

do not like. However, this bill represents a comprehensive and meaningful change away from the arcane and mystifying system that we have today. It holds politicians accountable, it eliminates soft money, and it empowers all American voters with the knowledge to discern for themselves who Members of Congress actually represent.

I am confident that the American people will reward candidates that play by the rules. If they do not play by the rules, Madam Speaker, my bill does what no one else has proposed, it sends the crooked politicians to jail.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL COLLINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to honor a truly wonderful person with whom I was proud to join in a number of important battles, Mike Collins. Michael Collins died in February at the age of 55.

He was the General Secretary-Treasurer of the Pipefitters Union, and he was, indeed, a fighter for working men and women. He fought so strongly because he believed that the labor movement was the most effective way to help working families earn a better life.

At the 35th UA General Convention, Mike reflected on his first elected position in much the same way many of us in Congress have done. Let me quote from his remarks. He said, "My anxiety level was so high, my hands were shaking, and my heart was pounding. I was only 31 years old then, and I was awed by the thought that I had been elected to lead the fine men and women of my local union, and I prayed to God that I would be up to the task."

"The people wanted to know what kind of man they had elected, whether I would have the right stuff or whether I would fumble the ball. I learned a very important lesson that night. I learned that the hard job is not just getting elected, it is what comes later, when the tough decisions have to be made and the inevitable disappointments have to be endured."

It is this sense of dedication and determination and humility that made Mike so special. He never lost his perspective of the broader goals, to help working men and women have a decent quality of life.

Over the next 25 years that followed Mike's first election, not only did he not fumble, he picked up the ball, and he seemingly never stopped running.

After leading Local 5 for a number of years, he was appointed by the international to serve as Legislative Director in the legislative department. That is when I first met him.

We fought many a battle together in these Halls, in this building, and across

the streets in the offices where we worked, battles for a decent wage for people, battles for decent health care, battles to make sure that people had pensions, that those pensions were not taken from them, battles for worker safety.

It was not that long ago, Mike remembered this well, that we lost 35,000 people a year to industrial accidents in this country, 35,000 a year; 500,000 maimed. He cared deeply about workers and about their safety and their families.

He eventually rose to the rank of General Secretary-Treasurer where his leadership positioned the UA to continue to grow in the next century.

Mike's public life was devoted to the labor movement, yet the same characteristics that made him successful, his leadership, his loyalty, his moral strength, and his force of character made him truly special to his family and friends.

His twin brother Terry paid Mike the ultimate testimonial at his funeral service when he stated, and I quote, "Kathleen, Brian, Mickey, Kevin, Maggie, and Karen, my heart aches. Kathleen, you were the center point of support on which Mike's life turned. As I mourn him, I celebrate the 34 years of his marriage. He truly had a special partner. He loved you dearly."

"To his children, I'm not sure what to say because I cannot think of anything you do not already know. He was a giant of a man whose imprint has been passed and will be passed on for generations to come. You, along with your mom, were his most precious treasures."

I certainly do not think it could have been said better. I know that Mike cared deeply about his family and his faith, and he had true passion for helping people. He fought many battles. We fought many battles together.

I was honored and proud to join such a tireless fighter who never gave up. Yet, Mike was one of those rare individuals who could fight with dogged tenacity while still being able to laugh and smile, and laugh at himself and not take himself too seriously.

He was such a pleasure to have on your team. He could always make you feel good just by being around him. He truly enjoyed life. Those of us who shared his friendship and his ideals will truly miss him.

To his family, many of whom are here with us today, thank you for all the support you gave Mike throughout the years. Few had his resolve and strength to fight for the working men and women of this country and with the tenacity that Mike Collins brought to that task.

Those who knew him know that his strength came from his family, and for that, we all owe a great deal of thanks to each and every one of you.

So, Mike, if you are listening up there, and I am sure you are, rest assured that you have many loyal fans and people who love you and who will

continue to do the good work that you performed in this body and throughout the Halls of this Congress. Your values are the values that we will continue to sustain and maintain and fight for as long as we are in public service. To your family, we wish you all the best. You gave us a real champion in Mike Collins.

YEAR 2000 CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, this afternoon, the Subcommittee on the Census of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight will be meeting for the second time and addressing the issue of a potential failed census in year 2000.

Many people believe that the census in the year 2000 is moving towards failure. This comes from reports from the General Accounting Office, who has said actually in every report, including the most recent one in March, that the risk of a failure has increased.

The Inspector General has talked about the potential of a failed census. This is because this Clinton administration has proposed the largest statistical experiment in history to take place in year 2000.

This is a very dangerous situation, because the census, which is required by our Constitution and by law to be done every 10 years, is the basis, is fundamental to our democratic process of elected government here in the United States.

All Members of Congress, most elected officials in America are elected based upon census information. If we have a census that the people do not trust, we are threatening the entire elective process in America.

So it is absolutely essential that we save the census, that we have a successful census, that we have the most accurate census possible. That is what we need to strive for and work together, Democrats and Republicans.

The hearing today will be focused on what happened in 1990 so we can learn from the experience of 1990 and not repeat the mistakes, but also do what needs to be done to improve the census. There were some problems in the 1990 census. But in 1990, we counted 98.4 percent of the American people; 98.4 percent of the people were counted. That was not a bad census actually. That is a pretty good census, the second most accurate census in history, and some people think it was the most accurate census in history. So it was successful in counting 98.4 percent of the people.

But the way the census took place in 1990 was, after you did the full census, the full enumeration, and counted that 98.4 percent, then a sample was conducted of about 150,000 households. The thought was let us take that sample and adjust the full enumeration.

What happened in 1990 was the failure was on the sample. Sampling was the failure in 1990. That is the concern that we have today because now the Clinton administration only wants to rely on sampling. It was a failure in 1990, and they are going to totally rely on it in year 2000.

What happened in 1990 when they used sampling, Secretary Mosbacher had the choice of, at that time, whether to use sampling and adjust the census. What the recommendation of the Census Bureau was back in 1981 was to adjust the census, take away a congressional seat from Wisconsin, take away a congressional seat from Pennsylvania, give them away based on adjustment, based on statistics.

I mean, how do you explain that to the States that they are saying we counted these people, but the statisticians in Washington think they are not right. Thank goodness Secretary Mosbacher rejected that recommendation, because we found out in 1992 there was a major computer glitch. It was a computer error, and it would have been done by error and by mistake.

What would people in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania say knowing they would have lost a congressional seat because of mistakes by the Census Bureau? So sampling was a failure because what they did with the sampling is they delete people from the census.

There are census tracts and areas all over the country where the Census Bureau would come in because of the computer analysis and said, on average, we do not think all those people are there, so we are going to delete people, not because they double-counted, not because of mistakes, just because of averages and statistics, and we could allow that.

Another thing we found out in analyzing the 1990 census, and the Census Bureau says this, that the numbers are not accurate below 100,000. So the accuracy becomes less accurate when we get to districts of under 100,000.

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When we work with the census, we deal with census tracks and census blocks, and those are the building stones, the cornerstones to building a Congressional District, a State Senate district, a State House district, a county commission district, a city council. And the accuracy is less by adjustment than having the full enumeration. So the Census Bureau admits that that is a problem. And now the Clinton administration wants to rely on this potentially inaccurate information.

In fact, the Census Bureau, when they reviewed the 1990 census, decided not to adjust even for the intercensal census, which is when they adjust between 1990 and 2000, because it was not accurate enough to use, and they did not even use that 150,000 use of sampling.

So what does the Clinton administration propose in the year 2000? They have proposed first, instead of using a

full enumeration and counting everybody like they did in 1990, they say oh, no, we are only going to count 90 percent of the people; ninety percent of the people in 60,000 separate samples, because there will be one for each census track.

So we start off without the full data, and then they will do a sample of 750,000 households, five times larger than they used in the sampling experiment back in 1990. But they will do it in half the time, with a less experienced work force.

So they are going to sample five times as many people in half the time, with a less experienced work force, and use that to adjust the sample today data they started with at 90 percent.

So we are moving towards a very complex system that will lead to failure, and it threatens our entire Democratic elections process in this country.

PUERTO RICO IS FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Madam Speaker, when the United States was founded, many States severed the previously existing relationship between property ownership and voting rights by granting universal suffrage to white men. Since then, of course, the right to vote has become truly universal, extended to all men and women without regard to race, ethnic origin, or economic considerations.

The point I wish to make today, however, is that early on in the Nation's history, it was established that the right to vote, that is, the right to participate in this democracy, exists independent of an individual's economic well-being. Unfortunately, it is a concept that the opponents of self-determination for the 3,800,000 American citizens in Puerto Rico just do not seem to get. They would deny the U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico the opportunity to vote on status just because they allege that poverty on the island would affect the Nation's pocketbook.

Opponents of Puerto Rican self-determination incorrectly state that a vote for self-determination is a vote for Puerto Rican statehood. And contrary to reality, they also allege the Island's poor will cost the U.S. Treasury many millions of dollars more a year if Puerto Rico becomes a State. Quite the contrary is true.

Puerto Rico is now a welfare Commonwealth. We receive Federal grants but do not pay Federal income taxes. If Puerto Rico were a State today, our tax contribution to the U.S. Treasury would net a positive cash flow of \$1.5 billion over and above the additional Federal expenditures in grants and direct payments, which Puerto Rico

would receive as a State in addition to what it is now receiving.

In their rush to paint the worst case scenario, opponents of Puerto Rican self-determination overlook the stable investment environment which statehood would bring about, overlook the growth potential of Puerto Rico's many assets and the fiscally conservative underpinnings of the Puerto Rican economy.

It is a fact that the present territorial relationship between Puerto Rico and the rest of the Nation has its economic downside. Tax credit to U.S. corporations designed to stimulate economic development on the Island have actually drained the territory of investment capital. A study by Hex, Incorporated, an international economic policy and development consulting firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, reveals that despite an investment of \$12.3 billion in Puerto Rico between 1981 and 1994, the Island suffered a net loss of \$2.2 billion in investment capital. The repatriation of profits by the U.S. companies which benefit from tax credits accounts for the most of the loss.

Alexander Odishelidze, president of Employee Benefits Associates, Incorporated, which is a consulting firm, is correct when he says, "You cannot build a solid economy when the capital created by the productivity of the workers is shipped out as soon as it is created." Statehood would confer the sense of stability that encourages economic investment. Hex, Inc. projects that statehood would accelerate fiscal and economic growth in Puerto Rico by an annual 2.2 to 3.5 percent.

Chilean economist Fernando Lefort, in a working paper for the International Tax Program at Harvard Law School, calculated if Puerto Rico had become a State in 1955, the average Puerto Rican would have been earning \$6,000 a year more by 1994.

The fact is that Puerto Rico has the assets for growth. It boasts a manufacturing base which employs 15.6 percent of the Island's work force; highly educated skilled workers, many of whom are bilingual and experienced users of high-tech equipment in the pharmaceutical, plastics and electronics industry, as well as the scenic beauty and historic landmarks that so much appeal to tourists.

What is more, the value-added per dollar of production wages paid in Puerto Rico is double the national average. These assets alone led one analyst interviewed by the Wall Street Journal to conclude that as a State, Puerto Rico's underlying growth potential would be the strongest in the country, the Nevada of 10 years from now.

In addition, Puerto Rico practices sound fiscal policy. Since adoption of its Constitution in 1952, Puerto Rico has required the government to approve the balanced budget annually. Four years ago tax reform provided \$400 million in tax relief to Island residents while generating a government