

UNITED STATES



OF AMERICA

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 90th CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

VOLUME 113—PART 24

NOVEMBER 13, 1967, TO NOVEMBER 21, 1967

(PAGES 32117 TO 33596)

relationship with Panama. Without including numerous minor items, or any part of the \$40 million paid to the bankrupt French company that had failed in its efforts to construct the Panama Canal, or any part of the reconciliation payment of \$25 million to Colombia, which served the interests of Panama as well as those of the United States, the total cost borne by the United States government and its taxpayers in connection with this Panamanian relationship during the sixty years following 1903 has been no less than \$200 million—probably several millions more.

Direct aid extended by the United States government to Panama during fiscal years running from July 1, 1945, through June 30, 1963, for example, amounted to approximately \$160 million, with grants far exceeding cheap loans (most of which are still unpaid). Indirect assistance channeled through various international organizations, hemispheric and global, totaled during the same period of time at least \$20 million, divided almost equally between gifts and loans. And carefully note that this aggregate of \$180 million does not include the wages and salaries paid to Panama's workers within the Zone—always much higher, particularly so in recent years, than wages and salaries prevailing in Panama; nor does it include the fringe benefits conferred upon these alien employees under the civil service and retirement system of the United States, nor the profits and revenues derived by Panamanians and the government of Panama from the Canal and the Canal Zone, usually at extra cost to both United States agencies and its citizen-employees in this important enterprise. Wages and fringe benefits paid to Panamanians employed in the zone and in operations of the Canal during calendar years 1960, 1961, and 1962 averaged around \$33 million annually; net profits of citizens of Panama from trade with the agencies of the Zone probably averaged no less than \$6 million annually during the same three years.

If poverty is still prevalent in Panama, the United States certainly is not responsible for this misfortune. What the United States can justly, if not proudly, claim responsibility for is the very existence of Panama as an independent nation; and the United States can also claim a large measure of credit for such prosperity as this new nation has attained since independence. The United States government and its agencies operating in the Zone have probably been tactless at times: in adopting a system of segregation of workers at pay windows; in providing too elaborate fringe benefits for its citizen-employees and awarding them large hardship allowances besides; in failing to caution them against clubbing together to the exclusion of Panamanians and against flaunting their affluence inside and outside the Zone. But these are for the most part either minor or unintended offenses that—with the exception of rather extravagant fringe benefits and hardship differentials—have been discontinued or decidedly modified.

Let the people and politicians and bureaucrats of Panama earnestly seek to discover the real causes of their country's misfortunes and strive to adopt appropriate remedies instead of denouncing and abusing their generous neighbor. "Nationalization" of the Canal and the Canal Zone by Panama would not contribute to the welfare of its people in any circumstances likely to prevail in the near future. On the contrary, it would mean a serious loss to Panama as well as to the United States and most of the world.

THE WAR ON POVERTY

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, on November 14, the Minneapolis Tribune reprinted on its editorial page an open

letter to Members of the U.S. Congress, from the Red Lake Indian Tribal Council. The letter is of great importance to Congress, for it is a most profound plea for the continued support of the war on poverty.

In the last 3 years, the Red Lake Reservation has made great strides in overcoming poverty and making life more meaningful for its over 3,000 residents. Some 25 new homes have already been constructed and another 40 are under construction. It is particularly important to note that the Red Lake Reservation was the first place in the country that a revolutionary type of program was initiated to provide decent housing. Known as the homebuilding training program, it combined the efforts of the Department of Labor, the Office of Economic Opportunity, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program, however, can rightly be said to have started with the will and determination of the people of Red Lake. Spurred on by the programs that have been developed by Congress, the Red Lake Reservation has looked at its problems—the same ones faced by our large cities—unemployment, poor housing, health needs, education—and it has looked for new ways to solve these problems.

By the homebuilding training program, the Indians themselves participate in the actual construction of the homes, and at the same time receive instruction in homebuilding skills. After they finish the program, which takes approximately 9 months, the homes are completed, and at the same time, the Indians have acquired the skills necessary to find permanent employment. Thus we have made some dent in alleviating some of the problems, but I must stress that it has only been a small dent and much still remains to be done.

This is a glowing endorsement of the poverty program and the encouragement it can give to people. It also shows how encouragement can bring about self-help. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the editorial, entitled "People Are Coming to Walk Taller," be printed in the RECORD.

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

PEOPLE ARE COMING TO WALK TALLER

"To Members of the U.S. Congress:

"When the United States Congress saw fit to enact antipoverty legislation, Red Lake Reservation recognized its first great opportunity to eliminate poverty. We designed a plan to provide permanent employment opportunities, training people to fill these jobs, and provide the community with the attitudes and outlook necessary to make these projects succeed.

"Thanks to the willingness of Congress to pass laws in the areas of economic opportunity, housing, education, economic development, and manpower training, we are on our way to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty. We are just in the second year of our program, and are already active in the fields of economic development, communications, education, manpower development, adult education, housing, and community organization. We have built 25 homes and have 40 more under construction, and in the process are training local people who are unemployed to do useful work for which there is a labor market. Adults are coming

forward to take night classes and obtain high school diplomas.

"People of all ages are coming to walk taller, to take pride, and to give vent to their ambitions for a better life now that you have made it possible to reach out and achieve. If you make it possible for us to continue our efforts, we are confident of success; if you see fit to end these programs or curtail them, we will be worse off than we were before, and the investment of the past two years will have been wasted. There would be a loss in the government investment, and a loss in human hopes raised only to be dashed again . . .

"Continuation of antipoverty legislation is imperative if we are to come anywhere close to the original intent of the legislation.

"Resolved, the Red Lake Tribal Council hereby expresses its gratitude and appreciation of the opportunities you have furnished us under the antipoverty legislation.

"Resolved further, the legislators are hereby respectfully requested to continue appropriating funds to assure perpetual opportunities which you have already provided under the antipoverty legislation.

"THE RED LAKE INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL."

We agree.

AWARD TO SENATOR LISTER HILL

Mr. JAVITS. Mr. President, recently, the American Association for Cancer Research honored the senior Senator from Alabama [Mr. HILL] as the recipient of a certificate of award from this organization. Senator HILL, who has served on the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare for over 20 years, was first appointed to the committee in January of 1947, and has been its able chairman since 1955. The record of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee during these two decades is ample evidence of his accomplishments.

During my tenure as a member of Senator HILL's committee, I have worked closely with this distinguished Senator and have always had the deepest respect and admiration for his sense of fairness, good judgment, and dedication.

The award praises Senator HILL and his efforts on behalf of American medicine and, especially, the American people. I quote from the citation:

His leadership in the Senate has helped to create a revolution in the support of medical research and has accelerated the pace of progress in cancer research. Legislation he has fostered has brought the modern hospital and the benefits of medical research increasingly within the reach of the aged, the indigent, and those in rural communities. His contributions to health extend beyond the confines of the United States, ramifying into every corner of the world . . . The American Association for Cancer Research is proud to honor this scholarly historian and statesman of medicine and of medical science by bestowing, with deep respect, this Certificate of Award.

I ask unanimous consent that the full citation be printed in the RECORD and extend my congratulations to Senator HILL on this honor.

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

CITATION TO SENATOR LISTER HILL

Named by his distinguished doctor-father for one of the world's greatest surgeons, Senator Lister Hill has brought new luster