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Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, League of United Latin American Citizens, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, National Urban League, Organization of Chinese Americans, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, California Rural League Assistance, and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

□ 1245

STATEHOOD FOR PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the question of whether Puerto Rico will become our 51st State. Last year I was the only member of the Committee on Resources who voted against this bill on the final committee vote. I did not speak against this bill at the time or try to get anyone else to vote against it, primarily due to my great respect for and friendship with Chairman Young, the primary sponsor. Chairman Young and I agree on almost all issues, particularly on the need to open up a very small portion of Alaska to further oil production.

After I cast this lone dissenting vote, I was asked to visit Puerto Rico by its government and some of its leading citizens, and in an attempt to be as fair as possible, I went there for a weekend visit 8 or 9 months ago. While there, I met some of the nicest people I have met anyplace in this world. I was greatly impressed with the beauty of the island and the great progress that is being made toward freedom and a strong economy and away from the shackles of socialism.

I was impressed with the close ties and favorable feelings most Puerto Ricans have with and for the United States. I was told that Puerto Rico had sent more soldiers and sailors to the U.S. military than any other State per capita, and I really appreciate this.

I had never thought much about this before I went there, but Puerto Rico is closer to Washington, D.C., and the Southeastern United States than are some of our Western States. I believe that Puerto Rico is fast on its way to becoming an island paradise. Some of it already is.

Puerto Rico has a great future, if it continues moving even further toward a free market economy and lower taxes. The island is in a strategic location and could be a valuable asset to us militarily.

However, in spite of all the many good things there are about Puerto Rico and its people, I do not believe Puerto Rico should become a State at this time. First and foremost to me, the American people do not support this expansion. In every poll or survey, the people of my district hold opinions almost identical to the national average. I have not received even one phone call, comment, letter or postcard in favor of this from my district. Every local contact has been against this. This is very important to me.

Second, according to the Congressional Research Service, Tennessee would potentially be one of six or seven States to lose a House Member if Puerto Rico becomes a State. This would not have much effect on me because most of the growth in our State has been in and around Knoxville and Nashville, so my district will be about the same or even possibly shrink in size for the foreseeable future. However, it would definitely hurt our State if we lose the equivalent of 11 percent of our House delegation.

Third, the GAO and others have estimated this could cost American taxpayers \$3 to 5 billion a year in added costs to the Federal Government. We are not in nearly as strong a shape economically as some people think with the stock market at record levels. Also in about 8 to 10 years when the baby-boomers begin retiring, we are about to face some of the greatest costs we have ever seen in the history of this country. With national debt of \$5.5 trillion right now and a debt almost quadruple that when you figure in future pension liabilities, we really cannot afford to do this until Puerto Rico strengthens its economy significantly.

Fourth, when I went to Israel 3 or 4 years ago, our group met, among many others, with the woman who headed Israeli immigration. She told us they gave all immigrants to Israel up to 2 years of intensive language training if they needed it because Israel felt that it was very important to have a common, unifying national language.

It is fine with me if everyone in this country learns Spanish or some other second language, but I think all U.S. citizens need to be truly, honestly fluent in English. We need a unifying national language. Look at the problems Canada has now with many in French-speaking Quebec wanting to split Canada in the middle. English is and should be our national language, even if some do not like it.

I am told that a little over 20 percent of the people in Puerto Rico are fluent in English. I believe Puerto Rico should greatly emphasize the English language training if they want to become a part of our Union.

Fifth and finally, some say only a little over half of Puerto Ricans want to become a State of the United States if they are given a truly free choice with fair definitions. I do not believe we should add any State unless an extremely high percentage, at least 75

percent or even more, want to become citizens. We certainly do not need to add a State where almost half of the people do not want it.

Puerto Rico should vote first. They can hold a referendum without our permission. The Congress should not take a vote that as a practical matter we cannot get out of unless, and until we have a truly fair, accurate assessment of how many Puerto Ricans really want this.

For all of these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I believe we should maintain our present friendly, close relationship with Puerto Rico as a U.S. Territory.

PEACE CORPS DAY 1998

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, it has been 35 years since I joined the American Peace Corps, and I rise today to celebrate this month and this very day, the 37th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

It was started on March 1, 1961, when President Kennedy signed legislation passed by this Congress creating the Peace Corps.

Today there are more than 150,000 returned volunteers in the United States, five of whom serve in the House of Representatives and two in the United States Senate.

Today, because of the anniversary of the Peace Corps, there are more than 6,000 returned volunteers that are presently, as I speak, working in schools throughout the United States to bring a program called World Wise Schools. They bring the cross-cultural awareness of these countries that they served in to the school children of America.

I just participated in a program like that downtown at the Peace Corps headquarters, where we had life interaction with students from South Africa, that was being taught by an American Peace Corps volunteer from Washington, D.C.

Today there are 84 countries in the world that have invited the Peace Corps to be in them. There are 6,500 volunteers that are now serving overseas. They are addressing the critical development needs on a person-to-person basis, helping spread and gain access to clean water; to grow more food; to help prevent the spread of AIDS; to teach English, math and science; to help entrepreneurs start new businesses; and to work with nongovernmental organizations to protect our environment.

In fact, the demand for Peace Corps far exceeds the supply. For my conservative friends on the other side of the aisle, I wanted you to recall that the President has asked for expansion of the Peace Corps in his address to the Congress here just last month. In his 1999 budget request, he wants to put

10,000 volunteers, up about 35,000 more volunteers, serving overseas by the year 2000. The demand for their service is there, the supply is not, and the only thing that stands between that is the United States Congress and its ability to appropriate the funds. I encourage my colleagues to do so.

The proposed expansion of the Peace Corps comes at a time when the interest in serving as a volunteer is particularly high. Last year, more than 150,000 Americans contacted the Peace Corps to request information on serving as volunteers, an increase of more than 40 percent since 1994.

The value of the volunteers and their experience is not restricted to overseas service. I can testify that the best service that is given to the Peace Corps is the domestic dividend that we all bring when we come home.

I urge all of those Members of Congress that they ought to think someday even when they retire, that Peace Corps has no limit to the age that one can enter. Remember President Carter's mother who entered the Peace Corps in her elderly years. I encourage on this 37th anniversary of the Peace Corps that we all be proud of what was created here in the House of Representatives and what has served its country well, the United States Peace Corps.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN GARNER E. SHRIVER

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor of the House both to commemorate and honor the life of a former Member of this distinguished body, Garner E. Shriver. Garner died this past Sunday, March 1, at age 85.

Both my wife Vickie and I were deeply saddened when we learned of Garner's death. Over the past couple years, Garner had become a personal friend and someone whom I admired greatly. I speak for the entire Kansas delegation in Congress when I say our thoughts and prayers are with Garner's wife, Martha Jane, and their three children, Kay, David and Linda.

Born on July 6, 1912, in Towanda, Kansas, Garner's family later moved to Wichita in 1925, where he attended public schools and graduated from East High School.

Garner stayed in Wichita to receive his undergraduate degree from the University of Wichita, now Wichita State University, in 1934. Today his Congressional papers, amounting to over 180,000 items, are kept at the Wichita State Ablah Library.

In 1940, Garner graduated from Washburn Law School in Topeka, Kansas. Garner put himself through both undergraduate and law school by working odd jobs, including serving as a doorman.

In 1941 Garner married his wife of now 56 years, the former Martha Jane

Currier. However, before Martha and Garner had a chance to begin raising a family, World War II pulled Garner away from home for 3 years. He enlisted in the Navy, but after only 10 months he received a commission as Lieutenant, leaving the Navy after 3 years as an officer. During his tour in the Navy, Garner commanded a boat group in the Pacific by the end of the war.

Not long after the war ended, Garner made his first attempt at elected office. His wife Martha Jane recently recounted the story in the Wichita Eagle of how Garner first got into politics. She noted that "he figured he didn't have anything to lose," so in 1946, Garner ran for the Kansas House of Representatives. She continued, "When we went to bed that election night, we didn't know anything about elections. We woke up the next morning to find out he had won by 222 votes."

So began the long and distinguished career of a great Kansas politician. After serving only 2 terms in the Kansas House, Garner set his sights higher and was elected to the Kansas State Senate, where he served two terms.

During his 12 years of service in the Kansas legislature, Garner championed many worthwhile causes, including education for handicapped and retarded children, getting and keeping reckless drivers off the highways, creating the State Park Authority, important flood control legislation, and setting up the 4-H livestock show.

In 1960, Garner left State politics to run for Congress. Winning what was characterized as a very spirited race, Garner became the new representative of the 4th Congressional District. At that time the district included Sedgwick and 14 other counties and was considered to be heavily democratic.

Garner went on to win 8 consecutive races before losing in a narrow defeat, 3,200 votes, in 1976, to former Congressman and now Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

During his 16 years in Congress, Garner became an influential voice on significant issues of the day, including health and education benefits for our Nation's veterans, and landmark civil rights legislation. Garner served on the committee that drafted the the Civil Rights Act of 1964. His family is very proud of the fact that they have one of the pens LBJ used to sign the historic legislation into law.

Elected in the same class as fellow Kansan Bob Dole, Garner quickly became a close friend and political confidant of Senator Dole. Upon learning of Garner's death, Senator Dole stated that "Garner was one of my closest political friends when we served together in Congress. I, like many others, learned a lot from Garner, who was known as a quiet and effective legislator, and someone who kept his word. He was an exemplary husband and father."

While Garner worked on various issues of national concern during his

time, Garner spent a lot of his time taking care of the direct needs and concerns of his constituents back in Kansas. As a senior member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, Garner was in a unique position to protect the vital interests of both the 4th Congressional District and the State of Kansas.

When Garner left Congress in 1977, he was ranking member of the Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee and the third ranking Republican on the full committee. In that important capacity, Garner was able to make sure Kansas was never overlooked during the Federal budget process.

On a more personal level, I want to express my heartfelt thanks again to Garner for his advice and counsel upon my appointment to the Appropriations Committee after my reelection last year. Before my appointment last year, 20 years had passed since a Kansan had served on the important committee in either the House or Senate. Seeking to understand the first thing about the Appropriations Committee and how it operated, I was fortunate to be able to receive the sage counsel of Garner on the ins and outs of this committee.

After leaving Congress in 1977, Garner returned home to Wichita, Kansas, where he resumed the practice of law and spent the rest of his life alongside his lovely and dedicated wife, Martha Jane. Today, it is only appropriate that we remember and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Garner E. Shriver.

Garner Shriver will be missed, not only by his family, but by me and a lot of other Kansans, Kansans who considered him a friend, an American hero, who lived his life with courage, character and integrity.

So long, Garner. May God bless your soul and your family.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the record a copy of a letter to Mrs. Martha Jane Shriver signed by the entire Kansas delegation.

U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, March 2, 1998.

Mrs. MARTHA JANE SHRIVER,
Wichita, Kansas.

DEAR MRS. SHRIVER: We were deeply saddened when we learned of Garner's death yesterday morning. We want you and your three children, Kay, David and Linda to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. We wish we could be with you this Wednesday for Garner's funeral. However, Congress will be in session that day. Representative Tiahrt has reserved time on the floor of the House of Representatives for this Tuesday, March 3, to allow us the opportunity to commemorate the distinguished life of Garner.

During the nearly 30 years of elected public office the name of Garner Shriver became synonymous with Wichita and south-central Kansas. Indeed, Monday's headline in the Wichita Eagle obituary for Garner summed it up well: Garner Shriver was a political giant. While most of us were too young to remember back 50 years ago when Garner began his political career, everyone can be proud of the many accomplishments he achieved during the 12 years he served in the Kansas Legislature and the 16 years he served in the United States Congress.