

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, I was in Connecticut participating in my district's nominating convention and, therefore, missed six recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously, having missed only a handful of votes in my nearly 13 years in Congress.

I would like to say for the record that had I been present I would have voted no on recorded vote number 373, yes on recorded vote number 374, yes on recorded vote number 375, yes on recorded vote number 376, yes on recorded vote number 377, and no on recorded vote number 378.

VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS—
"ELDERLY HOUSING"**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today against the bill because it does not do enough for the housing needs of the Elderly and Disabled. We must increase monies for programs to specifically assist these populations. There comes a point in time when everyone needs help and now is the time to help our Elderly and Disabled.

Dependence, vulnerability, and loneliness has become a lifestyle of the Elderly and Disabled who have no one to turn to.

The Elderly and Disabled of America are pleading to this Congress for assistance. As elected officials, it is our obligation to answer those cries and create solutions for those that are unable to fight for themselves.

This Appropriations bill falls short of meeting the housing needs of these groups by \$78 million.

In fact, 37 percent of Elderly and Disabled housing lack basic necessities. Specifically, hand rails and grab bars in bathrooms that enable safe independent movement have not been installed in many of their apartments.

We need more money for construction and rehabilitation services for the elderly under Section 202, and more money for these same services for the disabled under Section 811.

In addition, the proposed appropriations for Community Development Block Grant programs are \$295 million less than current funding and 8 percent less than requested by the Administration.

If this bill passes, New York would receive \$30 million less in CDBG monies, and \$6 million less than what was allocated in FY 2000. New York City needs CDBG money to revitalize our communities. And, the reduction of CDBG monies will reduce the number of households assisted by 11,425; and the number of jobs created by 10,340.

This bill doesn't provide a single penny for the program "America's Private Investment Companies." We need this program to stimulate economic growth and development in impoverished inner city and rural areas. APIC is essential to the development of economic em-

powerment in our districts. This program would lay the foundation to do this.

How can we eliminate poverty and increase the standard of living in our districts if we cut funding from the same programs we look to for solutions to our problems?

I cannot support a bill that will increase the plight of the Elderly and Disabled who require our help the most.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STUYVESANT FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the golden anniversary of the Stuyvesant Fire Company No. 1, located in Stuyvesant, NY. For 50 years, the members of this great company have selflessly dedicated their lives to helping their neighbors and friends, often putting their own safety on the line to do so. It is with great pride that I share a bit of their history with you and my fellow colleagues today.

July 18, 1950, marked the beginning of the Stuyvesant Fire Company No. 1. The first company meeting, held at the Stuyvesant Hotel, was attended by 38 members. At this meeting it was decided that dues of \$0.25 would be assessed to the charter members. The ensuing months were dedicated to establishing by-laws and a constitution for this promising new company. Fundraisers were held, earning the company the funds that were needed to build the house that would proudly bear the name of the company. In 1952, the Stuyvesant Fire Company No. 1 house was erected. The first official meeting was held within its walls on March 11 of the same year.

Fundraising has been a major theme of the firehouse, empowering the members of the community to take an active role in the betterment of this vital service. The diligent fundraising efforts of the company through events such as roast beef dinners and raffles, have allowed the company to make continuous improvements, thus improving its service to the citizens of the community. In fact, as a result of these efforts, in 1974 the firehouse was able to build a bay for a new fire truck at no cost to taxpayers.

In 1982, the fire company endorsed George Treitler as a director of the Columbia County's Firemen's Association and the next year he was elected as a director, which subsequently brought the 67th annual Columbia County Firemen's Association Convention to Stuyvesant in 1992. This honor was the culmination of years of hard work. Not only was the 67th Convention a great success, it set the precedent by which future conventions would be judged. In addition, the funds generated by the convention enabled the fire company to complete many projects and purchase needed equipment in subsequent years.

The Stuyvesant Fire Company No. 1 continued its tradition of excellence in 1996 and 1997 by winning the coveted Edward Rowe Trophy for best overall appearing fire company in the county. Winning this prestigious award in two consecutive years placed the company in an elite group of county fire companies with

only two other companies being able to boast such a claim.

Mr. Speaker, the Stuyvesant Fire Company No. 1 has achieved epic levels of success. They stand as proof that with hard work and dedication, great things can happen. I would like to thank them for their commitment to excellence and wish them many more years of prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIONS CLUB OF WEBSTER GROVES, MISSOURI

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to the Lions Club of Webster Groves, Missouri, celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. This excellent service organization, from its beginnings, has had at its heart a commitment to the people and the community of Webster Groves. In 1933, the Webster Lions "established a nutrition project in the schools and helped to form better health measures in the home." The City's Health Commissioner at the time viewed the project as being "of unlimited value to the community and will be felt for many years to come." Christmas parties for children and care of orphans, the provision of tennis courts for public use, baseball fields, and support of an "Old Folks Home" in a neighboring community are some of the projects they have supported over the years.

As federal resources and support were reduced in Webster Groves in the mid-1930s, the Webster Lions increased their participation with the local chapter of the American Red Cross to provide for the welfare needs of the community. Expenditures during 1935 in today's dollars exceeded \$60,000 for community welfare alone. Their work with the American Red Cross during the worst days of the Great Depression was just a small portion of the good work in which they were involved. Their involvement and concern for their community continues to this very day, with sons and grandsons of the original members often taking their places in the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Webster Groves Lions Club on its 75th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker—Yesterday morning I was unavoidably detained and unfortunately missed two votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

H. Con. Res. 253, Sense of Congress Objecting to Any Effort To Expel The Holy See From The UN As A State Participant By Removing Its Status As A Permanent Observer—Yea.

H.R. 4442, National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act—Aye.