

It's a paradox that this administration has bought some time by giving us so many and such a variety of scandals that we cannot possibly keep up with them. Critics take the measure of one scandal, only to be distracted or overwhelmed by another, and another, and another, seemingly without end.

Kelly's column serves to remind us that the Lewinski affair is only the latest in a series of scandals, and the White House attempt to change the subject merely the continuation of a pattern of dissembling.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our present policy of deferring to the independent counsel is the correct one. Should it ever be found that such dissembling took the form of obstructing justice, we will be faced with a serious decision. If only a fraction of the allegations catalogued by Kelly turn out to be true, the House will be obliged to act. It will do so with a collective feeling of sorrow, but it must not shrink from its responsibilities.

I include the Kelly column in today's RECORD.

#### I BELIEVE

I believe the president. I have always believed him. I believed him when he said he had never been drafted in the Vietnam War and I believed him when he said he had forgotten to mention that he had been drafted in the Vietnam War. I believed him when he said he hadn't had sex with Gennifer Flowers and I believe him now, when he reportedly says he did.

I believe the president did not rent out the Lincoln Bedroom, did not sell access to himself and the vice president to hundreds of well-heeled special pleaders and did not supervise the largest, most systematic money-laundering operation in campaign finance history, collecting more than \$3 million in illegal and improper donations. I believe that Charlie Trie and James Riady were motivated by nothing but patriotism for their adopted country.

I believed Vice President Gore when he said that he had made dunning calls to political contributors "on a few occasions" from his White House office, and I believed him when he said that, actually, "a few" meant 46. I believe in no controlling legal authority.

I believe Bruce Babbitt when he says that the \$286,000 contributed to the DNC by Indian tribes opposed to granting a casino license to rival tribes had nothing to do with his denial of the license. I believed the secretary when he said that he had not been instructed in this matter by then-White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes. I believed him when he said later that he had told lobbyist and friend Paul Eckstein that Ickes had told him to move on the casino decision, but that he had been lying to Eckstein. I agree with the secretary that it is an outrage that anyone would question his integrity.

I believe in the Clinton Standard of adherence to the nation's campaign finance and bribery laws, enunciated by the president on March 7, 1997: "I don't believe you can find any evidence of the fact that I had changed government policy solely because of a contribution." I note with approval the use of the word "evidence" and also the use of the word "solely." I believe that it is proper to change government policy to address the concerns of people who have given the president money, as long as nobody can find evidence of this being the sole reason.

I believe the president has lived up to his promise to preside over the most ethical administration in American history. I believe that indicted former agriculture secretary Mike Espy did not accept \$35,000 in illegal fa-

vors from Tyson Foods and other regulated businesses. I believe that indicted former housing secretary Henry Cisneros did not lie to the FBI and tell others to lie cover up \$250,000 in blackmail payments to his former mistress. I believe that convicted former associate attorney general Webster Hubbell was not involved in the obstruction of justice when the president's minions arranged for Hubbell to receive \$400,000 in sweetheart consulting deals at a time when he was renegeing on his promise to cooperate with Kenneth Starr's Whitewater investigation.

I believe Paula Jones is a cheap tramp who was asking for it. I believe Kathleen Willey is a cheap tramp who was asking for it. I believe Monica Lewinsky is a cheap tramp who was asking for it.

I believe Lewinsky was fantasizing in her 20 hours of taped conversation in which she reported detailed her sexual relationship with the president and begged Linda Tripp to join her in lying about the relationship. I believe that any gifts, correspondence, telephone calls and the 37 post-employment White House visits that may have passed between Lewinsky and the president are evidence only of a platonic relationship; such innocent intimate friendships are quite common between middle-aged married men and young single women, and also between presidents of the United States and White House interns.

I see nothing suspicious in the report that the president's intimate, Vernon Jordan, arranged a \$40,000-per-year job for Lewinsky shortly after she signed but before she filed an affidavit saying she had not had sex with the president. Nor do I read anything into the fact that the ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, visited Lewinsky at the Watergate to offer her a job. I believe the instructions Lewinsky gave Tripp informing her on how to properly perjure herself in the Willey matter simply wrote themselves.

I believe that The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Newsweek, Time, U.S. News & World Report, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, PBS and NPR are all part of a vast right-wing conspiracy. Especially NPR.

#### NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

##### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is often said that education is the key to our country's future. While so many individuals give mere lip service to this idea, I am proud to announce that several of my constituents have been working hard to bring education into the limelight it deserves. February 9th of this year will mark the third annual National African-American Parent Involvement Day, a program done in conjunction with the Miami-Dade County School Board. This effort is being chaired by Earl Davis from the Office of Multicultural Education of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and co-chaired by Eunice Davis from North Davis Middle School and Carlos Seales from the Miami-Dade PTA/PTSA Council.

As we all know, parents in our hectic times often do not have the time to take an active role in the education of their children. Quite frequently, they do not know what their children are learning or who is teaching them.

The "Take Your Child to School—Visit Your Child in School" program is a concerted effort by principals, teachers, and other educators to encourage parents to change this disturbing trend. Parents will come into their children's schools to meet teachers, tour the buildings, and learn alongside their youngsters. Employers are also being contacted and encouraged to give interested parents "release time" so that they are able to be with their children on this important day.

I would like to personally commend my constituents who are organizing and participating in this vastly important program. When we consistently hear bad news about our nation's public schools, it is truly refreshing to see individual and community efforts such as these. I join my colleagues in South Florida in hoping that February 9th will initiate open communication between parents, children, and educators throughout the nation. Education truly is the key to the future, and it is programs such as this one that insure that it proceeds in the right direction.

#### A TRIBUTE TO LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE SHERMAN SMITH, JR.

##### HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to outstanding Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Sherman Smith, Jr. For nearly two decades, Judge Smith has presided over cases in a fair and forthright manner, earning him the respect of his judicial peers, as well as the admiration of the many members of the bar who have tried cases in his courtroom.

Judge Smith received his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University in Washington, DC. Following his 1969 graduation from law school, he headed west to Los Angeles, landing a job with the public defender's office, where he helped the poor achieve justice through our legal system. He then spent a year at the L.A. City Attorney's office, working in the appellate department and then as one of the special counsels for then-City Attorney Burt Pines. He worked an additional year with the office as a prosecutor in West Los Angeles before being appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1979 by then-Governor Jerry Brown, Jr. Judge Smith eventually reached the ranks of presiding judge, making substantial changes and working to modernize the court. He served on the Municipal Court bench for nine years.

In 1988 he was elected to a Superior Court seat and has served on the court's budget and personnel committee, chairing the education subcommittee of its access and fairness committee. During this period he was also active in judicial education, serving four years on the California Judicial Education and Research board and teaching for the program.

Judge Smith's commitment to the court and to a fair and equitable judicial system for every citizen honors our system of jurisprudence. I am honored to call him my friend and to have this opportunity to provide this brief retrospective of his exemplary career with my colleagues. I ask that you join me in paying tribute to him for his distinguished contributions to

the court and to the citizens of Los Angeles. Thank you, Sherman, for your many years of public service.

# HOME HEALTH CARE

## HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an advocate for the vital services home health care provides to many of our nation's citizens and their families—people whose voices are not always heard on Capitol Hill. We all recall the stories from the news last year of the bad actors who abused the Medicare system and provided inadequate care to their patients. Unfortunately, the reprehensible actions of a few home health care businesses lead to dramatic changes in the Balanced Budget Act that will impact the quality of care of all individuals whose doctors and families have decided that home care is the necessary course of action. Although it is critical to curb abuse, we must be careful that we do not inadvertently cause harm to the small businesses who have always provided and who will continue to provide quality care to many people in our communities.

I am very concerned that as of today, home care providers will no longer be reimbursed if they visit a patient solely to draw blood. Section 4615 of the Balanced Budget Act states that this is a non-vital service to provide to homebound patients. What about the blind diabetic who needs a blood sugar reading? What about the cancer patient or AIDS patient who is confined to a bed and whose continued treatment relies on blood tests? This provision of the Balanced Budget Act must be reversed or at least modified to allow the needs of the patient to determine the need for this health care service. As of today I am a co-sponsor of the Venipuncture Fairness Act, H.R. 2912, sponsored by my colleague, NICK RAHALL. H.R. 2912 will reinstate payment under Medicare for home health visits made to provide the important service of drawing blood. I urge my colleagues to immediately join the Venipuncture Fairness Act as co-sponsors and to work to ensure swift passage of the bill so that homebound patients do not suffer a life-threatening gap in care.

Other efforts are underway in Congress to reverse decisions made in the Balanced Budget Act that inadvertently cause harm to the home care providers. This Wednesday I will join Congressman JIM MCGOVERN as an original co-sponsor of a bill to protect effective home health care agencies from last year's cutbacks. The bill will delay the implementation of the interim payment system for home health services and provide for a later base year for the purpose of calculating new payment rates. It is our hope that the bill will allow continuation of quality home health services in communities throughout the country.

Another obstacle stands in the way of home health care companies staying in business. The Balanced Budget Act provisions regarding surety bonds is being misread by the Health Care Financing Administration. It is reasonable to ask home health care businesses to secure a surety bond at an affordable cost. The Balanced Budget Act set that cost at \$50,000 or

15% of an agency's previous year's Medicare revenues. It was assumed that a \$50,000 surety bond would be too expensive for some agencies, hence the provision for 15% of revenues was included to ease the burden on smaller operations. I have now discovered that the Health Care Financing Administration is requiring all home health care providers to get a surety bond for 15% of the previous year's revenues. For some companies, this could be as high as half a million dollars, a far cry from the original \$50,000 Congress intended. I will be circulating a letter to send to the Health Care Financing Administration urging them to implement this provision of the Balanced Budget Act according to the original intent of Congress. I urge my colleagues to sign the letter and send a strong message to the Health Care Financing Administration.

Home health care is a critical part of the health care system for thousands of Americans. Citizens, who would otherwise be required to be in nursing homes, are able to live independently or with family members because of the support services provided by home health care professionals. It is critical that our policies make sense for the thousands of qualified and dedicated home care agencies in America while we focus our energies on those who abuse the system and waste taxpayer dollars. I urge my colleagues to join with me in taking appropriate actions to meet both important goals. Thank you.

## ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS BASKETBALL TEAM

## HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the boy's varsity basketball team of Anderson High School. These distinguished and courageous young men traveled to Washington D.C. and won an exciting game against DeMatha High school in the Washington Classic right here in our nation's Capital.

The determination shown by the team is a tribute to the rich tradition of Hoosier basketball. The Indians demonstrated a level of achievement which can only be attained when individuals dedicate themselves to a team effort. Their awesome victory was indeed a remarkable performance.

The game also had special significance for the two coaches. Both men have undergone successful liver transplants and the tournament raised awareness for this important procedure. The evening was a true testimony to the fact that anything is possible with a positive mental attitude.

Let me join everyone involved with the team's trip and winning season—the fans, parents, teachers and students in saying that we are all very proud of you! Congratulations.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ED BLACKBURN

## HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who changed the face of law enforcement in my community of Hillsborough County and in the entire state of Florida—Ed Blackburn.

Mr. Blackburn was elected sheriff of Hillsborough County in 1953 at a time when organized crime tied to gambling was pervasive in the community. Sheriff Blackburn joined with nearby counties to stage gambling raids in an effort to break up the syndicate. Together, they were successful in turning back crime. He worked with other sheriffs to found the Florida Sheriffs Bureau—the precursor to what is the Florida Department of Law Enforcement today. The sheriffs bureau was the first effort to coordinate law enforcement across the state.

Sheriff Blackburn won a seat in the Florida House of Representatives in 1968 where he became a champion of law enforcement. He also served as a interim director of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in 1979. During that time, he persuaded the Florida Legislature to fund a statewide crime laboratory. The crime lab is an essential tool for investigators as they work to establish concrete evidence against criminal suspects.

There is another important legacy of Ed Blackburn—the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch. As a former law enforcement officer, Mr. Blackburn knew well that early efforts to steer youth away from a life of crime was as important as locking up a wrongdoer. Mr. Blackburn helped found the ranch and also served as its executive director. He saw firsthand countless lives transformed at the youth ranch.

Mr. Blackburn recently passed away. I rise today in appreciation for Mr. Blackburn's years of selfless public service to his community and his state.

## RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT

SPEECH OF

## HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2625) to redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport":

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, I hope someday in the near future to vote for a bill designating an appropriate memorial to President Reagan. But the proposal before us this week, to rename Washington National Airport, is not that proposal. I oppose this renaming of the airport, and I want to explain my reasons.

This bill violates one of President Reagan's most cherished values: federalism. The federal government should not carry out responsibilities which can be handled by state or local governments. The renaming of Washington National Airport would be in direct opposition