

62930

Ben Johnson
Mingyao Moore
Richard Socarides

3

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS TO THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ON
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI STATEHOOD
WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 13, 1998**

On behalf of the American people, I want to express our heartfelt congratulations to the people of Israel on the 50th birthday of your remarkable nation.

In May 1948, Israel arose from the seeds of the Diaspora and the ashes of the Holocaust. In Washington, some advisors urged President Harry Truman to wait and see before recognizing the new nation. Truman would have none of it. He had a deep understanding of the suffering and the dreams of peoples from Biblical times through modern times. He saw a moral imperative in supporting a Jewish homeland.

In one of my country's proudest chapters, eleven minutes after Israel proclaimed independence, the United States became the first country to recognize your new nation. Truman was a tough leader, but when Israel's chief rabbi came to the White House to express his gratitude, tears streamed down Truman's cheeks.

Over 50 years, Israel has seen blood and tears, but there have also been extraordinary triumphs -- making a once barren desert bloom, building a thriving democracy on hostile terrain, winning battles, and now waging the most important struggle of all: the struggle for a lasting and secure peace. I am proud that America and Israel have been -- and will remain -- the closest of friends and allies. We wish you a joyous celebration -- and a peaceful and prosperous future.

#

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE FOR REP. VIC FAZIO
MAY 4, 1998**

It's my honor to pay tribute to my good friend Vic Fazio as he retires from Congress. Respected on both sides of the aisle, Vic has set the standard in the House of Representatives. He's led the way by building consensus, finding common ground, and standing tough when necessary. Vic not only took pride in his own legislative work, but in the institution of Congress itself. Good laws were passed in Congress because of Vic's energy, keen negotiating skills, and determination to listen to both sides. It's no wonder he's referred to as the House's Mr. Goodwrench -- he's the kind of guy that gets things done, and gets things done the right way.

Vic spent 20 years in Washington as a powerful and influential lawmaker, yet he never forgot the people of his community. He remained fiercely dedicated to the 3rd district in California, effectively representing all corners of the sprawling Central Valley. In a time of political show horses, Vic was a workhorse for Northern California. He fought to bolster the economic prosperity of this developing area, while restoring the precious ecology of the Sacramento-San Joaquin [Wah-KEEN] Delta. Year after year, day in and day out, Vic worked to provide better schools, improve health care, and make our neighborhoods safer. He helped restore the bond of trust between the people and their government.

I imagine the people of California will soon wonder how one member of Congress could have accomplished so much. You only have to look at Vic's contagious smile to know that his success begins with the way he connects so easily with others. When I was new to Washington he reached out to me and we forged a lasting partnership. I have depended on his guidance. Vic, I know that your decision is the right one, but I'm sure sad to see you leave Capitol Hill.

Hillary and I wish you, Judy, and the whole Fazio family the best of luck in the years to come.

###

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE TO CHARLIE GIBSON
MAY 1, 1998**

Charlie, for 11 years you've sacrificed your morning's sleep to give the rest of America a good start to its day. By my calculation, that's 2,640 "Good Mornings!" Along with millions of people across the country, Hillary and I are sad to see you go. We wish you all the best as you begin this exciting new stage of your life.

#

Draft 04/10/98 5:00pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED 75th BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO SUMNER REDSTONE
April 13, 1998

I want to offer a special birthday greeting to Sumner Redstone. Sumner, even for a man of your many accomplishments, reaching your 75th year is a special milestone, and it calls for a special celebration. Hillary and I wish we could join you and Phyllis for this memorable occasion. We are thinking of you and wishing you continued health and happiness. Have a great 75th birthday.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE TO THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
APRIL 20, 1998

Good Evening. Thank you for the opportunity to join the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights as you honor three outstanding Americans with the Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award. Tonight we celebrate the spirit of America's "happy warrior" -- Hubert H. Humphrey, a man who moved this country forward "into the bright sunshine of human rights."

Hubert H. Humphrey wasn't the only voice challenging our nation to form a more perfect union. Forty-eight years ago, A. Phillip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Arnold Aronson [AIR-on-son] formed the Leadership Conference and began helping hundreds of disparate groups keep their eyes on the prize and speak with one booming voice. In the words of the NAACP's great advocate Clarence Mitchell, "there would be no civil rights movement without the Leadership Conference." All three pioneers of the Conference earned this country's highest honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This past January, it was my great privilege to award the medal to Arnold Aronson, just weeks before his passing.

We have made great progress in this country, but we know that there is much to be done. With the help of coalitions like yours, I've launched this national initiative on race to recognize our common interests and to bridge the opportunity gaps that are keeping us from becoming one America. With shared values, meaningful opportunities, honest communication, and citizen service, we can unite a diverse people in freedom and mutual respect.

Tonight, a special congratulations to the Hubert H. Humphrey Award Recipients. Bob Lanier, thank you for your 50 years of dedication to advancing civil rights. From your days as a young law student, teaching those African Americans denied admission to college, to your years of distinguished service as mayor of Houston, you have led us all by reaching out, opening doors, and blocking efforts to reverse the progress we have made. Debbie Allen and Steven Spielberg, thank you for bringing to life the powerful story of the Amistad -- a narrative of hope and redemption from one of the darkest chapters of our history. As I was so powerfully reminded on my trip to Africa, only by understanding our past can we can we seize the potential of the present.

I congratulate my good friends Wade Henderson and Dorothy Height, and all of you for your work with the Leadership Conference. Your courage, your persistence, and your continued successes help all Americans live closer and truer to our ideals.

###

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE TO CHARLIE GIBSON
MAY 1, 1998**

Charlie, for 11 years you've sacrificed your morning's sleep to give the rest of America a good start to its day. By my calculation, that's 2,640 "Good Mornings!" Along with millions of people across the country, Hillary and I are sad to see you go. We wish you all the best as you begin this exciting new stage of your life.

#

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE FOR REP. VIC FAZIO
MAY 4, 1998

It's my honor to pay tribute to my good friend Vic Fazio as he retires from Congress. Respected on both sides of the aisle, Vic has set the standard in the House of Representatives. He's led the way by building consensus, finding common ground, and standing tough when necessary. Vic not only took pride in his own legislative work, but in the institution of Congress itself. Good laws were passed in Congress because of Vic's energy, keen negotiating skills, and determination to listen to both sides. It's no wonder he's referred to as the House's Mr. Goodwrench -- he's the kind of guy that gets things done, and gets things done the right way.

Vic spent 20 years in Washington as a powerful and influential lawmaker, yet he never forgot the people of his community. He remained fiercely dedicated to the 3rd district in California, effectively representing all corners of the sprawling Central Valley. In a time of political show horses, Vic was a workhorse for Northern California. He fought to bolster the economic prosperity of this developing area, while restoring the precious ecology of the Sacramento-San Joaquin [Wah-KEEN] Delta. Year after year, day in and day out, Vic worked to provide better schools, improve health care, and make our neighborhoods safer. He helped restore the bond of trust between the people and their government.

I imagine the people of California will soon wonder how one member of Congress could have accomplished so much. You only have to look at Vic's contagious smile to know that his success begins with the way he connects so easily with others. When I was new to Washington he reached out to me and we forged a lasting partnership. I have depended on his guidance. Vic, I know that your decision is the right one, but I'm sure sad to see you leave Capitol Hill.

Hillary and I wish you, Judy, and the whole Fazio family the best of luck in the years to come.

#

Draft 4/10 3:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE TO CHARLIE GIBSON
MAY 1, 1998**

Charlie, for 11 years you've sacrificed your morning's sleep to give the rest of America a good start to its day. By my calculation, that's 2,640 "Good Mornings!" Along with millions of people across the country, Hillary and I are sad to see you go. We wish you all the best as you begin this exciting new stage of your life.

#

Draft 4/10 3:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE TO CHARLIE GIBSON
MAY 1, 1998**

Charlie, for 11 years you've sacrificed your morning's sleep to give the rest of America a good start to its day. By my calculation, that's 2,640 "Good Mornings!" Along with millions of people across the country, Hillary and I are sad to see you go. We wish you all the best as you begin this exciting new stage of your life.

#

Draft 4/10/98 3:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE FOR REP. VIC FAZIO
MAY 4, 1998**

It's my honor to pay tribute to my good friend Vic Fazio as he retires from Congress. Respected on both sides of the aisle, Vic has set the standard in the House of Representatives. He's led the way by building consensus, finding common ground, and standing tough when necessary. Vic not only took pride in his own legislative work but in the institution of Congress itself. Good laws were passed in Congress because of Vic's energy, keen negotiating skills, and determination to listen to both sides. It's no wonder he's referred to as the House's Mr. Goodwrench -- he's the kind of guy that gets things done, and gets things done the right way.

Vic spent 20 years in Washington as a powerful and influential lawmaker, yet he never forgot the people of his community. He remained fiercely dedicated to the 3rd district in California, effectively representing all corners of the sprawling Central Valley. In a time of political show horses, Vic was a workhorse for Northern California. He worked to bolster the economic prosperity of this developing area while restoring the precious ecology of the Sacramento-San Joaquin [Wah-KEEN] Delta. Year after year, day in and day out, Vic worked to provide better schools, improve health care, and make our neighborhoods safer. He helped restore the bond of trust between the people and their government.

I imagine soon, if it hasn't happened already, the people of California will wonder how one member of Congress could have accomplished so much. You only have to look at Vic's contagious smile to know that his success begins with the way he connects so easily with others. When I was new to Washington he reached out to me and we forged a lasting partnership. I have depended on his guidance. Vic, I know that your decision is the right one, but I'm sad to see you leave Capitol Hill.

Hillary and I wish you, Judy, and the whole Fazio family the best of luck in the years to come.

###

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE TO THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
APRIL 20, 1998

Good Evening. Thank you for the opportunity to join the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights as you honor three outstanding Americans with the Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award. Tonight we celebrate the spirit of America's "happy warrior" -- Hubert H. Humphrey, a man who moved this country forward "into the bright sunshine of human rights."

Hubert H. Humphrey wasn't the only voice challenging our nation to form a more perfect union. Forty-eight years ago, A. Phillip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, and Arnold Aronson [AIR-on-son] formed the Leadership Conference and began helping hundreds of disparate groups keep their eyes on the prize and speak with one booming voice. In the words of the NAACP's great advocate Clarence Mitchell, "there would be no civil rights movement without the Leadership Conference." All three pioneers of the Conference earned this country's highest honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This past January, it was my great privilege to award the medal to Arnold Aronson, just weeks before his passing.

We have made great progress in this country, but we know that there is much to be done. With the help of coalitions like yours, I've launched this national initiative on race to recognize our common interests and to bridge the opportunity gaps that are keeping us from becoming one America. With shared values, meaningful opportunities, honest communication, and citizen service, we can unite a diverse people in freedom and mutual respect.

Tonight, a special congratulations to the Hubert H. Humphrey Award Recipients. Bob Lanier, thank you for your 50 years of dedication to advancing civil rights. From your days as a young law student, teaching those African Americans denied admission to college, to your years of distinguished service as mayor of Houston, you have led us all by reaching out, opening doors, and blocking efforts to reverse the progress we have made. Debbie Allen and Steven Spielberg, thank you for bringing to life the powerful story of the Amistad -- a narrative of hope and redemption from one of the darkest chapters of our history. As I was so powerfully reminded on my trip to Africa, only by understanding our past can we can we seize the potential of the present.

I congratulate my good friends Wade Henderson and Dorothy Height, and all of you for your work with the Leadership Conference. Your courage, your persistence, and your continued successes help all Americans live closer and truer to our ideals.

###

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEO MESSAGE FOR REP. VIC FAZIO
MAY 4, 1998

It's my honor to pay tribute to my good friend Vic Fazio as he retires from Congress. Respected on both sides of the aisle, Vic has set the standard in the House of Representatives. He's led the way by building consensus, finding common ground, and standing tough when necessary. Vic not only took pride in his own legislative work but in the institution of Congress itself. Good laws were passed in Congress because of Vic's energy, keen negotiating skills and determination to listen to both sides. It's no wonder he's referred to as the House's Mr. Goodwrench -- he's the kind of guy that gets things done, and gets things done the right way.

Vic spent 20 years in Washington as a powerful and influential lawmaker, yet he never forgot the people of his community. He remained fiercely dedicated to the 3rd district in California, effectively representing the polar ends of the sprawling Central Valley. In a time of political show horses, Vic was a workhorse for Northern California. He worked to bolster the economic prosperity of this developing area while restoring the precious ecology of the Sacramento-San Joaquin [Wah-KEEN] Delta. Year after year, day in and day out, Vic worked to provide better schools, improve health care, and make our neighborhoods safer. He helped restore the bond of trust between the people and their government.

I imagine soon, if it hasn't happened already, the people of California will wonder how one member of Congress could have accomplished so much. One must simply look at Vic's contagious smile to know that his success is rooted in the way he connects so easily with others. When I was new to Washington, he reached out to me and a good partnership was forged. I've depended on his guidance and I'm sad to see him leave Capitol Hill.

Vic, I admire your dedication to your family and know that your decision is the right one. Hillary and I wish you, Judy and the whole Fazio family the best of luck in the years to come.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Sacramento, California)

For Immediate Release

November 15, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Sacramento Capital Club
Sacramento, California

2:15 P.M. PST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Eleni, thank you very much for your remarks and for the hard work that you have done. Thank you, Angelo and Sophia. Congressman Matsui, when he stood up and said that he was speaking on behalf of the Tsakapoulous family, I thought we were taking ethnic diversity a little far there. But you know me; as far as I'm concerned, it should have no limits. So I liked it.

I want Bob Matsui and Vic Fazio for the wonderful work that they do in Congress. I have wished on many days -- privately, so I might as well say publicly -- that a higher percentage of people in both parties were more like Bob Matsui and Vic Fazio. They always try to find common ground and they're always willing to stand tough and fight if necessary. They get a lot done and they're always looking to the future. And I'm very grateful to them.

I'm also glad to be back in Sacramento and back here with your mayor, who has been a good friend of mine and a good leader. And I thank him for that. And Phil Angeles, good luck to you in your endeavor this year. Most people should trust you to handle the money. You've had a lot of experience at it. Thank you.

I'd also like to thank my good friend, Dan Dutko for coming all the way from Washington, D.C. to be part of the Democratic Party's efforts today. And let me thank all of you.

Congress has just gone home and this was a remarkably good year. It's a two-year congressional session; we have a lot to do next year, but we did pass the first balanced budget in a generation. We ratified the Chemical Weapons Treaty, which will help to protect our children

and our grandchildren, and involves a lot of what is at stake in Iraq today.

We made progress on expanding NATO in ways that will give us a chance to have a 21st century where Europe is a source of peace and prosperity, not a cause for war that involves Americans. We passed a wonderful adoption bill that I will sign in the next few days to facilitate adoptions in many ways in America. We passed a huge increase in medical research in all kinds of areas and the best package to help families with diabetes, according to the American Diabetes Association, since the discovery of insulin 70 years ago. So it was a very good year for the American people in the Congress.

What I'd like to talk to you about a little bit today is how that year is a part of what we've been doing for the last five years, and what I hope to be doing for the next three; how it fits in with what we celebrated just a few moments ago when I went out, literally, to the wetlands area today -- to celebrate this joint partnership to try to restore wetlands and to preserve some of your precious environmental heritage, even as you permit the economy to grow and the uses of water to proliferate.

When I started running for President about six years ago, our country was not in very good shape -- California was in terrible shape economically. But times come and go. In every person's life, in every country's life there are times that are better than other times. There will never be a period where we have complete, unbounded, uninterrupted good news. I used to have a set of rules for public life I kept with me, and one of them said you're almost most vulnerable when you think you're invulnerable. Something is always going to happen, it's endemic to the human condition.

But what a free people must always have is a vision of where they're going, a strategy to get there and the concentration and discipline to pursue the strategy through the tough times. That's what I didn't think we had in 1991 and why I ran for President. And my goal as a Democrat was basically to take the mainstream values of our party and our country and marry them to modern ideas and policies that would move the country forward, and that would take us into the 21st century with the American Dream alive for everybody responsible enough to work for it. It would help us to create a country where we were coming together across all the lines that divide us into one America, and would keep us strong enough to continue to lead the world for peace and freedom and prosperity.

As you see from the events of the last week, I think it is clear that at the end of the Cold War not all of the dangers of the world have gone away. And it is very important that the United States be strong enough to do what is necessary to stick up not only for our own interests and our own security, but for the kind of world we are trying to create.

And that's what we have been doing for the last five years. And what I want you to understand that is so often overlooked is that there is a direct connection between your presence at this lunch here today and what we have been doing and what we will be able to do,

because, in the end, the people who make decisions are those that are put there by the American people. They are put there after elections. And if you don't have the capacity to communicate your message to be heard and to answer the charges against you in this world today, you'll be in a lot of trouble.

So every time you hear -- if you've been out here helping us all these years -- every time you hear of a new breakthrough, a new movement forward for the United States, you should feel that you are a part of that. And you should be under no illusion that if there were not people like you around to help us that all these ideas, all these policies and all these people would be around anyway -- it's not so. I've seen elections conducted in an atmosphere of unilateral disarmament and I wasn't very satisfied with the results. It doesn't work very well in politics and it doesn't work very well in other areas of human endeavor. So I'm glad you're here.

What is it that's changed in the last five years? Well, the first thing we had to do was to make up our mind in Washington what the government's job was. What's the President supposed to do every day when he gets up? What's the Congress supposed to do? What is our job? What is the role of government and what must our priorities be?

The old debate seemed to me to be a little bit artificial, where people said, well, the government has to try to do everything when there's a problem, and others would say the government is the problem and should do nothing and we hope everybody will come out all right. Neither one of those was consistent with the way I saw people living in my state and my hometown, or everything I knew about how you build an economy or a society.

So I tried to reformulate what I believe the mission of government is, and I think it is -- and I hope it is -- the philosophy of the Democratic Party on the edge of a new century. We believe the role of government is not to do everything or to sit on the sidelines, but to give people the tools and conditions they need to make the most of their own lives. If you think about it in that way, it tells you what to do and what to stop doing.

Now, that doesn't answer the question -- so what should your economic policy be? We believe that there was a false choice put before the American people -- should we cut taxes and run a huge deficit, or don't cut them and spend a little more money and run a slightly smaller deficit? Our country's debt quadrupled in the 1980s and it was wrong. We said we're going to cut the deficit, we're going to cut spending, but we're going to spend more on education, on technology, on medical research, on the things that are key to our future. We're going to make choices.

The strategy worked. Before the balanced budget kicks in, the economic plan adopted by Democrats only, including the two members of Congress in this room, have reduced the deficit by 92 percent -- 92 percent -- from where it was the day I took office.

What was our crime policy? I was amazed when I got to Washington, there were people who actually wrote in newspapers and respectable journals that if I talked about crime I was trying to get a Republican issue. And I was not aware that Democrats were pro-crime. Nor was I

aware that the Republicans had done such a great job, since the crime rate was -- had gone up quite a lot.

Now, most anticrime work is done at the community level -- in the city of Sacramento, in this county. But it was obvious there were things that national government could do to make a difference. And I went all across the country looking at things that were working, talking to people. And I said, our crime policy is not going to be caught in the old debate, lock them up and throw away the key or hope things get better and when things get better the crime rate will go down. Neither one was, I thought, particularly accurate. I thought we ought to be tough and smart and do what works -- put 100,000 more police on the street, take assault weapons off the street, keep handguns out of the hands of crooks, give kids something to say yes to so they don't get in trouble in the first place, and punish people who are really bad. That's what I thought our policy ought to be.

And the crime rate has dropped now for five years in a row. And we played a role in it. And I feel good about that.

Our welfare policy -- the old policy was encourage people to do better, or cut them off and who cares. That was the old debate. Our theory was require people who can go to work to go to work, but don't ask them to give up their most important job, which is raising their kids.

And we started working with states from the day I got there on moving people from welfare to work. The Republicans said when they got a majority in Congress they wanted to pass a welfare reform bill. I said, fine, we'll work with you on it. They passed two bills that I vetoed. Why? Because they were more than happy to be tough in cutting people off of welfare, but they did not want to give them the tools they needed to get in the work force and they were willing to hurt their kids by taking away the guarantee of food and medical care.

So I vetoed those two bills; they put the guarantees of food and medical care back in, gave me some money for job-training and child care -- we're off to the races. The result? Welfare roles have dropped by 3 million people. And it's working, it's working.

What I want you to understand is there's a direct connection between you being here at this lunch and that happening. And I thank you for it. We are changing the nature of politics in this country.

We had a big reaction to a lot of what we did in '93 and '94 and the benefits of it weren't apparent. The Republicans won the Congress in '94. The American people got to see what they wanted to do in '95 and '96. We beat back the Contract on America. It didn't happen by accident, it was a lot of hard, disciplined work, putting our message out against their message. And it's a good thing for the country that we did.

What we celebrated today at that wetlands project was people who want to grow the economy and people who want to preserve the environment working together to do something at the grass-roots level. That's how we ought to be doing this. Their idea on the environment was it was a nice thing if you could get it, but it was really an irritant that shouldn't get in the way of

people going about their daily lives.

I think that's wrong. I think we have proved conclusively. You have cleaner air today, cleaner water, more toxic waste dumps cleaned up, a safer food supply, all through major initiatives of this administration, and a stronger economy. We have got to do it in the right way. We don't want to do things that are stupid. We don't want to shoot ourselves in the foot, but we know we have got to preserve public health and the environment and grow the economy. That is the policy of our party. And we are determined to do it and we are making progress on it and your presence here today contributes to the triumph of that idea. And you should be proud of that and you should talk about it and you should help us to refine it.

I don't mean there aren't tough decisions out there. This climate change issue, for example, is a very difficult, challenging issue that will occupy us for the rest of my term in office. But I know that the technology, the know-how, the creativity is out there in the American people to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and grow the economy. We've already done it in two other areas -- you know these chlorofluoro carbons and CFCs that were in all the spray cans -- they said, oh, they'll do terrible damage to the economy if we get rid of them. Well, we got rid of them and the American economy is doing just fine. They say we do terrible damage to the economy if we took sulfur dioxide out of the atmosphere. We found a pro-business, market-oriented way to do it; we're getting it out of the atmosphere at less than half the cost I was told it would cost and we're doing just fine.

And we'll solve this problem and we'll do just fine if we'll all work together and realize that we cannot be forced into a position where somebody says, if you want to save the environment you have to taint the economy, or if you want a good economy you just have to turn your back on the environment. That is wrong. And it's one of two big choices that I think we can't afford to make.

The other one, and the last issue I want to emphasize domestically, is the choice that I alluded to earlier -- welfare. That's the choice between work and family. When I signed the family leave law a lot of people said you're going to hurt a lot of small businesses -- even though we exempted people with under 50 employees. For five years we've had a record number of new small businesses formed in every single year. It is a good thing to allow people who go to work every day not to have to worry themselves sick about their children at home or at school. It is a decent thing to do that.

I will say again, every society's most important job is raising healthy, good, strong children with good values. There is no more important work. More than half of the children in this country under the age of one have mothers in the work force. And since I have had a wife, a mother, and a grandmother in the work force -- as long as I have been alive, that is what I have known -- I do not think that is a bad thing. But I think it is a very bad thing when people who are working are worried sick about their children.

And so as we look ahead to the future, our party has to find a way to provide more affordable child care. Our party has to find a way to provide health insurance for these children -

- all of them -- we're going to cover half of them with this balanced budget this year -- all these children who live in families where their parents are working in lower-income jobs and they can't afford health insurance. Our party has to find a way to help the American people balance the demands of raising their kids and going to work every day. And if we have the same approach that we've had for the last five years, we can do that as well.

Lastly, let me just say very briefly, because I think you can understand that I don't want to talk about this in any detail, we've got all kinds of other challenges. We've got to make sure that Medicare and Social Security are there for the baby-boom generation and for their children and their children's children. And we have to do it in a way that doesn't -- where people my age, of the baby boom generation, don't ask the smaller generation of our children to bankrupt themselves and not take care of their kids to preserve these institutions. We can do all that.

We also, though, have to have a framework in our mind for what it means for America to be secure in the 21st century. National security during the Cold War was pretty straightforward. We wanted to keep a big strong military and plenty of nuclear weapons, and we wanted to have a system that existed between ourselves and the Soviet Union so that either side thought that if they launched nuclear weapons the other side would be destroyed, so no one would ever do it. And then we'd fight around the edges in various places around the world, to try to keep them from getting much of a foothold.

With the decline of the Cold War, with the Russians becoming our partners and our soldiers standing side by side in Bosnia, we now know that national security has to be defined somewhat in different terms. To be sure, there's a lot of problems still with nuclear weapons. We're doing our best to continue to work with the Russians to get rid of more and more nuclear weapons and actually destroy them and make sure that the nuclear materials don't fall into the wrong hands. And we've gotten a wonderful amount of support around the world for a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

We're working hard to deal with the after effects of these civil wars, the worst of which is land mines. And while I do not agree with all the terms of the Ottawa Convention on land mines, it is encouraging that over 100 nations are willing to say that they will never build, buy or use any kind of land mines. The United States has destroyed a million and a half such mines; we're going to destroy another million and a half while I'm President. And this year we'll spend slightly more than half the money spent in the entire world to go get those land mines out of the ground so kids don't walk on them and blow their lives away in the years ahead. This is a good thing.

But the most likely problems -- there are a couple little babies in this audience, or there were today, and some children -- the most likely problems these children will face when they come of age will be problems that cross national borders -- terrorism, organized crime and drug running, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological weapons and maybe small-scale nuclear weapons.

This much nuclear cake put in a bomb would do ten times as much damage as the

Oklahoma City bomb did.

The spread of environmental problems or diseases across national lines -- we are going to have to, in other words, find ways to cooperate, to keep the organized forces of destruction that are taking advantage of the Internet, the technological revolution, the freedom of travel and the freedom of movement, access to computers and moving money around and all that -- there will always be organized forces of destruction.

That is fundamentally what is at stake in the stand off we're having in Iraq today. I don't want you to look at this backward through the prism of the Gulf War and think it's a replay. I want you to look at it forward and think about it in terms of the innocent Japanese people that died in the subway when the sarin gas was released; and how important it is for every responsible government in the world to do everything that can possibly be done not to let big stores of chemical or biological weapons fall into the wrong hands, not to let irresponsible people develop the capacity to put them in warheads on missiles or put them in briefcases that could be exploded in small rooms.

And I say this not to frighten you. The world will always have challenges. I think the chances are quite good that we can organize ourselves for this challenge and deal with it very effectively. I personally believe that the next 50 years will be far more peaceful and less dangerous for our children and our grandchildren than the last 50 years were. I also believe they will be the most prosperous and interesting time in all of human history -- but only if we do the right things.

And so I say again to you, this is an exciting time to be alive. There have only been maybe four periods like this in American history over our 220-year history, where we are really being called upon to rethink what we want of our government, rethink what we want of our nation, meet a whole set of new challenges and, in effect, recreate the American Dream. It can only happen once every generation, sometimes once every two or three generations. You are living in that kind of America.

In that kind of time, political participation is more important; the integrity and validity and strength of your ideas are more important; and your passionate willingness to stand up and defend what you believe in is more important.

So I thank you for being here today because I believe that what you are doing is helping to build an America that your children and your grandchildren will be very proud of and will thank you for.

Thank you very much.

END 2:39 P.M. PST

30TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.
Sacramento Bee

November 18, 1997, METRO FINAL

SECTION: EDITORIALS; Pg. B6

LENGTH: 449 words

HEADLINE: FAZIO RETIRES

BODY:

In politics as in the rest of life, it often takes losing someone or something to understand what a good thing you had. So it will be with Vic Fazio's retirement from the House of Representatives. Politics being politics, his announcement that he won't seek re-election next year will draw huzzahs as well as regrets today. But come two years from now, we suspect much of this region will be wondering how one member of Congress could have made so much difference.

In an era of political show horses, Fazio has been a workhorse for Northern California. Any damn fool can run for Congress on a platform of bumper-sticker ideas and cast his vote by the party line, and many of them do. Fazio was different. For 20 years, he has not just cast votes; he has represented this region and this state in the fullest sense of that word.

For two decades, Fazio has been at the center of all the day-to-day federal issues that matter to the area. Every November in even-numbered years, many Sacramento Valley growers would cast their vote for a Republican; then every odd-numbered year they would go to work with Fazio on water and federal farm programs and even obscure issues such as red dye No. 2 in the cherries in fruit cocktail. They went to him even if he wasn't their representative because Fazio was someone who could do more than talk a good line -- he could make the wheels of Congress turn for them, time and again.

And they weren't alone. On issues from flood control to McClellan Air Force Base, Fazio has been the person to go to, the representative who would listen to all sides, who would put the power he patiently and shrewdly accumulated to the service of his constituents and his state.

He's also put the same energy, intelligence and patience at the service of the House itself. For years, he did the work that no other member of the House wanted to do -- on ethics, including the downfall of former Speaker Jim Wright, and on member pay and franking privileges. It was hard and controversial work, for which the main rewards were brickbats thrown by cheap populists who rarely gave a second of thought to what was important to the health of the nation's most important legislative body.

That kind of work doesn't get honored very much any more. It's not the stuff of talk shows or electronic bulletin boards or TV news. But it's what the best members of Congress do for their communities and their country. And it's essential to making Congress an effective institution. When Fazio is no longer working for Sacramento and Northern California and the health of the House, even a lot of people who may be cheering today will come to understand what they've lost.

Thank you all for coming together to honor Vic Fazio, a great man who has devoted his life to public service. During his 20-year tenure in Congress, Vic has been a principled legislator, who always knew when to fight for a bill and when to compromise. His approach to legislation combined integrity and tenacity, and earned Vic respect from Democrats and Republicans alike.

Vic committed himself to preparing his district and his country for the challenges of the future. On the environment, Vic has led the way in securing federal funds to restore the ecology of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. On the economy, Vic fought to expand opportunities for American businesses abroad, while protecting the needs American workers at home. On health care, Vic introduced a bill to raise the funding for breast cancer research which I signed last year. On the issues that matter to Californians -- on the issues important to average Americans -- Vic always has led the way.

Vic spent 20 years in Washington, but he has never forgotten where he came from. Serving the needs of the people of his district was always took precedence over party politics and personal ambition. Vic's service as a leader, as a visionary, in Congress will be sorely missed. But, I am sure that in any project Vic undertakes in the future, he will meet with as much success as he has in the past. Hillary and I wish Vic, Judy and the whole Fazio family the best of luck in the future.

31ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.
Sacramento Bee

November 18, 1997, METRO FINAL

SECTION: EDITORIALS; Pg. B7

LENGTH: 963 words

HEADLINE: FAZIO WORRIED NOT ABOUT LOSING, BUT ABOUT WINNING AGAIN

BYLINE: John Jacobs

BODY:

ON THE EVE of announcing that he would retire from Congress after 20 years in office next year, U.S. Rep. Vic Fazio walked into Sacramento's Rubicon brew pub and quipped, "This is an appropriate place to meet. I'm about to cross it."

Indeed he is. Fazio is one of the most respected leaders in the House and one of the most powerful and effective representatives the Sacramento region has ever sent to Congress. But for intensely personal reasons, the 56-year-old Democrat said during a candid, two-hour interview, he will leave with great regret but also with great relief.

Despite his enthusiasm for the job, its constant demands finally became too much, he said. He has no job lined up, but said he's not worried. He could expect any number of top offers from the Clinton administration or elsewhere.

"I'm caught between a district that takes a great deal of time and effort and money to be re-elected," Fazio said, "and a leadership position in the House that also takes a great deal of time and effort. I have no time left for my wife or daughter or granddaughter or me."

Fazio added that he has "tremendous appreciation" for the chance to serve all these years starting when he was first elected to the Assembly from Sacramento in 1975 and re-elected to his 10th term to the House last year with a 13 percent victory margin in a district that leans Republican.

A longtime member of the Appropriations Committee, Fazio has served on its subcommittees on water, energy and agriculture, becoming an important broker forging deals and compromises between what he calls "resource extractors" and "resource protectors."

"You don't leave something easily that has been so much a part of you," he said, pausing to control his emotions. "It has been a good 20 years. I came so far I could reach out and touch leadership. But not only do you have no personal time, you are constantly flat-out running everywhere all the time, in your district and in Washington.

"It's not just your future. It's your party's future. It brooks no compromise. It's what Newt Gingrich did to get there. It's what (Minority Leader) Dick Gephardt does. I had to make a choice. . . . My fear wasn't losing. My fear was winning. How on Earth do I keep all these balls in the air?"

Sacramento Bee, November 18, 1997

Fazio said he knew his decision was right when he attended a memorial service for Rep. Walter Capps, who died of a heart attack recently while just in his first term. Capps' 26-year-old daughter, who works at the White House, gave a memorial speech for her father. "I couldn't help but think of my daughter," Fazio said. One daughter, Dana, is also 26. Another, Anne, died of leukemia two years ago. She would have been 24 and her death still haunts her father, who could not spend as much time with his children as he would have liked.

"You don't know how much time you have," he said. "You've got to focus on the family. I owe it to my wife to spend more time with her and with Dana. . . . I could call into question my role as a parent and husband. I won't say I flunked. But I wouldn't get high grades. These are the choices we make."

Fazio said his decision means that he's "finally conceding" the 1991 reapportionment of his district, which changed a relatively safe seat into an intensely competitive one that few Democrats but Fazio could carry. At the time the new district was announced, "Judy and I sat down and had a cry about it because we knew what it (the new district) would do to our personal life," Fazio said. "But you don't walk away from a fight, and I won three tough races" against H.L. Richardson in 1992 and Tim Lefever in 1994 and again in 1996.

Had the Democrats retaken control of the House last year, Gephardt would have become speaker and Fazio would have challenged and perhaps defeated Democratic Whip David Bonior to become majority leader and eventually speaker. That's what he meant by "touching leadership." Few politicians ever come that close.

But Fazio also said that neither party can expect to keep control of the House for any length of time "for at least the next 10 years or more." Nor was he convinced the next reapportionment after the 2000 census would make his new district any easier for him. "So it's a constant battle," he said. "I'm looking at another decade of this. If I were 10 years younger, I'd probably do it again. I've proven I can do it. The question is why. I love it. I will miss it terribly."

For months, Fazio's name has been floated as a possible White House chief of staff once Erskine Bowles leaves. Fazio did not want to comment about his prospects, other than to say that's not why he's resigning. Such a job would be at least as intense as what he's doing now, but it would not involve travel to his district and, in his words, would be "finite."

Clinton may be reluctant to choose Fazio for the powerful post, believing Fazio could help Clinton far more with balky colleagues where he is as chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. But if Fazio is leaving the House anyway, he could provide the bridge that former congressman-turned- White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta provided. Clinton has deep problems with angry Democrats, who overwhelmingly rejected his "fast-track" trade bill and who believe he is out of touch with their concerns.

Whatever his future, Fazio has been an extraordinary representative for the Sacramento region and for California. Summing up his conflicting emotions, he said, "I didn't want to leave early, but I can't stay any longer."

McClatchy Newspapers political editor John Jacobs' column appears in The Bee on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. He can be reached by phone at 321-1914; by fax at 321-1996; by letter at Box 15779, Sacramento, CA 95852-0779; or by e-mail

SACRAMENTO METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FAX COVER SHEET

917 Seventh Street
Sacramento, CA 95814916.552--6800 Phone
916.443-2672 FAXwww.metrochamber.org
chamber@metrochamber.orgDATE: APRIL 8, 1998TO: LAURA CAPPSCOMPANY: WHITE HOUSE SPEECHWRITINGFAX NO. 202/456-5709

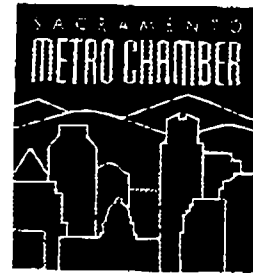
PHONE: _____

FROM: STEPHANIE MCGANNPHONE: 916-552-6808, EXT. 138NO. OF PAGES
INCLUDING COVER: _____

- ☒ Urgent, please deliver immediately
☐ Hardcopy to follow
☐ Reply requested

Hi, LAURA -THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE!Stephanie McGann

Facsimile



Sacramento Metro Chamber
917 Seventh Street
Tel. (916) 552-6800

8 April 1998

TO: Laura Capps, Speech Writer
Office of the White House
FM: Bill Mueller, Vice President
Government Relations

RE: Rep. Vic Fazio Highlights

- One of the most powerful and influential lawmakers in the House of Representatives yet fiercely dedicated to the people and issues of his district;
- Capable of effectively representing the polar ends of a sprawling Central Valley district, from the progressive university-town of Davis to the rural, conservative areas to the north;
- Known to the business community for his unwavering commitment to the protection and prosperous future of McClellan Air Force Base, a critical economic asset to Sacramento's future; his dedication to improving the level of flood protection for the City during his many years of service; and his ability to thoughtfully resolve constituent problems.

For background purposes, we are calling this dinner, "A Sacramento Tribute to The Honorable Vic Fazio" and it is being hosted by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as part of a annual lobbying trip to Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Sacramento, California)

For Immediate Release

November 15, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BUILDERS AND SUPPORTERS OF
THE YOLO BASIN WETLANDS

Yolo Basin Wetlands
Davis, California

11:45 A.M. PST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. You can't imagine how much I wanted to get out of cold, wet, rainy, windy Washington, D.C. to come to California. But, after all, this is a wetlands event.

I want to, first of all, thank Sara for her introduction. Didn't she speak well? She was terrific I thought. And listening to her account of the experiences the last several years of her life I think was as good a statement as any as could be made about so many of you who are here and the work you have done to make this day come to pass. I want to thank all of you very much.

I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to your Secretary of Natural Resources Dough Wheeler, and two people who came from Washington with me, our Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Rich Rominger, who is from Yolo County. And he's already been mentioned, but our Deputy Secretary of the Interior, John Garamendi, who grew up not far from here. And they've both done a terrific job for you right there.

I thank John Walker for his statement. We were dedicating a wetland in Arkansas once, a few years ago, on a much warmer day. And I was the governor and he was the president, but after all, I'm term-limited and he can go on forever.

I'm very glad to be here with all of you. I want to thank Robin and Greg for showing me around the area and giving me a chance to look at some of the birds and just see what you've done here. I asked him how many ducks and geese there were going to be here and whether you had any eagles or ospreys or egrets, and I got a pretty good rundown on it.

And I have to say that I have been, as you have heard already, a big supporter of these kinds of endeavors. I thank the people from the California Water Fowl Association, and I do want to say a special word of thanks to two groups with which I have been associated -- first, the folks from the Corps of Engineers. They have not only changed their image, they've changed their reality. They're working hard not only to give us water projects, but to give us the kind of environmental conservation that we need for the long run. And I thank you very much, Colonel, and I thank all the people from the Corps for what you've done.

And let me just echo what was said earlier. I'm very proud of my very long association with Ducks Unlimited. They've done a wonderful job in helping us to bring water fowl back to our state and they do a great job in this country.

Finally, I'd like to say a word of appreciation to Vic Fazio, who is clearly one of the most outstanding members of the United States Congress in either party. If we had a hundred more people like him, America would have no problem. He is a very good man.

I want to thank Vic not only for his work here, but for the general efforts he's made, along with Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and John Garamendi, for our efforts in the Bay Delta area, and the work that we are doing to try to guarantee the long-term needs of California for water supply, as well as water quality, habitat preservation and environmental progress. And that's very, very good.

Let me say, I wanted to be here today because to me this project is the embodiment of not only what we should be doing as Americans on the edge of a new century, but how we should be doing it. We worked very hard to create a country where things were working for ordinary Americans, where we were coming together across the lines that divide us and where we can be strong enough to continue to lead the world in the right direction. And that bridge that I talked about all the time I'm trying to build to the 21st century is going pretty well. We've got the strongest economy in a generation, crime and welfare are dropping. And our water quality, our air quality, our food safety, they're all improving. We are moving in the right direction.

One of the biggest challenges we will have to continue to face during the entire lifetime of all the children that are here is the challenge of trying to grow our economy and lift our standard of living while improving, not diminishing our environment. That is critical. A great deal of the history of 20th century California is a story of this battle. And the truth is, for most of the 20th century, not only in California but throughout America, whenever people thought about this they either thought, I'm going to develop the economy, the environment will take care of itself, or they felt for a long time, it's unfortunate that we have to give up so much of our environment, but it's a necessary price we have to pay to continue to raise our living standards.

Now we know that is a false choice. And, indeed, we understand that over the long run if we want to preserve our ability to increase our standard of living we have to preserve our national environment and all the things that go with it.

Just for example, Greg Smith and I were talking about this project and how the more you do these projects, the more you're going not only to have what you came here for today, but what you cannot see -- you will lose less water in rain runoff, and you will over time rebuild the aquifers that are below the land, that no one sees and most people don't think about. But that will enable you to sustain your population and to sustain your economic activity.

So again I say, I wanted to come here today because this is a huge success. You're doing the right thing and you're doing it in the right way. And that's the second point I want to make. If we haven't learned anything in our country in the last few years, I hope we have learned we do not get very far when we just stand off and shout at each other and fight and argue all the time. But we can do anything if roll up our sleeves and get down to work and honestly listen to people who have different experiences, different perspectives, and different genuine interests. That's what you've done here. You've been able to bring everybody together, and I really feel good about that.

Here we are in the shadow of Sacramento. We see the farmlands here, and I promise you, when I crossed that levee today, I thought I was back home in eastern Arkansas, and I kept waiting for somebody to give me my waders and a gun to go duck hunting.

What you have done today was based on the cooperation of state, federal, and local governments, based on public --(inaudible.) That's how we ought to be dealing with all America's problems. You can't name a single problem we've got in this country that we could not make the kind of progress on we're celebrating today, if we didn't approach it the way you have approached this.

And I would implore you to think about what you can do and what you can say to people in this state, and your friends and family members and neighbors all around America, to take this attitude and this approach, not only to our environmental problems, but to all others.

You've been working on this since the late '80s. You ought to be very proud of it. But you ought to also draw confidence from this that there is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet if we will just do what you have done here.

I am so proud of you -- I know that you believe in it or you wouldn't be standing out here in the cold and rain listening to me talk.

I've just got to make one other point that I think is very important to you here in California. Three years ago we helped to launch the historic Cal-Fed partnership to try to end the water wars and restore the environment and ensure clean and reliable water for generations to come. I just signed legislation, as Vic Fazio said, that makes \$85 million in down payments to match funds that the California voters approved to restore their rivers and marshes in the valleys.

In two months the Cal-Fed program will recommend a blueprint for moving forward with all of our partners in the way I said. We'll be working on habitat restoration, flood protection, integrated from the beginning into all projects designed to meet the other needs of the area. We're going to do it right.

And again I say I'm very grateful to Vic Fazio and to Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, and of course, to John Garamendi for their work in this whole process.

And let me also say that -- I want to say a word of thanks to the Corps of Engineers and others who have done all the work in rebuilding after last year's floods. Within the next few weeks, the Corps will finish all remaining repairs. It's the most extensive flood reparation ever done in this short of time, and another reason we should thank the Corps of Engineers for what they've done here.

We're working hard across America on projects like this. We're making progress in reclaiming Florida Everglades, in restoring Lake Tahoe, in saving Yellowstone. We have funds in this latest bill, in our balanced budget plan, to continue this work. But I now can go around the country and talk to other people about what you've done here and tell them you believe in it so much you all showed up and stayed in the wind and the rain in Southern California.

Well, I've seen the wetlands here today, and some of you may have seen more than you wanted to see. But I'll tell you what else I've seen -- I've seen a glimpse of America's future, and I like it.

Thank you, and God bless you.

END

11:55 A.M. PST

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL (VIDEO)

5/19/98

_____ACCEPT_____REGRET_____98 MAR 19 PENDING
ALL: 21

TO: Stephanie Streett
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Craig T. Smith
Assistant to the President and
Director of Political Affairs

REQUEST: For the President to make a video for Congressman Vic Fazio (D-CA).

PURPOSE: The Congressman is retiring.

DATE AND TIME: Monday, May 4, 1998

LOCATION: White House

BRIEFING TIME: 5 minutes

DURATION: 5 minutes

RECOMMENDED BY: Craig T. Smith

CONTACT: Chris Lavery, 6-1125

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL: Harriet Derwingson and Eleni Tsakopoulos, Co-Chairs
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (Letter
attached).

11/2
3/13

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 13, 1998

Ms. Harriet Derwingson
Ms. Eleni Tsakopoulos
Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
917 Seventh Street
Sacramento, California 95814

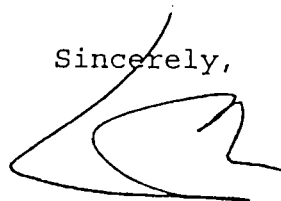
Dear Ms. Derwingson and Ms. Tsakopoulos:

Thank you for inviting the President to the dinner in honor of Congressman Vic Fazio. The Administration is very appreciative of Congressman Fazio's support and advice over his long and distinguished career.

I am forwarding a copy of your letter to Ms. Stephanie Streett, Director of the President's Office of Scheduling. I am certain that she will do all that she can do to respond to your request.

Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,



Erskine B. Bowles
Chief of Staff

cc: The Honorable Stephanie Streett



CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

*The President thinks
Vic during the moon. Well
nearly try and see if we
can get this scheduled. Right
now we have a conflict
but will see what we
can do. Vic is the parent
of father how is that*

*Stephanie -
The Pope should
be of course*

CHAIRMAN
Bernard Bowler
IBM

1st VICE CHAIRMAN
Susan Peters
McCuen Properties

2nd VICE CHAIRMAN
Michael Profumo
Coopers & Lybrand LLP

PAST CHAIRMAN
Harriet Derwingson
Pacific Bell

VICE CHAIRS
Karen Diepenbrock
The Diepenbrock Law Firm

Richard Fowler
USAA

Dr. Bruce Harris
Los Rios

Community College District
Barbara LeVake

Brash/LeVake
Michael Ziegler

PRIDE Industries
LEGAL COUNSEL

Jeff Harris
Hunter Richey

Di Benedetto & Brewer
TREASURER

Bob Kittredge
Price Waterhouse LLP

PRESIDENT & CEO
Russell J. Hammer

DIRECTORS
Cary Adams

Diepenbrock Wulff
Plant & Hannegan

Michael Alcalay
Airtouch Cellular

Michael Applegate
Applegate Drayage Co

John Baronek
The Herzog Company

Rick Benner
Sacramento Kings

Max Besler
Townsend Ramundo

Besler & Usher
Robert M. Brown

The Sacramento Bee
Dr. James Castle

USCS International
Nelson Chan

Barton, Petrini & Cannon
Leon Davidson

The Idea Man
Ron Ellis

Inland Business Systems
Jesus Fernandez, Jr

Fernandez Barragan & Associates
B.J. Flora

B J Flora Associates
Pat Fry

Sutter Health
Tom Habbday

UCD Medical Center
Al Howard

KXTV - 10
Jeff Koewler

Downey Brand
Seymour & Rohrer LLP

Sarah Krevans
Kaiser Permanente

Jean Claude Lachkar
Nordstrom

Diane D. Miller
Wilcox Bertaux & Miller

Roger Nordby
Packard Bell NEC

Walter Payne
Blue Diamond Growers

Rick Randall
Rentech Computer Rentals

Michael Reinking
Intel Corporation

Lisa Oliver Rose
Rose Investigations

Gary Spahr
The Copy House

Eleni Tsakopoulos
AKT Development

Michael Teel
Raley's and 3rd Air

William Van der Mei
The Van der Mei Law Firm

EX OFFICIO DIRECTORS
Dr. Donald R. Genh

Trade Center Sacramento
Len McCandless

erging Technologies Institute
Carlos Ramirez

Sacramento Hispanic Chamber
Gerald Takehara

Asian-Pacific Chamber
Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini

McClellan AFB
Jim Whillack

SACTO
Clarence Williams

Sacramento Black Chamber

917 Seventh Street
Sacramento, California 95814

916.552.6800 Phone
916.443.2672 FAX

www.metrochamber.org
chamber@metrochamber.org



MAR 3 1998

February 23, 1998

Mr. Erskin Bowles
Chief of Staff to the President
Office of the Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Tribute Dinner for Congressman Vic Fazio

Dear Mr. Bowles:

In tribute to retiring Congressman Vic Fazio of Sacramento, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce will host a tribute dinner in Washington, D.C. on the evening of Monday, May 4th, to honor Mr. Fazio's 20 years of service to Sacramento and the nation.

We would be extremely honored if the President could join us to recognize Mr. Fazio.

This dinner is part of an extensive visit to Washington we conduct each year that includes more than 200 leaders from business and government from our region. In addition to our delegation, invitations are being extended to Members of the House and Senate, the Administration, and the Pentagon. Approximately 500 guests are expected.

The Fazio Tribute Dinner is slated for Monday, May 4th, at the Mayflower Hotel from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., with the program beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your consideration. We will be calling you this week by phone to follow-up on this request.

Sincerely,

Harriet Derwingson

Harriet Derwingson
Co-Chair, Fazio Tribute Dinner

Eleni Tsakopoulos

Eleni Tsakopoulos
Co-Chair, Fazio Tribute Dinner

cc: Mr. John Padesta
Ms. Dorris Matsui

*K -
TY - apprec.
Vic's support,
advise me re his
etc. - w/for -
to SS POTUS Schi*

3RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.
Sacramento Bee

November 19, 1997, METRO FINAL

SECTION: MAIN NEWS; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 957 words

HEADLINE: LOSS OF FAZIO, DELLUMS TO LEAVE VOID FOR STATE

BYLINE: Herbert A. Sample, Bee Washington Bureau

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

The retirements of veteran Reps. Vic Fazio and Ronald Dellums will leave large holes in California's ability to influence matters on Capitol Hill, lobbyists, lawmakers and other observers said Tuesday.

Fazio, a fixture in Northern California politics and statewide issues for more than 20 years, will be especially missed on matters relating to water, agriculture, flood protection and McClellan Air Force Base.

The West Sacramento Democrat, considered a moderate voice in an increasingly liberal House Democratic caucus, also helped push President Clinton's priorities in Congress.

Dellums, who has represented the Berkeley and Oakland areas for 14 terms, was not a political mover-and-shaker within the California Democratic delegation. But his was a passionately progressive voice, particularly on defense matters.

"Maybe in a way it's shedding skin and growing some new skin," said David Vienna, a longtime Washington lobbyist who handles many California issues. "But these guys were in their prime, it seems to me. . . . They were senior guys and it's hard to lose them."

Rep. David Dreier, R-San Dimas, vice chairman of the powerful House Rules Committee, also voiced sadness with his colleagues' decisions. But other lawmakers from the state will step up to fill the void, he said.

"They will clearly be missed. But one thing I've learned about the United States Congress is when people choose to retire, life goes on," Dreier said. "I would not argue that we will have this tremendous loss of clout."

Fazio on Monday announced his decision not to seek re-election next year, 22 years after he won his first campaign for elected office, to the state Assembly from Yolo County. He previously had been a legislative aide and co-founder of California Journal magazine.

Soon after he won the congressional seat in late 1978, he was appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, through which hundreds of billions of dollars in federal spending flow each year.

Sacramento Bee, November 19, 1997

Fazio quickly became adept not only at directing some of the money toward his district and California in general, but also at using his position to increase his influence with other members in both parties.

Last year, he won a three-year authorization for federal funding of a difficult compromise to restore the ecology of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This year, as ranking Democrat on the energy and water appropriations subcommittee, he shepherded the first actual payment of \$ 85 million through a skeptical Congress.

"Getting new (spending) out of Congress is very difficult to do," said Stephen Hall, executive director of the Association of California Water Agencies, which represents 430 water agencies in the state.

"Vic Fazio, through his skill as a deal maker and a negotiator, made it happen," he said. "We're sure going to miss him."

Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Redlands, an appropriations subcommittee chairman whose friendship with Fazio dates back to their days in the state Legislature, said they often worked together to win passage of projects throughout the state.

"Within the committee, it will not be a simple matter to find a replacement in terms of California issues," Lewis said.

"I'm an unhappy camper," said John Garamendi, deputy secretary of the interior. "On environmental issues, (Fazio) would just make sure they got done."

The third-ranking House Democrat, Fazio did have defeats along the way.

In recent weeks, Congress passed legislation he considered harmful to the administration's plan to privatize McClellan. And he was unable to help Clinton garner enough Democrats to pass "fast-track" trade legislation, which the House's top two Democrats -- Richard Gephardt of Missouri and David Bonior of Michigan -- vigorously opposed.

In fact, with Gephardt gearing up to challenge Vice President Al Gore for their party's presidential nomination in 2000, and Bonior opposed to several administration priorities, Fazio had become the president's go-to person on Capitol Hill.

"Fazio has been one guy, not the only one, but the most significant bridge" between the White House and factions of House Democrats, said Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

It will be difficult for Clinton to tap someone else with the same respect and credibility Fazio enjoys. If the congressman does not become White House chief of staff -- a post in which he has expressed interest -- Ornstein said the president could name Fazio as a senior counselor whose portfolio would include congressional relations.

Dellums was less the inside player than Fazio, but he was no less respected. A fiery anti-Vietnam War liberal when first elected, Dellums said Monday he quickly learned his passions could be channeled in better ways.

Sacramento Bee, November 19, 1997

Nearly every year, he produced a rival military budget that steered money to domestic programs. The document was usually politely ignored, but perhaps his sweetest victory came just a few weeks ago when he and like-minded lawmakers from both parties teamed up to halt funding for additional B-2 bombers.

Through the years, he rose through the Democratic ranks on the House National Security Committee to become chairman in 1993 -- the first African American to do so. His reign was considered one of the fairest of all those who held the post.

"He gained the respect of many in the defense community for his ability to bring people together and discuss matters in a congenial and productive environment, even matters on which he had a strong ideological stand," said Tim Ransdell, head of the Washington-based California Institute.

Dellums' resignation becomes official on Feb. 6, and a special election will be held soon after to fill the seat.

GRAPHIC: Vic Fazio
Ronald Dellums

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 20, 1997

21ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 American Political Network, Inc.
The Hotline

November 18, 1997

SECTION: HOUSE REPORT

LENGTH: 729 words

HEADLINE: CALIFORNIA 03: NOT IN THE VIC OF TIME

BODY:

Rep. Vic Fazio (D), the third ranking Dem in the House, announced 11/17 that he will not seek reelection in '98. Coupled with Rep. Ron Dellums' (D-09) 11/17 resignation announcement and the "developments mark a profound shift" in No. CA's representation in DC and "led many to speculate that Democrats do not expect to regain control of the House anytime soon." Fazio "is the most active" CA Dem in House leadership circles "and was thought to be a potential candidate someday for speaker. Facing a tough re-election and the end of his term" as chair of the House Dem Caucus, "Fazio said he wants to devote more time to his family." Republicans said the departures "are a sign" of the Dem Party's weakness. NRCC Chair John Linder faxed a statement to reporters headlined: "Last Democrat out of the House please turn out the lights." Fazio's seat is "far more conservative" than Dellums' and it is "quite possible his seat will be captured" by the GOP. Fazio's decision was "lamented" by Dem leaders such as Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (Sandalow, San Francisco Chronicle, 11/18).

Many fear that "losing Fazio ... will further diminish" CA's clout in DC. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-14): "It's a big loss. I always think of Vic as Mr. California." As "troubling" to Dems is that Fazio's CD is considered "ripe for a Republican." Assembly member Barbara Alby (R) "wasted little time in declaring ... for the seat, within hours of Fazio's announcement" (Ostrom, San Jose Mercury News, 11/18).

NATIONAL TAKES

NRCC pol. dir. Ed Brookover: "The fact that the No. 3 Democrat and the would-be chairman of the (National Security) Committee would retire is a sign the Democrats know they're not going to take control." DCCC spokesperson Dan Sallick countered: "There's no way you can look at a map of the country and look at the fact that we have only 11 seats to pick up to win the majority and not think there's a very good possibility of doing just that" (Washington Times, 11/18). Wall Street Journal's Rogers writes, "the twin departures ... underscore the struggle facing (Dems) as the party tries to win back the chamber it dominated for decades" (11/18).

SO WHAT'S NEXT FOR FAZIO

San Jose Mercury News' Ostrom writes, speculation swirled" that Fazio is under consideration to become Pres. Clinton's next CoS. Ex-WH CoS Leon Panetta: "I think Vic's name is on the list. I'm not sure the president has gotten around to thinking about it." Fazio did not deny reports that he had spoken with Clinton

(c) 1997 The Hotline, November 18, 1997

about the CoS post during Clinton's recent visit to Sacramento. Fazio on 11/17: "I wouldn't want to rule anything in or anything out, but it's all speculation right now" (11/18). Fazio said he would be interested in the CoS job and would leave office early to take it but "would have to see upon what basis (Clinton) would want me to have it" (Green, Sacramento Bee, 11/18).

BACK TO THIS RACE

One of Alby's "first tasks will be to move." She currently lives in Folsom which is not part of the CD. Another potential GOPer, Charles Schaupp, "was prohibited from formally entering the race" 11/17 because he's a reserve Marine officer on active duty. He plans to make a formal announcement within the next six weeks. '96 GOP nominee Tom LeFever said he has not ruled out another run, "but is worried about the impact a campaign might have on his young family." State Sen. Maurice Johannessen (R) had been mentioned as a possible candidate, but has backed away. No Dems "immediately came forth." Fazio said a "moderate" Dem, perhaps one from local gov't or the nonprofit sector "might be the party's best chance at retaining the seat." But he had no immediate suggestions for a candidate. Several Dems being mentioned in "inner circles" as possibilities took themselves out of contention when contacted after Fazio's announcement. Ex-Assembly member Phil Isenberg (D) said he is not running for anything; a spokesperson for Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna Jr. (D) said he would not run. Sacramento Co. Supv. Roger Dickinson (D) would not rule out a bid, "but said he had not given it much thought" (Capps, Sacramento Bee, 11/18).

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 1997

8TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Content and programming copyright 1997 Cable News Network
Transcribed under license by Federal Document Clearing
House, Inc. Formatting copyright 1997 Federal Document
Clearing House, Inc. All rights reserved. No quotes from the
materials contained herein may be used in any media without
attribution to Cable News Network. This transcript may not
be copied or resold in any media.

CNN

SHOW: CNN INSIDE POLITICS 16:00 pm ET

November 26, 1997; Wednesday 4:04 pm Eastern Time

Transcript # 97112604V15

TYPE: INTERVIEW

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 1040 words

HEADLINE: Vic Fazio Retires After 10 Terms

BYLINE: Judy Woodruff, Bernard Shaw

HIGHLIGHT:

Vic Fazio is retiring after 10 terms in the house, but he is reported to be a
contender for President Clinton's chief of staff.

BODY:

JUDY WOODRUFF, CNN ANCHOR: Now, to a California Democrat who is preparing to
end his public life -- or is he? Vic Fazio is retiring after 10 terms in the
house, but he is reported to be a contender for President Clinton's chief of
staff. My colleague, Bernard Shaw, talked to Fazio last week.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP, LAST WEEK)

BERNARD SHAW, CNN HOST: Congressman Fazio, why are you giving up the roar of
the Greece paint and the smell of the crowd?

REPRESENTATIVE VIC FAZIO, (D) CALIFORNIA: Well Bernie, it's been 33 years of
a sprint since I left college. Politics and government has been my all
consuming passion and it's been one challenge after another. I came to the
conclusion that it was time to stop, take stock, see if I could get ahold of my
life, frankly. I saw no end to that kind of a lifestyle, if I remained in
Congress, having to win a competitive district, having an increasingly
challenging leadership role.

And so I did what I thought was right, and that is to say after 20 years in
the house I'm not going to re-up for another five to ten years. I wanted to
really have more time with my wife, my children, my granddaughter, and lead a
more -- I don't mean contemplative, but hopefully, a low-key kind of life.

SHAW: Did losing the fast track battle on behalf of President Clinton looking
for trade authority form the question in your mind: Is this the last straw for

CNN INSIDE POLITICS, November 26, 1997

me?

FAZIO: No. I mean, fast track is one of many battles I've been in with different friends, different coalitions. In the years I've been in Congress, it had absolutely no role in my thinking or decision. I hope, by the way, we can get back to the issue of trade and find some common ground and pass something significant with a much larger share of my party. But no, that would be entirely wrong if anybody drew any conclusion from that.

SHAW: Is Dick Gephardt hurting the party and this president?

FAZIO: I don't believe so. I think this is time, however, for us to take stock of where we're going in 1998, how we can better articulate a party position that would include both the house and Senate leaders and the president, because it's time to get off the areas where we may have some division and go on to some positive themes in health care, education and the environment. And I think we'll do that starting in January.

SHAW: Vic Fazio, your party needs to gain 11 seats in the house of representatives if it's ever to gain control of the house.

FAZIO: Right.

SHAW: Fourteen Democrats are leaving.

FAZIO: Well ...

SHAW: The math does not add up.

FAZIO: I think you note, Bernie many of those Democrats are leaving those seats that can be and will be won by other Democrats. There may be a few like mine, that are going to be competitive. I don't rule out winning my seat. After all, the president carried the district by a few hundred votes admittedly. But still he carries anywhere, that Democrats can win.

SHAW: Well ...

FAZIO: So I would say this. We will have a very competitive election. I think the odds of our taking back control of the house are at least 50/50.

SHAW: Well, the San Francisco chronicle says Republicans in your state think now they can grab as many as seven seats! seven Congressional seats held by Democrats.

FAZIO: That's absurd. We're going to pick up a seat next to me. We have a strong state Senate candidate in Mike Thompson, who was running against Frank Riggs. We're going to hold on to the cap seat. His wife Lois has just announced, and I think we'll win that seat. I think that's absurd. I think we're going to do more than hold our own in California. I think we'll make part of the headway we need to pick up those 11 seats.

SHAW: Fifty-four electoral votes, state of California. What is this Democratic exodus from Congress going to do to the party's presidential chances?

CNN INSIDE POLITICS, November 26, 1997

FAZIO: Oh, I think we're doing very well in statewide races. I certainly anticipate that we'll have a very good shot at taking the governor's race, and I also think the president, whoever the Democratic nominee for president will be, comes in with a kind of coalition that Bill Clinton put together. We hope to maintain in the year 2000.

SHAW: You don't think Al Gore has a lock on the nomination?

FAZIO: I think he has a very strong opportunity to put a lock on it. He's in the lead now -- to do very well in California.

SHAW: Two last quick questions. What did President Clinton say to you when you talked to him about your resignation decision?

FAZIO: He told me that he knew it would be tough for me and wished me well in my retirement.

SHAW: White House chief staff. Has he offered you the job? Would you accept it?

FAZIO: Not at all. This is not something I'm leaving Congress to do. I hope to have over the next year an opportunity to look at my options and to make some decisions down the line, but I've had no conversations with anyone in the White House about any job. That kind of life I hope to have over the next year will let me be helpful to the administration in the Congress as chairman of the Democratic caucus.

SHAW: If he says I need you as White House chief of staff, will you accept?

FAZIO: Well, you know, Bernie, all of this speculation really is inappropriate. As I have indicated, no one has talked to me about it. I'm focused on how I can help the administration by trying to bring together the Democrats and ...

SHAW: You're not answering the question.

FAZIO: ... caucus and the White House.

SHAW: You're not answering the question.

FAZIO: Well, Bernie, you're asking it in so many different ways I guess I have answered it in the only way I can.

SHAW: Final question. What did Mrs. Fazio say when you said this is it?

FAZIO: Well, you know, I don't think she said hallelujah, but she sure gave me a big hug and a kiss. I think she was clearly relieved we might have more of a life, and I don't blame her for that. I share that.

SHAW: Congressman, thanks for joining us on INSIDE POLITICS.

FAZIO: You're welcome, thanks for having me.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

WOODRUFF: Vic Fazio is about to conclude four years as chairman of the house Democratic caucus.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 1997

22ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 Times Mirror Company
Los Angeles Times

November 18, 1997, Tuesday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 3; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 1109 words

HEADLINE: DELLUMS, FAZIO TO RETIRE FROM CONGRESS;
POLITICS: DEPARTURE OF HIGH- RANKING DEMOCRATS THREATENS PARTY'S PLAN TO REGAIN
THE HOUSE. LOIS CAPPS WILL RUN FOR THE SEAT LEFT VACANT BY THE DEATH OF HER
HUSBAND, WALTER.

BYLINE: FAYE FIORE and JODI WILGOREN, TIMES STAFF WRITERS

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Two of California's longest-serving and most revered congressional Democrats--Reps. Vic Fazio and Ronald V. Dellums--announced their impending retirements Monday, further eroding California's clout in Congress and dampening their party's hopes of recapturing the House next year.

Fazio of West Sacramento, third-ranking in the Democratic leadership, and Dellums of Oakland, a former bell-bottomed antiwar radical, have during more than two decades in Congress become powerful insiders with invaluable connections for the state that will not be easily replaced.

"This is a huge loss for California," said Rep. Robert T. Matsui (D-Sacramento). "It will take us years to recover from this. We're just going to have to cope with it."

Their departures, along with the recent death of fellow Democratic Rep. Walter Capps of Santa Barbara, mean that three California congressional seats are now in play--two of them considered vulnerable to a GOP takeover.

Capps' widow, Lois, announced her candidacy for her husband's old seat Monday, enhancing Democratic prospects for hanging on to the Central Coast district against a divided Republican field.

Dellums is expected to leave Feb. 6 to take a job outside of government. Fazio has been mentioned as a candidate to succeed White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles. He has spent seven months denying that rumor, which one of his aides says started at a cocktail party, but Capitol Hill sources insist that his name is very much in the mix.

At a Sacramento news conference, the 55-year-old Fazio cited personal reasons for his decision not to seek reelection next November, ending what will be a 20-year career in the House.

"I have come to a season in my life when I believe it is time to prioritize what matters most to me: the need to put aside the relentless pace of

Los Angeles Times, November 18, 1997

congressional service so I can give more time to family life," Fazio said.

Colleagues said he was profoundly affected by his daughter's death of leukemia on New Year's Day. And last week at the funeral of Capps, who died last month of a heart attack at 63, Fazio was struck that his colleague had a career as a religious studies professor before coming to Congress, while all of Fazio's professional life has been politics, an aide said.

"Vic and I talked about that months ago," said Matsui, also a career legislator. "Being in Congress, dying in Congress, having seen nothing else is not necessarily a whole life for somebody."

Life in the House is something that must be renewed every two years and the task was getting harder each time for Fazio, whose district was redrawn in 1990 with a Republican edge. Targeted by GOP leaders as a redwood they wanted felled, he held on to his seat last time by 13 points, but only after raising \$ 2 million to do it.

A moderate with excellent relations with Republicans, Fazio was seen as a key to helping California hold its own in an often hostile congressional environment. As a ranking member of his national party, he raised large amounts of money and was a strategist in the grand plan to reclaim the House.

His increasing national presence gave him what was considered a solid chance of eventually replacing House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (D-Mo.).

Although Fazio's announcement came as a surprise, political insiders had been expecting Dellums would soon end his nearly 30-year career. Citing "a personal decision" that will allow him "to do other things," Dellums leaves as the fourth-longest-serving African American.

A product of the anti-Vietnam War movement and a staunch liberal, Dellums spent much of his early career working against military spending. He rose to become chairman of the committee handling most military affairs and emerged as an unlikely consensus-builder on a panel of hawks. It was a position of great influence, but he remained ever the radical, once shunning his Oval Office access to be arrested with other demonstrators outside the White House gates in protest of U.S. policy toward Haiti.

The Republicans' congressional campaign committee celebrated the news of both resignations with a press release headlined: "Last Democrat Out of the House Please Turn Out the Lights."

"Senior Democrats are having a going-out-of-business sale," Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.) the committee chairman, chortled in a statement. "As leaders in their party, Congressmen Fazio and Dellums were expected to help Democrats try to recapture the House. Their departure shows they concur with political consultant Dick Morris' recent statement: 'The 1998 races will be a disaster for the Democratic Party.' "

Los Angeles Times, November 18, 1997

Dellums' district is a slam-dunk for the Democrats, but Fazio's has long been borderline, like Capps's Santa Barbara seat. Political observers on both coasts expect those two races to be among the nation's hardest-fought, along with that for an open seat created by last week's resignation of Rep. Paul McHale (D-Pa.).

"These developments will make the House exponentially more difficult for Democrats to pick up," said independent analyst Charles Cook. "You've got a string of three setbacks for Democrats. It just makes the incline that much steeper."

Fellow analyst Stuart Rothenberg agreed the resignations "hurt the overall momentum" for Democrats. On a brighter note for the party, Capps' widow will apparently have the field to herself on the Central Coast, where Republicans are bracing for a bruising three-way primary fight that could undermine their hopes of reclaiming a seat that had been held by the GOP since World War II.

In the 10 months her husband served before his fatal heart attack, "I saw the kind of trust that he had established" with voters of the 22nd Congressional District, Lois Capps said in an interview Monday. "That needs to be continued."

A Santa Barbara resident for more than 30 years, Capps, 59, worked as a school nurse and played an integral part in her husband's two congressional campaigns, both his losing effort in 1994 and his successful 1996 race.

During the latter contest, Walter Capps was nearly killed in a car crash and his wife acted as campaign surrogate during the many months it took him to recover. After his election, Lois Capps remained heavily involved in his work on Capitol Hill.

Republicans contenders for the seat are state Assemblymen Brooks Firestone of Los Olivos and Tom J. Bordonaro Jr. of Paso Robles, and former Santa Barbara County Supervisor Mike Stokes.

A special election is scheduled for Jan. 13, with a March runoff to follow, if necessary.

Times political writer Mark Z. Barabak contributed to this story from San Francisco.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Oakland), who went to Congress as an antiwar protester, gestures to supporters after announcing his retirement.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Associated Press PHOTO: Rep. Vic Fazio gets a hug after announcement. PHOTOGRAPHER: Associated Press

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: January 29, 1998

23RD STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

November 18, 1997, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 19; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 480 words

HEADLINE: Two California Representatives to Leave House

BYLINE: By LIZETTE ALVAREZ

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Nov. 17

BODY:

Two stalwart California Democrats, Representatives Vic Fazio and Ronald V. Dellums, announced their retirement from the House of Representatives today after decades of lawmaking on Capitol Hill.

A third Democrat, Representative Paul McHale of Pennsylvania, will also retire from the House at the end of this term, bringing the number of vacated seats now in Democratic hands to 15. Seven of those seats, including Mr. McHale's and Mr. Fazio's, are expected to touch off close matches between Republicans and Democrats in next year's election.

Echoing a common lament among overworked lawmakers in Congress, all three Democrats said they decided to retire to devote more time to their families.

Mr. Fazio and Mr. McHale will serve out their terms. Mr. Dellums will leave Congress on Feb. 6.

"It is time to put ambition and politics aside," said Mr. Fazio, who was elected to the House in 1978 and now, as chairman of his party's caucus, is the third-ranking Democratic leader in the House. "I have come to the season in my life when I believe it is time to prioritize what matters most to me: the need to put aside the relentless pace of Congressional service so I can give more time to family life."

Mr. Fazio, 56, has recently taken on the task of bringing together the liberal and moderate wings of his caucus in the House and finding common ground with Republicans.

During President Clinton's unsuccessful push for expanded trade authority, Mr. Fazio spearheaded the effort to win support for the initiative among House Democrats.

"He is a Democrat who tries to build bridges to Republicans," said Representative Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, the minority leader, who fought Mr. Fazio on trade. Mr. Gephardt said he admired Mr. Fazio's heart-wrenching decision to spend more time with his family. "He serves with honor and integrity every day that he is here."

Mr. Dellums, 61, said today that his 27 years on Capitol Hill had taken a toll on his family life.

The New York Times, November 18, 1997

"Now I choose to make a personal decision and to empower myself to regain my life," Mr. Dellums said at an emotional news conference in his Oakland district.

The senior Democrat on the House National Security Committee, Mr. Dellums is best known for his fight to impose sanctions on South Africa during apartheid and his blistering opposition to defense spending. He is also respected for his sense of collegiality and decorum.

Mr. McHale is the most junior of the three at 47 and in only his third term. But he began his career 18 years ago in local politics in Pennsylvania. He, too, said today it was time to stop giving his family life short shrift, a decision crystallized for him by his 7-year-old son.

"He said, 'Daddy, you've been away almost my whole life,' " said Mr. McHale, who made his announcement that he would return to Bethlehem last week. "That caught my attention."

GRAPHIC: Photos: Representatives Ronald V. Dellums, left, and Vic Fazio, both Democrats of California, whose retirements will leave 15 of their party's seats in Congress vacant. (Photographs by Associated Press)

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 1997

15TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1997 Southeastern Newspapers Corporation
The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN)

November 18, 1997, TUESDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A2

LENGTH: 366 words

HEADLINE: RANKING HOUSE DEMOCRATS FAZIO AND DELLUMS TO RETIRE

BYLINE: The Washington Post

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Two senior House Democrats announced Monday they were ending their congressional careers next year, joining a growing number of ranking Democrats who have chosen to leave the House even as the party seeks to regain control of the chamber.

Rep. Ron Dellums, the House National Security Committee's top Democrat, said he would resign Feb. 6, midway through his 14th House term. Rep. Vic Fazio, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, who had signaled his intent to try to move up in his party's leadership, said he would not seek re-election to an 11th term next year.

The announcements by Dellums and Fazio, both of California, brought to 14 the number of House Democrats leaving Congress, with only four to seek other offices.

Analysts rate six of those seats being vacated by Democratic lawmakers - including Fazio's - as ones Republicans could win next fall now that incumbents will not be defending them, complicating Democratic hopes of picking up the 11 seats they need to reclaim control of the House.

Republicans jumped on the twin announcements to taunt Democrats about a "going-out-of-business sale" in advance of the 1998 elections. "Ron Dellums would not be resigning if he thought he'd be chairman of the National Security Committee in 1999," said Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.), chairman of the Republican campaign committee. "And Vic Fazio would not be calling it quits if he weren't at risk of an embarrassing defeat next November."

Republicans hold a 228-203 majority in the House, with one independent and three vacancies. Thus far, eight GOP lawmakers have announced plans to retire from the House.

Fazio, who has been widely mentioned as a possible successor to Erskine Bowles as White House chief of staff, said he would leave Congress to spend more time with his family. His congressional career "has forced me to choose between my passion for public service and my family far too often," he said.

Redistricting after the 1990 census radically changed Fazio's Sacramento-area district, resulting in a series of close races. Last year, he improved his percentage of the vote to 54 percent after winning 50 percent in 1994 and 51

The Commercial Appeal (Memphis, TN), November 18, 1997

percent in 1992.

NOTES:

Different version, First A2

GRAPHIC: photo (2);

Ron Dellums;

CAPTION: Vic Fazio

LOAD-DATE: November 19, 1997

8TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

November 18, 1997, Tuesday, PM cycle

SECTION: Political News

LENGTH: 557 words

HEADLINE: Two veteran California Democrats leaving Congress

BYLINE: By MARK EVANS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: OAKLAND, Calif.

BODY:

Two veteran California congressmen chose the same day to announce their retirement plans, bringing to 14 the number of Democratic departures in advance of next fall's elections.

Reps. Ron Dellums and Vic Fazio cited personal reasons in their farewell announcements Monday.

Dellums, 62, a one-time anti-Vietnam War radical who became the Democrats' point man on the National Security Committee, said he would resign his seat effective Feb. 6.

"I said if I'm going to go, I need to go now while I have my health, I have my faculties, and say to the community, 'It's been an incredible ride, but it's time to go and pass the baton,'" said Dellums.

Fazio, who rose to become third-ranking member of the Democratic leadership, said he would leave Congress at the end of the term. The 55-year-old chairman of the House Democratic Caucus made his announcement about 80 miles east in Woodland, Calif.

"While serving has been the experience of a lifetime, I have come to the season in my life when I believe it is time to prioritize what matters most to me - the need to put aside the relentless pace of congressional service so I can give more time to family life," he said.

Democratic Party officials anticipated additional departures before the next fall's election.

Several of the vacancies involve districts that figure to be hotly competitive at a time when the party wants to devote its resources to targeting GOP seats rather than defending its own.

Democratic spokesman Dan Sallick said only six of the 14 are likely to be at risk next year, far fewer than was the case at this point in the last campaign.

The Associated Press, November 18, 1997

Thus far, eight GOP lawmakers have announced plans to retire from the House. But Republicans jumped on Fazio's and Dellums' retirements to taunt Democrats about a "going-out-of-business sale" in advance of the 1998 elections.

"Ron Dellums would not be resigning if he thought he'd be chairman of the National Security Committee in 1999," said Rep. John Linder, R-Ga., chairman of the Republican campaign committee. "And Vic Fazio would not be calling it quits if he weren't at risk of an embarrassing defeat next November."

Republicans hold a 228-203 majority in the House, with one independent and three vacancies.

Fazio has played an insider's role in Congress, using his seat on the Appropriations Committee to help his district as well as tending to the needs of his colleagues in Congress.

Ineligible to succeed himself in his leadership position, he has been mentioned as a potential rival to higher-ranking Democrats, or as a potential replacement for outgoing White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles.

Most recently, Fazio was a leader of a small group of Democrats backing the trade legislation that President Clinton tried unsuccessfully to muscle through the House.

The announcement by Dellums signals the end of a career spent in liberal Democratic politics, arguing for less military spending and more money for social programs.

Dellums was an outspoken critic of the political and economic establishment when he was elected to the Berkeley City Council in 1967. Three years later, he ousted an incumbent Democratic congressman.

He rose through seniority to become chairman of the House Armed Services Committee in 1993. He lost his chairmanship after one term when Republicans gained a majority.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 1997