

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the announcement by the House leadership to allow an open and honest debate on campaign finance reform has been cheered by editorials and reform activists throughout the country. I, however, am withholding my enthusiasm. We have been given false promises before and I will not celebrate until we actually take part in a truly open debate on this issue on the House floor.

I am not yet convinced that our goal of passing meaningful reform will happen given the history of the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate on this issue. In spite of the support of a majority of the members of the Senate, reform was defeated by procedural maneuvers. In the House a majority of the members have been advocating for a year and a half in support of campaign reform, yet we haven't gotten a vote. I hope that the leadership has finally seen that the public wants Congress to do something about big money in politics.

Mr. Speaker I will continue my effort to keep this issue at the forefront until I am assured that an open honest debate will happen on campaign finance reform. The people of western Wisconsin will accept nothing less.

HONORING FILIPINA S. MACAHILIG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the passing of a woman whose loving care for her family and community spanned half the world, for over half a century.

Filipina S. Macahilig began life in Manila, graduating from the University of the Philippines before working as a nurse through World War II. The children at the schools on Panay Island were comforted by her tender and competent care.

At war's end, Ms. Macahilig moved to the United States, first to San Francisco and then to the Monterey Peninsula, where she continued to care for the ill and infirm. She and her beloved husband Edel raised her large family: four sons, Rene, Felicisimo, Requirio and Edilberto, and four daughters, Alice, Bernadette, Suzanne and Teresita, all of whom graduated with highest honors and became outstanding members of their communities. Her warmth extended outwards into the community through her service as a longtime member and officer of the Filipino Community Organization of the Monterey Peninsula. She replenished her spirit at the Carmel Mission Basilica where she was a faithful parishioner. She cared for her fourteen grandchildren and

five great-grandchildren with her own special kind of gentle compassion, providing a model of humanity that they will carry with them always.

Her death at the age of 87 was a loss, but her generous spirit will continue to warm and nurture the community through the memories she has left with us.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE DICKINSON

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the achievements and services of my constituent, George Dickinson of Flora, Illinois, who serves as Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 282. He has volunteered for the Boy Scouts of America for fifty years and has remained committed to this organization and his community.

George has demonstrated excellent service to his troops by teaching them how to survive in the wilderness and respect others. Over the past fifty years, he has taken his troops on a variety of trips to help them understand the great outdoors even better, including a trek to the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch in New Mexico, canoeing the boundary waters of Minnesota, and hiking the Appalachian trail through Georgia. It is refreshing to know we can rely on role models such as George to mentor our youth.

George has received numerous awards from the local and national Boy Scout councils, including the Silver Beaver Award, the District Award of Merit and the Veteran Scoutmaster Award. He is dedicated to his Troop and dedicated to the service of the Boy Scouts.

George is not only an exemplary role model for the Boy Scouts of Troop 282, but also for the state of Illinois and it is with the greatest honor that I can represent George in this body. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing George Dickinson for his milestone fifty years of service to the Boy Scouts and the Flora community.

UKRAINE

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, in August 1991, the people of Ukraine courageously and proudly proclaimed independence from the Soviet Union, and immediately faced the dual challenges of restructuring both a centralized economy and authoritarian political system. Unlike the often erratic progression of other post-Soviet nations, Ukraine has moved cautiously and steadily toward a free-market economy and multi-party

democracy. Just last month, Ukraine successfully held its first national Parliamentary elections under a new democratic Constitution and recently passed federal election law. Nearly seventy percent of the citizenry turned out to cast a ballot in this monumental election.

Any transition of this magnitude, however, will naturally encounter both progress, as well as setbacks. Ukraine, as Europe's second-largest nation with 51 million citizens, has faced particular challenges in transforming a misguided and convoluted Soviet economic system into a transparent and viable economy, open and appealing to eager foreign investors. Many American investors have faced significant obstacles and complications attempting to operate in this difficult environment.

The fiscal year 1998 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, signed into law by President Clinton last year, requires U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright to "certify no later than April 30, 1998 that the government of Ukraine has made significant progress toward resolving complaints by U.S. investors." Without such certification, the U.S. shall, under law, withhold fifty percent of the fiscal year 1998 foreign assistance funding to Ukraine, not including funds used for nuclear safety purposes. Given our country's vital long-term strategic interest in Ukraine, however, it is my hope that investor complaints have been sufficiently resolved to warrant Secretary Albright's certification on April 30.

American and Ukrainian officials alike have stated that the development and improvement of Ukraine's business climate is crucial for Ukraine's continued path toward a true, market-oriented economy. While America should commend the reform efforts attained by Ukraine in 1997, which have resulted in the lowest rate of inflation since independence, the stabilization of Ukraine's monetary unit, and the continued privatization of state-owned enterprises, it is equally important for Ukraine to achieve deregulation in product licensing and to pursue further restructuring of its energy and agricultural sectors. It is my hope that Ukraine can achieve these additional, much-needed reforms through the assistance of continued U.S. engagement.

Acknowledging America's role in Ukraine's continued economic development, former ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller recently stated, "the United States has the capacity to continue the levels of support it has given in the past, and in fact, should look to increase those levels in order to ensure a successful outcome." The Ukrainian government has indicated that without increased foreign investment, many structural reforms already in place would be difficult to maintain. For this reason, the Ukrainian government recently formed the Special Task Force on Corporate Governance and Shareholder Rights. The purpose of this task force is to enhance the investment climate in Ukraine and improve its competitiveness in the international marketplace.

The existence of informal and unofficial economies remains a frequent complaint

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

among businesses attempting to operate in Ukraine. Such malfeasance can most properly be attributed to Ukraine's years under Soviet rule, where such practice was commonplace, and does not reflect the overall will or potential of the nation. Rather than turning our backs on a promising democracy because it retains unfortunate remnants of a failed, oppressive political doctrine, it is my belief that we should instead continue to engage this aspiring, recovering independent nation and encourage the constructive reform Ukraine has already initiated.

Rebuking Ukraine for its greatest challenges, rather than assisting her with them, is counterproductive and could send the signal to other nations that America has lost confidence in Ukraine's ability to further reform its system. Such an outcome could defeat years of progress in this important democracy, and weaken the beneficial relationship between our two nations. It is essential that the United States continues to work toward ensuring an economically viable Ukraine which is critical to continued peace and stability in the region.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY: ORGANIZING AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Domestic Workers of America/AFSCME, AFL-CIO, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO for their contributions to the labor movement and to the community as a whole.

The UDW Organizing Committee is being recognized by the Labor Council with its "Organizing Award" for their historic organizing drive in which they made over 10,000 house visits and signed up 3,200 home care workers in a record 3½ months last summer.

These home care workers, who provide domestic and personal care services to the elderly and disabled, earn minimum wage with no benefits. While they give their service in caring for the sick and infirm, they have no sick leave, no health insurance, and no retirement. Even though their work is controlled by the county and paid by the state, they are not recognized as permanent employees. They are called independent providers and have no employee rights.

To correct this situation, the new members of UDW have set up organizing committees in San Diego's five supervisorial districts, prioritized their demands for improving their jobs, trained 30 new delegates for the UDW State Convention, and initiated a membership service program to include emergency assistance, legal consultations, life and medical insurance, and representation at benefit appeal hearings. UDW is also working on legislation and local initiatives to establish legal recognition and collective bargaining rights for independent providers.

Having completed these successful accomplishments, UDW is now in the second phase of its campaign to organize the remaining 6,000 independent providers.

As a friend and supporter of UDW for many years, I want to sincerely congratulate the

UDW Organizing Committee and its members on receiving this significant award from the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council for your many long hours and labor-intensive work in the cause of justice!

HONORING BLISSFIELD'S NATIONAL HEROES

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to four of my constituents who have demonstrated the true meaning of community service. So many people talk about the need to get involved and pitch in when they see a problem, but in my district is blessed to have four young people who put those words into action.

This week, the Make A Difference Day committee, organized by USA Weekend, named the group of Christi Stoker, Natalie Eisenmann, Amanda Nicolai, and Stephanie Powell among ten recipients of a national award from the Make A Difference Day Foundation.

These girls offered some helping hands to a homeless shelter in Toledo, not too far from their hometown of Blissfield, Michigan. The girls, who are 13, organized a coalition of community members to donate books, games, wallpaper, and other materials to make this shelter more of a home for the kids and their parents who sought refuge there. They ended up collecting more than \$800 in contributions for the shelter.

And, these special young people didn't stop there. They helped a young girl at the shelter and her mother find a place to live. The girls still stay in touch with the family to whom they gave this precious gift.

Mr. Speaker, we are a nation that turns famous people into heroes—TV and movie stars and our national journalists. But to me, America's true heroes are those who devote time and energy in their communities to give or offer assistance and compassion to those who need it.

Few people who have performed that task better than Christi Stoker, Natalie Eisenmann, Amanda Nicolai, and Stephanie Powell.

HONORING ARTHUR MITTELDORF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur Mitteldorf, a devoted conservationist and warm friend and respected member of the community.

Mr. Mitteldorf's contributions cannot be measured. Throughout the years, he freely gave of his time and knowledge to environmental advisory committees. He wrote persuasive articles and commentaries on topics such as air quality, hazardous materials, and the consequences of building dams. His presence will be sorely missed by members of the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, where he put words to the views of many.

Early in life, his aesthetic sense found expression in music. While obtaining a degree in chemistry from Brooklyn College, Arthur played the cello in orchestras and chamber ensembles. His life as a cello player was set aside to become a businessman, and he rose to become president and chief executive of Spex Industries, Inc in Edison New Jersey. Later in life he returned to his music as a member of the Chamber Music Society of the Monterey Peninsula and of the Carmel Music Society.

Arthur Mitteldorf and his wife Harriet undertook a project that was two years in the doing. Together they searched Carmel Valley for a stand of redwoods that would epitomize the beauty of the area. In 1990, having found a majestic tract, they donated 1,100 acres of redwood dotted canyons and hills to the Big Sur Land Trust. It is now known as the Mitteldorf Preserve. The Preserve not only provides a refuge for flora and fauna, but has become the centerpiece of the Land Trust public outreach, multiplying the Mitteldorf's contribution by setting an example to others to join them in their love for the land.

Arthur Mitteldorf's generosity, his staunch defense of the environment, and his commitment to his community will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Our hearts go out to his family. We can take solace in the knowledge that his contributions will enrich generations into the future.

RECOGNIZING HELEN DILLARD

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of my constituent, Mrs. Helen Dillard of Eldorado, Illinois. She is celebrating her fiftieth year serving the people of Illinois as a laboratory technologist, and I want to commend her on reaching this exceptional milestone.

As co-chair of the House Rural Health Care Coalition, I am pleased to see that my constituents are helping to truly make a difference in the medical community. For twenty years, Helen worked at the Farrell Hospital, and for twelve years she served the Hardin County General Hospital. She then went on to Pearce Hospital, and is currently working at the Harrisburg Medical Center, where she has impressed her co-workers with her diligence, skill and personality.

In addition, Helen is a model citizen in her hometown community. She participates in a wide range of activities and never hesitates to lend a hand to friends and neighbors. Helen is a faithful Christian and community leader who devotes her time and talent to the local church as an accomplished pianist, organist and singer.

Helen's kind generosity and dedication has brought her respect and admiration at work and at home. Mr. Speaker, please join with me in recognizing Helen Dillard for her milestone fifty years of service to the medical community and to the people of Eldorado.