

U.S. Congress // Congressional Record.

UNITED STATES



OF AMERICA

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 93^d CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

VOLUME 120—PART 8

APRIL 4, 1974 TO APRIL 11, 1974

(PAGES 9705 TO 11148)

Aaron, one of eight children, spent his childhood in Mobile, developing a love for baseball that has evolved into fame and fortune.

"He was always crazy about playing baseball, but I'd never thought about him becoming a player until the Brooklyn Dodgers came to Mobile for an exhibition game when Henry was about 11," recalls his father, Herbert, a retired boat dock worker.

"I took him to see the game and he told me that night at the ball park, 'I'm going to be in the big leagues myself Daddy before Jackie Robinson is through playing.'"

Robinson who broke the color barrier in major league baseball, was Aaron's boyhood idol, much as Aaron has become the idol of millions of young blacks today.

"I saw Babe Ruth play myself when I was a kid in Mobile," the elder Aaron said, "but until a couple of years ago I never dreamed I'd have a son who might break Ruth's record."

Hammerin' Hank says he doesn't recall when he first heard of Ruth, the legendary figure with flamboyant life style, totally unlike that of the quiet 40-year-old Atlanta Braves' superstar.

"I know I never remember hearing the name Babe Ruth as a youngster," Aaron recalled.

"He used to hit pop tops with a mop handle for hours," said Henry's father. "You know the other kids would do the pitching. Henry always wanted to keep the bat. I remember he got in trouble once. In fact, he got a good whipping for cutting his mother's new mop."

Many of Aaron's pop top games took place outside Mitchell Field in Mobile, where he actually launched his career as a teenager with the Mobile Black Bears, a semi-pro outfit.

"We used to soak old rags in kerosene and use them for lights when we played at night," Aaron said. "I started out hitting cross-handed with a broom handle. If I regret anything in baseball, it's that I didn't step across the plate and bat left-handed. It would have been easier, and I would have been a step closer to first base."

Aaron's father played a little amateur baseball and managed the neighborhood team that eventually became the Black Bears.

It was natural that the Aaron sons would play the game, but only two, Hank and Tommie, chose it as a career. Tommie, a younger brother, spent several seasons with the Braves and was the first major leaguer to hit a home run in Atlanta Stadium. It came in an exhibition game. He now manages Atlanta's Class AA farm team at Savannah.

Herbert, an older brother, played baseball before entering military service but didn't continue later. Another younger brother, James, played in high school, a fifth Aaron son died of pneumonia at an early age.

Hank also has three sisters, Sarah Jones, Gloria Robinson and Alfredia Scott.

Hank, not an ideal pupil, attended Mobile's Central High School through his junior year when he desired to begin a baseball career. However, his parents insisted he first get a high school diploma and Hammerin' Hank graduated from the Josephine Allen Institute in 1951.

There have been reports that he was a star halfback in high school, but that actually was Tommie, an outstanding prospect who turned down a football scholarship to attend college in Florida.

Aaron often played hockey from Central, strolling into a pool room where he listened to major league games.

"I went to the pool room because that's the only place they had a radio," he said. "And, I couldn't very well go home if I was playing hockey."

His own school problems undoubtedly explain the intense interest he has in educa-

tion as an adult. A scholarship fund has been established in his name to provide money for the needy who otherwise might be forced to drop out of high school.

Aaron began playing for the Black Bears during his junior year in high school. In the final game, he was impressive in a battle against the Indianapolis Clowns, who offered him a contract the following spring for \$200 a month.

Several years before that, Aaron had drifted onto the field during a Brooklyn Dodger tryout camp at Mobile. Dodger personnel took one look at the skinny youngster and told him to go back home.

Ed Scott, a scout, signed Aaron to a contract with the Clowns on Nov. 20, 1951. The slugger's mother had sent him on his way with a battered suitcase, two dollars in his pocket and two sandwiches to eat along the way.

Aaron had hits in his first two appearances with the Clowns and soon drew the attention of Braves' scout Dewey Griggs, who eventually signed Hank for \$350 a month plus a \$10,000 payoff to Clowns' owner Syd Pollack.

The Braves almost lost him to the then New York Giants. Pollack, a friend of Braves farm director John Mullen, advised the club official early in the 1952 season he had a 17-year-old shortstop hitting over 400. Mullen and Pollack reached a gentlemen's agreement on the purchase of Aaron later in the season.

However, the Braves almost let him slip away as time elapsed. The Giants made an offer one day and Mullen happened to telephone Pollack the same day. When he learned of the Giant offer, Mullen reminded Pollack of the earlier agreement and bettered the New York deal.

Aaron was assigned to Eau Claire, Wis., in June, 1952. He played in 87 games that year, hit .336 and was voted the Northern League's outstanding rookie.

The Braves dispatched Billy Southworth to Eau Claire to scout Aaron and the former big league manager filed a glowing report—"for a baby face kid of 18 years, his playing ability is outstanding."

Aaron moved up to the Class A South Atlantic League in 1953, playing for the Jacksonville Tars where he hit .362 and belted 22 home runs.

He led the team to the league title and was named its most valuable player.

He credits to this day his Jacksonville manager, Ben Geraghty, with having one of the greatest influences on his baseball career. He played second base with the Tars and was converted to the outfield the following off-season.

Aaron reported to the Braves' training camp the next spring, ready to play for the club's Class AA team in Atlanta. But a fractured ankle to Bobby Thomson changed those plans and launched the Hammer on a two-decade era of consistency in the majors.

LADIES' HOME JOURNAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, last evening seven distinguished Americans—women recognized as leading figures in their fields—were honored as recipients of the second annual Ladies Home Journal Women of the Year Awards.

Selected by a process representing both popular and specialized opinion, these seven women serve as an inspiration to men and women everywhere for their accomplishments and dedication to excellence in their respective fields. They have left a mark for the better on their times and the world.

I ask unanimous consent that the cita-

tions presented to these women be printed in the RECORD.

Miss Katherine Hepburn, who was unable to attend the ceremony, received a symbolic sunburst emblem for her distinguished accomplishments in the creative arts.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CITATIONS FOR THE WOMEN OF THE YEAR 1974 AWARD

Martha W. Griffiths—public affairs: For Congressional leadership in the struggle for equal rights for women and comprehensive health-care for all.

Dixie Lee Ray—science and research: For dedication as scientist, communicator, administrator in the application of nuclear energy and general science in serving human needs.

Barbara McDonald—community service: For sensitivity to the unique problems of the Rosebud Sioux Indians in developing a community run bilingual, bicultural early childhood education program.

Dorothy I. Height—human rights: For a lifetime of inspiring leadership in developing innovative, meaningful approaches to fight racial and human injustice.

Barbara Walters—communications: For achievements in reporting and broadcast journalism and for concerned investigation of public issues explored on national television.

Billy Jean King—sports: For accomplishments as an outstanding tennis player and effective crusader for equal opportunities for women in sports.

Patricia Roberts Harris—business and professions: For her professional work as a lawyer in dealing with human and civil rights and for pioneering in business at the top board level.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, I am pleased to take this occasion to call attention to the commemoration of the Week of the Young Child last week, March 31 through April 6. Activities and observances were planned by concerned groups, under the leadership of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, to focus public attention and awareness on the rights and needs of the young.

My Subcommittee on Children and Youth has begun a series of hearings on American families and the pressures they face. There is nothing more important to a child than a healthy family, and these hearings have stressed the need for a national commitment to make services available, on a voluntary basis, that will help families enrich and protect the lives of their children.

As author of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, which was signed into law this year, and the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Act passed by the Senate, I am gratified that Congress has shown its concern for the well-being of children. However, the need for quality care and education of our Nation's young is still great, a need which I emphasize as Senate sponsor of the Child Development Act passed by Congress in 1971, and then vetoed by the President.

Mr. President, in recognition of a shared belief that the youth of this Nation constitute its most precious resource,

we do well to heed the initiative taken by the National Association for the Education of Young Children in dedicating a week to the young child.

The principles that guide us as a nation in our efforts to provide our children with the best opportunities to grow and prosper have been well delineated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children:

The birthright of every child born in this nation entitles him: to respect for himself—"as and for what he is"—and wherever he may be; to love, security and encouragement from a stable home; to health and nutritional services which insure his full development; to protection from physical dangers and moral hazards by a community which plans for its children's needs; to places to live and play which are safe and wholesome; to schools and similar group programs which stimulate and facilitate his fullest intellectual development, and to concern, stimulation and guidance for all adults in his life—his parents, his teachers and others competent, sensitive and supporting in their respective roles.

LAWRENCE CARDINAL SHEHAN

Mr. MATHIAS. Mr. President, the archbishop of Baltimore occupies a historic chair and is always an important man for that fact alone. It is fortunate, however, that over the years since John Carroll became the first bishop of Baltimore, priests who have been called upon to lead that diocese have been far more than the shepherds of their own flocks. They have been, in addition, leaders in the entire community and giants among men.

This has been particularly true of Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, whose resignation as archbishop of Baltimore has just been accepted by Pope Paul VI. Cardinal Shehan was called to Baltimore on the eve of a turbulent period. There have been challenges to the church, to government, and to virtually every established institution. The cardinal has met these challenges. Where change was obviously in order he had advocated and encouraged it. Where steadfast loyalty was required he has stood with the staunchest. Where humanity and compassion have been called for he has personified the Christian ethic of love and brotherhood. He has been an example of both moral courage among multitudes and of physical courage of the most lonely kind.

Maryland will not say goodbye to Cardinal Shehan for he will always be with us. As he lays down his bishop's staff, however, it is appropriate to assess his contribution, and that assessment is a large one. I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the cardinal's message to the people of his archdiocese, which includes his welcome to the archbishop-elect, the Most Reverend William Donald Borders, presently bishop of Orlando, Fla.

There being no objection, the message was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CARDINAL'S MESSAGE TO PRIESTS, PEOPLE

DEARLY BELOVED IN CHRIST: With Our Holy Father's acceptance of my resignation as Archbishop of Baltimore, and with the appointment of my successor, I wish to take

this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to you, the priests and people of God in this archdiocese, for your constant and unflinching cooperation and effective help during all of the period since I became the Ordinary of this metropolitan see.

As you are aware, to succeed me as Archbishop, the Holy See has appointed Most Reverend William Donald Borders, who up to now has been Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando, Florida, and is now Archbishop-elect of Baltimore.

Personally, I am greatly pleased with the choice of Archbishop-elect Borders. It should be the source of great encouragement and promise to both priests and people that his characteristics of mind and heart correspond so closely to the profile of those qualities which the priests of the archdiocese set forth as those desirable in the new Archbishop in view of the special conditions and problems, the strengths and weaknesses, of this metropolitan see.

Archbishop-elect Borders has, from the beginning of his priesthood, shown himself to be a real pastor to his flock. He is a man of deep faith and wide-ranging pastoral experience; this makes him admirably suited to be our leader and shepherd. I ask you to give him a warm and enthusiastic welcome, and I ask you to join me in thanking the Holy Father and the Apostolic Delegate for the favor of his appointment.

Until Archbishop-elect Borders is formally installed, it is the will of the Holy See that I shall remain as Apostolic Administrator, with relatively the same powers as I have exercised as Archbishop.

If you give to the new Archbishop cooperation and loyalty similar to that you have given to me, I know that his years as Archbishop will be both happy and most fruitful.

I believe that both priests and people of this archdiocese know that I have always held them in deep affection. I assure you that this affection will always remain. I seek continued remembrance in your prayers.

With every good wish and a blessing, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,

LAWRENCE CARDINAL SHEHAN,
Apostolic Administrator.

VETERANS INSURANCE

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, as a consistent supporter of benefits for our veterans, I was pleased to be able to cast my vote yesterday in support of Senate passage of S. 1835, the Veterans Insurance Act of 1974.

Extending full-time coverage under servicemen's group life insurance to all members of the Ready Reserves, National Guard, and certain members of the Retired Reserves is an important step in assisting these dedicated public servants. This provision will certainly act as an incentive to enlist and remain in the National Guard and Reserve Forces which have recently dropped to 90 percent of their authorized strength.

Automatic conversion of SGLI coverage upon its expiration to a 5-year non-renewable veterans' group life insurance policy will provide low cost insurance protection during the difficult readjustment period for servicemen discharged in recent years. The financial situation of returning veterans often prohibits their purchase of adequate insurance coverage.

The increase in maximum life insurance coverage by 33 percent, to \$20,000, is justified by the general economic environment and the national average in-

surance coverage. The raised ceiling on protection will not affect the premium rate that veterans must pay.

The provision in this bill to require the return of excess premiums paid by Korean conflict veterans for veterans' special term insurance, in the form of dividends to the insured, will correct a long-standing inequity.

Mr. President, I urge the House to take early, favorable action on the Veterans' Insurance Act of 1974 so that this highly important program can be implemented without delay.

ANNOUNCE APPOINTMENT OF VA MEDICAL CHIEF

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. President, Donald E. Johnson, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, announced today the appointment of Dr. John D. Chase to become the Veterans' Administration's eighth Chief Medical Director.

Mr. President, I commend Administrator Johnson for his selection of such a distinguished physician and career employee of the Veterans' Administration to such an important position.

To assist Dr. Chase in the management of the agency's 171 veterans hospitals and 206 outpatient clinics, the Administrator has selected Dr. Laurance V. Foye to become the Department of Medicine and Surgery's Deputy Chief Medical Director.

For the past few weeks, the American people have been getting distress signals from Members of this body and our counterparts at the opposite wing of the Capitol Building that the VA hospital system is in deep trouble.

Let me assure my colleagues and the American people that nothing could be further from the truth.

The delivery of health care to our Nation's veterans remains second to none, and I am confident VA medicine will continue to provide excellent service under the capable leadership of Dr. Chase and Dr. Laurance Foye.

The new Chief Medical Director has been Chief of the Medical Service and a senior physician at the Tacoma, Wash., VA Hospital since April 1973.

For nearly 5 years prior to his transfer to Tacoma he held two of the highest positions in VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C.

In announcing his appointment of Dr. Chase as the VA Assistant Chief Medical Director for Professional Services in May 1968, Dr. H. Martin Engle, then Chief Medical Director, cited Dr. Chase's "extraordinarily balanced background of clinical experience, academic interest and his demonstrated skills in administration."

Under Dr. Musser in February 1971, Dr. Chase was promoted to Associate Deputy Chief Medical Director, the third ranking position in the medical department, to share with Dr. Musser and Dr. Wells responsibility for administering the Nation's largest organization for health care delivery.

Since joining VA in July 1952, Dr. Chase has been on VA hospital staffs in Vancouver, Wash., Portland, Ore., and Long Beach, Calif., and served as Chief