

will achieve this, but if they do it could well set the country up for a showdown between a victorious Chavez and all the rest of the country's governmental system.

U.S. observers see only one possible option: that after the November elections, all independent candidates for president will coalesce around one candidate, perhaps, the pro-business and pro-reform successful former governor, Henrique Salas Romer. He is currently second in the polls, but still not within striking distance. Moreover, this scenario is not without danger: if the lower classes perceive that the middle and upper classes are cooperating to defeat their candidate that may energize even more dedicated voters for Chavez and increase their resolve to turn out on election day. Worse, if Chavez loses after leading in the polls for so long and by so much, he has already said he will blame fraud and order his "troops" into the streets. Chavez has already accused the head of the army of plotting to deny the election to Chavez which in Chavez's words could "provoke civil war." This could set off a period of violent instability throughout the country.

PARAGUAY

On May 10, Paraguay held only its second democratic election for President since the end of the 35-year dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner. The election of Raul Cubas Grau represented the first civilian leader to succeed another as Paraguay's President. But the Administration of President Cubas, barely three months old, faces a potential constitutional crisis which threatens the struggling democracy. This crisis has been precipitated by the role of the real beneficiary of Paraguay's recent elections—former General Lino Oviedo.

In April 1996, after a brewing internal feud between then-President Juan Carlos Wasmosy and General Lino Oviedo, head of the Paraguayan armed forces, Oviedo was fired. Not willing to go quietly, General Oviedo retired to his barracks and staged what was described as a modest coup attempt against President Wasmosy, calling for the President to step down. However, the situation was considered serious enough that representatives of Paraguay's neighboring countries and the Secretary General of the OAS felt it necessary to intervene to convince General Oviedo to end his rebellion. As a result of the intervention, a compromise was reached in which General Oviedo would end his coup and retire, and would then be given the portfolio of Minister of Defense. Oviedo agreed and the rebellion ended. However, in the ensuing period, public opposition arose against the deal, and the General, leading President Wasmosy to void the agreement. General Oviedo left the capital vowing to run for President.

In 1997, in preparation for the upcoming elections, a split developed within the ruling Colorado political party, which had governed Paraguay for more than 50 years. The debate pitted sitting President Juan Carlos Wasmosy and his choice of a successor, Luis Argana, against the resurgent former General, Oviedo, who had formed his own party within the Colorado organization. In September of 1997, in a surprise which shocked everyone observing Paraguay, General Oviedo won the Colorado party nomination for President. He nominated Raul Cubas as his candidate for Vice-President and embarked on an ambitious and skillful campaign.

In December of 1997, President Wasmosy, not wishing to turn control of the government over to his arch enemy, General Oviedo, had Oviedo arrested on charges of sedition related to the 1996 attempted coup. In February, 1998, a Wasmosy-appointed military tribunal convicted Oviedo and sentenced him to ten years in prison. In mid-April the Supreme Court upheld the tribunal's sentence which automatically nullified Oviedo's candidacy and threw the Presidential campaign into disarray. The Colorado party then elevated Raul Cubas to be the Presidential candidate and appointed Luis Argana as Vice Presidential candidate. On May 10, Raul Cubas was elected President of Paraguay, but the vote was seen more as a vote for Oviedo than for Cubas.

After his election, Cubas indicated that one of the first things he would do would be to free ex-general Oviedo from jail. In reaction, the parliament passed a law limiting presidential pardons by stating that a prisoner had to serve at least half of his sentence before being granted a pardon.

Shortly after taking office on August 15, and despite the new law, President Cubas announced that he was commuting Oviedo's ten-year prison sentence and would release him from jail. This action has set off a chain reaction of events which has threatened the very foundation of Paraguay's politics and its democracy. Immediately after his decision to commute the sentence, a group of opposition lawmakers in the Parliament petitioned the Supreme Court to overrule the pardon and to order Oviedo back to prison. In addition, several lawmakers began searching for a way to have President Cubas impeached. And, several members of Cubas' cabinet, including the President's brother, the Commerce Minister, resigned in protest.

The Supreme Court is currently trying to decide whether to hear the petition to overrule the Presidential pardon. However, it is reported that Oviedo has threatened reprisals against anyone trying to uphold the Parliament's petition and is preparing to defend himself against any attempts to do so. It is unclear whether President Cubas would uphold the laws of the state and would permit the re-arrest of Oviedo should the Supreme Court rule that way. It is also reported that President Cubas may be threatening the four Supreme Court Justices who have not yet attained what would be considered lifetime tenure on the Court with those appointments.

This crisis between the executive, the legislature and the court has shaken the foundation of Paraguay's government and could set the stage for a possible military action if the issue is not resolved peacefully. It is incumbent upon the actors in this crisis to resolve their differences so that democracy is preserved, that the separation of powers among the three branches of government is upheld and that the rule of law prevails.

A TRIBUTE TO JANET BROWN

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to my Administrative Assistant, Janet Brown. In a few short weeks Janet will be

leaving my office for the greener, or perhaps whiter, pastures of Minnesota. Janet and her fiancé, Don Kitson, are planning a wedding next year and will soon start the construction of their own airplane. I am certain that Don and Janet have a wonderful future ahead of them—if she can survive five years of working for me, she can survive at least fifty-five years of marriage with Don.

We all recognize the importance of congressional staff. Unfortunately, far too many of them come and go on short notice. Fortunately for my office and the constituents of the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin, Janet has not simply come and gone. Instead, she has sacrificed herself for all of us, be it through long hours at the office, helpful advice to a colleague, or timely service for a constituent.

Janet has been a model of perseverance and dedication. In 1993, Janet came to work for me as a Staff Assistant and she leaves as my Administrative Assistant. In those five years, Janet has held nearly every position in my office. I am sure there were many times Janet went home, frustrated after a long day at the office, determined to move on to another job. To her credit, Janet always returned the next day with a smile on her face, eager to work.

Janet is also a breast cancer survivor. Instead of succumbing to this awful disease, Janet conquered it. She never doubted her ability to persevere, and she is stronger person for it. More important, Janet now lends her time to help other women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Because so many of our staff come and go, we get into a habit of thinking that staff are interchangeable parts—if someone leaves, another will step in and take their place. Some staffers do not stay in one place long enough to make an impression, others are harder to replace because of their special qualities. And there are a select few like Janet Brown who are never truly replaced.

Because Janet has held nearly every position in my office and has faced such difficult challenges, the other members of my staff constantly turn to her in times of need. Persons new to the office look to her for advice, and veterans appreciate her unique ability to be both a colleague and friend. When Janet departs my staff in a few weeks, she will be leaving behind an office that is stronger because of her years of service.

Janet has also become a close friend of my family. Just as the other staff members rely on her for help, so do we. Our dog and office mascot Colby will miss the hours of undivided attention he received from Janet. My wife and I truly appreciate all the times Janet has helped us through the last-minute emergencies and scheduling changes that are inherent to a career in Congress. Because of those times Janet will always have a special place in my heart and on my auto insurance record.

Mr. Speaker, I and the entire staff are saying goodbye not only to a truly great professional, but a truly great friend as well. Janet, we wish you the best of luck and our deepest and most heartfelt thanks.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HON. DAN
SCHAEFER**HON. JOE SKEEN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special recognition to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAEFER) who is retiring from Congress at the end of the 105th Congressional session.

I am honored and pleased to have served with DAN SCHAEFER throughout my tenure in the House of Representatives. Working together, we have served as members of the minority and majority party in Congress and have always held principle over politics.

We are going to miss Mr. SCHAEFER next session. Throughout his distinguished career in the House, he has served his constituents from Colorado and the United States with honor and distinction.

DAN will be remembered here for many notable legislative accomplishments. Passing the Federal Facilities Compliance Act ensured that those of us with Federal facilities in our districts received the same level of environmental protection as everyone else in the country. He was and is a major player in helping us in New Mexico streamline the bureaucratic process to get the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant up and running—and while we're still not there yet, we're a lot closer today because of DAN SCHAEFER's efforts and I look forward to riding shotgun on that first truck with him.

Mr. SCHAEFER also helped spark the national debate on reforming our nation's tax code. His legislation to eliminate income tax raised a lot of eyebrows, but also raised the national awareness of the mess our tax system is in. I also recall that DAN was talking about a balanced budget long before the majority of our colleagues in Congress. His balanced budget legislation, introduced in the 103rd Congress, was the blueprint for many subsequent bills, and saw its fulfillment in the Balanced Budget Act passed by this Congress.

While I have just scratched the surface of DAN's distinguished career, it is a pretty impressive list of accomplishments. Just as impressive, though, has been DAN's non-legislative accomplishments. As manager of the Republican baseball team, he turned the event from a back-alley pepper game into a major-league success, to the point where the game now gets nationwide radio and TV coverage, and helps support a number of worthy charities in the Washington area. I know I've enjoyed his participation in the Western Caucus and the Wild Turkey Club, where Members facing similar problems and with similar constituencies are able to work through the difficult issues facing Congress in a sober and thought-provoking atmosphere. While Congress as an institution will certainly be poorer without DAN's presence, I also know that many Members will suffer a personal loss from his retirement as well.

In closing, I sincerely wish DAN SCHAEFER and his family all the best and look forward to the day the Colorado Rockies name him as their Manager. Good luck and God bless you DAN, we'll miss you around here.

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO BOB
BOYER**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this election day Robert Kent Boyer will be retiring from government service. Bob has been a close friend and colleague to many members and staffers in the Congress. His career has been marked by a long commitment and deep dedication to America's place in the world.

Bob worked his way up from hardscrabble beginnings in Arkansas through perseverance and elbow grease. He served our nation in the United States Air Force before coming to the U.S. Congress as a staffer in 1968. Bob served on the staffs of Senator John McClellan and Representatives Allard, Lowenstein, WILLIAM ROTH and William Mailliard with distinction. In 1971, Representatives Thomas (Doc) Morgan, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Representative Mailliard, the Ranking Minority Member appointed Bob to the professional staff of the full Committee on Foreign Affairs, where he worked for more than 22 years.

During his tenure on the Hill, Bob oversaw some of this nation's most important international work in combating narcotics, improving diplomatic security, fighting terrorism and assisting refugees who were the innocent victims of conflict and disaster.

In 1993 Bob, was appointed as the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development, a post he still holds. Bob's sage counsel and abiding knowledge of international affairs has helped USAID make it through some of its most difficult times. I know Bob's colleagues at USAID will miss him every bit as much as we will.

In closing, let me just say that Bob Boyer is genuinely one of the kindest, most warm-hearted and talented people I have had the pleasure to work with. We will miss seeing him in his cowboy boots dispensing advice during the authorization and appropriations process. I wish he and his lovely wife, Sandy, and daughter, Vanessa, the very best in his retirement. He has served the country well and in the best tradition of government servants everywhere.

REGARDING STEEL IMPORTS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for the resolution offered by my colleague from Ohio. Along with my friends from Indiana and Ohio, and many other Members of the House who have been working to get debate and a fair vote on this issue—I am deeply concerned about the current crisis in the U.S. steel industry. We are worried about this steel crisis and we want to send a strong message to the White House.

The U.S. steel industry and its workers are suffering tremendously from reduced orders,

as a result of dumping by Asian and Russian producers. But the Administration has not acted to stop this illegal practice.

The Members of the European Union have been smart enough to protect their steel industry from dumping by erecting temporary barriers to steel imports during the financial crisis. Their steel industry will weather this storm.

American steel workers—the most efficient in the world—cannot continue to be besieged by foreign steel products while waiting indefinitely for trade cases to be settled. Damage to the American steel industry is extensive, severe, and rapidly growing.

I want to say that I do think there is a legitimate role for the United States, Japan, the European Union, and others to play, together, to help Russia and the newly industrialized Asian countries get through this economic crisis. But the American steel industry cannot and should not shoulder the burden alone.

Just recently, just in the Pittsburgh area, Riverview Steel in Glassport, and a number of other steel producers have been forced out of business by unfair imports. Steel has already been through tough times in our lifetimes—but the industry has come back more competitive than ever. The current steel crisis is an external, macroeconomic problem that is unfairly impacting American workers. We already have the laws in place to address this problem. We need to act now to stop another hollowing out of American industry, by acting to stop illegal dumping.

This House must act today to urge concrete measures on the Administration to stop the flow of dumped steel. The Traficant Resolution makes the strongly worded statement that needs to be made on this subject. Although it's non-binding, the Traficant Resolution would call on the Administration to investigate these low-priced steel imports for 10 days. If the Asians, former Soviet states, or anyone else is flouting international trade agreements, the President should impose a 1-year ban on steel imports from that country. By asking for these actions, the Traficant Resolution is making a real statement. This is not just some toothless piece of paper that would make this issue go away. Because this issue will not go away.

I urge my colleagues to think over this serious problem, and vote in favor of the Traficant Resolution.

HONORING REVEREND DR. ERIC R.
FIGUEROA, SR. BISHOP-DESIGNATE**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Dr. Eric R. Figueroa, Sr. Bishop-Designate. A man of vision, devotion and tireless service to others in the spirit of God.

Reverend Dr. Eric R. Figueroa, Sr. was born on February 15, 1954 in New York, NY and is the oldest of three children born to Elder Ronald L. Figueroa and Mother Minnie M. Figueroa. He is the husband of Evangelist Doreen Figueroa for 23 years, and the father of three anointed and marvelously gifted children, Timiney, Anaysha and Eric Jr.