the National Security Agency, as well as foreign intelligence activities of the Defense Department, the FBI, the State Department, the Homeland Security Department, and other agencies. H.R. 2417 covers CIA and general intelligence operations, including signals intelligence, clandestine human-intelligence programs and analysis, and covert action capabilities. It also authorizes covert action programs, research and development, and projects to improve information dissemination. All of these are important and vital programs, which I support.

I am voting against this measure today, however, to draw attention to a provision which I believe should have been the subject of more rigorous congressional analysis than merely an up-or-down vote as part of a larger conference agreement. This measure expands the definition of "financial institution" to provide enhanced authority for intelligence community collection activities designed to prevent, deter and disrupt terrorism and espionage directed against the United States and to enhance foreign intelligence efforts. Banks, credit unions and other financial institutions currently are required to provide certain financial data to investigators generally without a court order or grand jury subpoena. The conference agreement expands the list to include car dealers, pawnbrokers, travel agents, casinos and other businesses.

This provision allows the U.S. government to have, through use of "National Security Letters," greater access to a larger universe of information that goes beyond traditional financial records, but is nonetheless crucial in tracking terrorist finances or espionage activities. Current law permits the FBI to use National Security Letters to obtain financial records from defined financial institutions for foreign intelligence investigations. While not subject to court approval, the letters nonetheless have to be approved by a senior government official. The PATRIOT Act earlier had altered the standard for financial records that could be subject to National Security Letters to include the records of someone "sought for" an investigation, not merely of the "target" of an investigation.

While this new provision of law included in the conference report does not amend the PATRIOT Act, I agree with the six Senators who recently wrote to the Senate Intelligence Committee and asked them not to move ahead with such a significant expansion of the FBI's investigatory powers without further review. As they stated, public hearings, public debate and legislative protocol are essential in legislation involving the privacy rights of Americans. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I am concerned that these new provisions of law could be used to seize personal financial records that traditionally have been protected by financial privacy laws. The rush to judgment following the attacks of September 11, 2001, led to the rapid enactment of the PATRIOT Act, a measure which has caused substantial concerns among many Americans who value our constitutionally-protected liberties. Now that we are able to legislate in this area with a lessened sense of urgency, I urge my colleagues to step back and return this provision of H.R. 2417 to committee, where it can undergo the rigors of the normal legislative process so that Congress, and all Americans, can pass an informed judgment upon its merit.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, 62 years ago yesterday, our nation was suddenly attacked by the Imperial Japanese Naval Forces and drawn into World War II. This unprovoked act of war killed 2,338 military personnel and civilians, and wounded 1,178. The attacks sank or heavily damaged 21 ships and destroyed or damaged 323 aircraft. December 7, 1941 is a date which continues to live in infamy.

Mr. Speaker, the brave servicemen and women who served that day are responsible for our presence here today. Sadly, on September 11, 2001, this nation tragically experienced another Pearl Harbor whereupon our nation again sacrificed innocent Americans who woke up that morning, entirely unaware that they would never see their loved ones again. During that most difficult time we drew strength and courage from those who served this great nation before and from the leaders who led this great nation through our darkest hours.

On December 8, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt addressed the nation and declared, "no matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory." These are words that ring true today. On a day when many Americans feared for our nation, FDR's words of confidence, determination, and purpose did indeed carry this nation to absolute victory. Those same words will carry this nation to absolute victory once again as our brave men and women of the armed services are stationed in and around Iraq and Afghanistan fighting to preserve our freedom, security and democracy. Like those who served before, we are forever grateful for their courageous and heroic acts and we will never forget their sacrifices.