

That way the public and the judge presiding over the grand jury investigation can decide whether the prosecutor is following the rules.

Last February Mr. Starr claimed that he was investigating whether his office was leaking information. Given the allegations about Mr. Starr's and Mr. Bennett's background conversations with reporters, one wonders how thorough that inquiry could have been.

Now, Mr. Starr has no choice but to ask for an independent investigation to determine what, if any, information his office revealed to the press and whether that information violated any rules. Unless action is taken quickly, it will appear that the Independent Counsel's Office is above the law.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR REORGANIZATION

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, last month I introduced legislation to reorganize the United States Forest Service in an attempt to bring reform to that troubled federal agency. Today, I introduce legislation to further the goal of streamlining government and save additional money for the taxpayers of this nation, without decreasing services.

Continuing what Congress began in 1995, my legislation would dissolve the Department of Interior's (DOI) Minerals Management Service (MMS) and transfer the two major functions to other locations in DOI. By this transfer, the Department would realize significant savings by elimination of the administrative support component of the current MMS.

Under this legislation, the Minerals Management component of MMS would be transferred to the Bureau of Land Management. The Royalty Management component would be transferred to the office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. Day to day operations of these two divisions would go on, almost totally undisturbed by this legislation.

I would point out that the MMS was established in 1982, following an internal reorganization of the Department of Interior. Expectations for the new federal agency were high. The MMS took components that were formerly located elsewhere in the Department and placed them under one roof, headed by a director appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing program was expected to be the real centerpiece of this new agency. Leasing activities were to be expanded from small areas in California, the Gulf of Mexico and in Alaska to large areas off the entire East and West Coasts as well as the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. Industry interest was extremely high and energy self sufficiency was just around the corner.

However, something happened along the way and public support for this effort never materialized. In fact, in spite of an outstanding safety and environmental record, widespread and rabid opposition to expansion of the program developed and continues today. Therefore, the grand plans of 1982 never materialized. In fact, just last week, President Clinton called for extending the current Congressional

moratorium on oil and gas activities in these new areas for another 10 years. For all practical purposes, the OCS program today remains active in the Gulf of Mexico and in Alaska waters. The program remains a vital component of our energy supply. This is especially true for natural gas.

In terms of the royalty management program, the lack of expansion of federal oil and gas leasing and production, coupled with technological advances, have diminished the need for widespread expansion of this component of the MMS. With Congressional interest in new Royalty-in-Kind proposals, MMS royalty management could well downsize even further.

The American taxpayers, who in essence are government's stockholders, are demanding a leaner government. This legislation is a step towards that goal. We cannot wait for this Administration to do the right thing. It is time for Congress to act.

HONORING DR. THOMAS P. GRISSOM, JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication and achievements of Dr. Thomas P. Grissom, Jr.

Dr. Grissom has earned two Doctorate degrees, and it was his desire to teach before retiring.

Dr. Thomas P. Grissom, Jr. has a vast amount of experience as a pastor. He began his ministry 49 years and 9 months ago. He first became the Associate Pastor of St. Mark United Methodist Church in Manhattan. From there he went to Janes United Methodist Church in Brooklyn. After this position, he moved to Taylor Memorial Church in Oakland, California. He later returned to New York in October 1980 to pastor Salem United Methodist Church in Manhattan. He remained at Salem until the end of June in 1990. On the first Sunday of July 1990, Dr. Grissom became the Pastor of Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church, where he has served until the present time.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting Dr. Thomas P. Grissom, Jr. for his tremendous devotion and dedication to his profession.

THE STRATEGIC TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Strategic Transitional Employment Program Act or STEP, and I thank Senator WELLSTONE, who will introduce the bill in the Senate today, for his leadership. The unemployment rates in many parts of this region are so low that almost anybody can find a job. Yet in the District and other large cities and in rural areas, unemployment rates remain unaffected by the excellent Clinton economy. Entire sections of our society scratch their collective heads at daily reports of the splendid economy.

The STEP Act seeks to link long-term unemployed Americans with the roaring economy. It provides the three indispensable elements that most often are missing: job readiness, job experience and job placement. STEP is tightly structured. The program would be available only for individuals who meet three criteria: individuals unemployed for 15 weeks or more, whose families are at or below the poverty line, and who live in communities of concentrated poverty and unemployment.

Clearly, individuals who face all three of these conditions are walled off from self-sufficiency. If they have not found jobs after 87 months of an exceptional economy, we cannot expect jobs for them to appear miraculously. They obviously need our help. Transitional jobs that provide work experience while some transportation and child care services are provided can make the vital difference. Unlike some job programs, at the end, STEP would come with vital job placement for those who had not found work in 12 months. Moreover, paid part-time participation in education and training, including college, would insert a vital missing link to decent employment sadly lacking in last year's welfare bill.

I am also preparing an Omnibus Welfare Reform Amendments bill that will incorporate amendments from members of the House to last year's welfare reform statute, in the hope that one or the other provision might be pulled out for passage. However, STEP hops over welfare reform and confronts the missing ingredient for all the long-term unemployed—a realistic way to get them to a real job that pays a liveable wage.

STEP's \$20 billion cost over four years, creating 1.8 million entry level jobs, would be money well spent from a budget that now boast a surplus. The challenge to those who have no plan for the hard core unemployed is, if not this what? The challenge to those who do not want to spend the money is, if not in this roaring economy, when?

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT EDWARD BATES, JR. & STANLEY K. WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Robert Edward Bates, Jr. and Stanley K. Williams who will be honored as Men of the Year by the Shiloh Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. on Sunday, June 21, 1998.

It has been my privilege to have known Robert Bates for many years. He has been a member of Shiloh Baptist Church since his youth. He is the son of the late Deacon and Mrs. Robert E. Bates, Sr. He was a member of the Fund-raising Committee for the Henry C. Gregory, III Family Life Center and currently serves as Chairman of the Family Life Center Foundation Board.

Active in the civil rights movement, Mr. Bates worked as an aide to Senator Edward Kennedy early in his career and went on to a successful career with Mobil Oil Company. He was one of the first African Americans to represent a major company on legislative matters on Capitol Hill. While secure in his own position, he established the Second Wednesdays

Group, an organization to enhance opportunities for African Americans in the lobbying arena. In addition, Mr. Bates has been a strong supporter of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He is the father of three—Dawn, Hillman and Brandon.

After joining Shiloh nearly two decades ago, Stanley Williams immersed himself in church activities. Today, he serves as Vice President of the Brotherhood of Shiloh Men. He has been a Sunday School teacher in the Youth Department and served as an Assistant Superintendent; Chairman of the Men's Day Committee; and, Co-chaired the Children's Day Committee. He was recently appointed by the Pastor to Co-Chair the Victory Through Faith Campaign Committee.

Mr. Williams currently works at the U.S. Department of Labor where he serves as the Director of Veterans' Employment and Training. He recently was recognized by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for his outstanding knowledge and dedication in his field. He is married to Judy C. Williams and is the father of two children, Lanita and Malek.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Father's Day across the country this Sunday, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in saluting these two outstanding fathers—Robert Edward Bates, Jr. and Stanley K. Williams today for their dedication to the Shiloh Baptist Church, their families, and to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, on June 17, I was speaking before a group of Arkansas students and missed roll call vote No. 237. If I had been here, I would have voted "present."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House voted on final passage of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 2646, the Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools. I do not believe that we should be taking resources away from our public schools and directing them towards private schools. I am strongly opposed to H.R. 2646, and cast my vote against the Conference Report (Roll Call Vote No. 243). Therefore, I was concerned to discover this morning that I was listed as not voting on Roll Call No. 243. Apparently, my vote was not properly recorded by the electronic voting system. I am deeply concerned about this incident.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the 15th anniversary on June 19th of the creation of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange.

In 1983, marking the 300 years of German immigration to the United States, the Congress and the German Bundestag created a unique program, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. This exchange was designed to ensure that the close ties of friendship and partnership which had developed between our two countries since the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany would continue in successor generations, and to foster the relationship between our two national legislative bodies.

In each of the past fifteen years, up to 800 American and German high school students and young professionals have taken part in this program. The high school students become aware of the wider world and establish ties which will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Thanks to a combination of classroom education and on-the-job training during their year abroad, young professionals are able to bring valuable experience into their working life: Americans can take advantage of Germany's "dual system" of education and practical training, while German youth can benefit from American strengths in areas such as telecommunications, environmental technology and the service sector. In both cases, the young people of our two countries gain knowledge and experience which will serve them well later in life.

Let me quote from the letter of a recently-returned American high school student, reflecting on her year in Germany:

Now, I am able to speak Germany fluently. I have made many strong friendships and have experienced a culture I was not used to; I have learned a great deal about who I am and about life in general. I have learned to be more tolerant of others and the ideas that they offer. Being an exchange student does not just benefit the exchange. My first weeks in Germany were spent trying to disprove many of the stereotypes the Germans had about the United States and its society. Through this Exchange, all participants are able to return home feeling proud that they had the opportunity to represent the United States.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program also organizes reciprocal visits by staffers of the Congress and Bundestag. I hope that more of my colleagues will encourage their staffers to take advantage of this opportunity to get to know Germany and the working of its government and legislature. The staff exchange can be of tremendous assistance as our two countries grapple with shared problems.

Germany is a uniquely important ally of the United States. We have a strong national interest in maintaining the closest ties and the best understanding possible with both the current leadership and the successor generation. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange represents one of the best ways to cement our

partnership. During his recent visit to Germany, marking the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, President Clinton declared, "we will be working hard to expand our support for the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, which has already given more than 10,000 German and American students the chance to visit each other's countries."

German leaders in the Bundestag value the relationship with the United States and with the Congress, and recognize the contribution which the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program has made to the close ties which exist. On June 19th, the President of the German Bundestag, Prof. Rita S. Smuth, will mark the 15th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program by sending the Bundestag's greetings to all Members of Congress and by congratulating the 200 American participants in this year's program, who will be present during the Bundestag session.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending special greetings to our fellow legislators in the Bundestag, in commemorating the creation of this exchange and in noting its contribution to the distinctive ties between the peoples and the governments of these two great nations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER'S DEFENSE ACT

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 19, 1998

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Mr. HAYWORTH and 52 of our colleagues to introduce the Taxpayer's Defense Act. This bill simply provides that no federal agency may establish or raise a tax without the approval of Congress.

One of the principles on which the United States was founded was that there should be no taxation without representation.

In the Second Treatise of Government, John Locke said, "[f]or any one shall claim a power to lay and levy taxes on the people, ... without ... consent of the people, he thereby ... subverts the end of government." Consent, according to Locke, could only be given by a majority of the people, "either by themselves or their representatives chosen by them." The Boston Tea Party celebrated Americans' opposition to taxation without representation. And the Declaration of Independence listed, among the despotic acts of King George, his "imposing Taxes on us without our Consent." First among the powers that the Constitution gave to the Congress, our new government's representative branch, was the power to levy taxes.

The logic of having only Congress establish federal taxes is clear: only Congress considers and weighs every economic and social issue that rises to national importance. While any faction, agency, or sub-agency of the government may view its own priorities as paramount, only Congress can decide which goals are of the importance to merit spending taxpayer dollars. Only Congress can determine the level at which taxpayer dollars should be spent.

The American ban on taxation without representation has not been seriously challenged