

HONORING LEONIDAS RALPH MECHAM, DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS AND SECRETARY OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2006.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on the Judiciary,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 724]

[Including Committee Cost Estimate]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 724) honoring Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the resolution be agreed to.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H. Res. 724 recognizes and honors Leonidas Ralph Mecham for his distinguished service as the Director of the Administrative Of-

Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

This resolution recognizes Leonidas Ralph Mecham for his distinguished career as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. As the chief non-judicial employee of the agency, the Director oversees the operation of Federal courts nationwide, helping to ensure a timely and fair process to those who came before them. Mr. Mecham's term spanning over twenty years distinguishes him as the longest serving Director of the Administrative Office.

During his tenure, the number of cases heard in Federal courts increased significantly. In response, Congress has provided additional financial and personnel resources to the Judicial branch, increasing its budget from \$1 billion to \$5.7 billion and the number of authorized district court judges from 575 to 678. Leonidas Ralph Mecham has played a significant role ensuring that these additional resources were properly used in the most efficient manner by expanding courthouses, increasing district court flexibility, and introducing an online docket system.

This resolution honors Mr. Mecham for his service to the nation for more than twenty years.

#### HEARINGS

No hearings were held on H. Res. 724.

#### COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On March 15, 2006, the Committee met in open session and ordered favorably reported the resolution H. Res. 724 without amendment by voice vote, a quorum being present.

#### VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(b) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee notes that there were no recorded votes during the Committee consideration of H. Res. 724.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee reports that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

#### NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

#### COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 3(d)(2) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates the costs of implementing the resolution would be minimal. The Congressional Budget Office did not provide a cost estimate for the resolution.

#### PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

H. Res. 724 does not authorize funding. Therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that the rule does not apply because H. Res. 724 is not a bill or joint resolution that may be enacted into law.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The preambular clauses describe the over twenty years of service of Leonidas Ralph Mecham and highlights his accomplishments during his tenure.

The resolved clause provides that the House of Representatives:  
(1) commends Leonidas Ralph Mecham for his steadfast loyalty and unwavering dedication to the judiciary and to the public;

(2) recognizes Leonidas Ralph Mecham for his more than 20 years of outstanding public service to the Federal judiciary and to the Nation; and

(3) honors Leonidas Ralph Mecham on the occasion of his retirement from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee notes H. Res. 724 makes no changes to existing law.

#### MARKUP TRANSCRIPT

### **BUSINESS MEETING** **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
*Washington, DC.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:13 a.m., in Room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, the Honorable F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

[Intervening business.]

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Finally, pursuant to notice, I now call up House Resolution 724, honoring Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States for purposes of markup and move its favorable recommendation to the House.

Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point, and the Chair has an opening statement.

[The resolution, H. Res. 724, follows:]

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 724

Honoring Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2006

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. COBLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Honoring Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Whereas Ralph Mecham has served under three chief justices for more than 20 years as the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, earning him the distinction of the longest serving director in the agency's history;

Whereas Ralph Mecham has focused on enhancing support to the Judicial Conference;

Whereas Ralph Mecham has worked to secure sufficient resources for the judiciary in tight budget climates;

Whereas Ralph Meeham assisted in the creation of a program to obtain funding for new courthouses to replace aging, unsafe facilities, and to enhance judicial security;

Whereas Ralph Meeham championed innovations that have enhanced court administration by decentralizing financial and management responsibilities, thereby providing more flexibility to district and circuit courts; and

Whereas Ralph Meeham encouraged the development and incorporation into the judicial system of the latest technology, which has resulted in major improvements in court efficiency, presentation of evidence, and access to court records: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends Leonidas Ralph Meeham for his  
3       steadfast loyalty and unwavering dedication to the  
4       judiciary and to the public;

5               (2) recognizes Leonidas Ralph Meeham for his  
6       more than 20 years of outstanding public service to  
7       the Federal judiciary and to the Nation; and

8               (3) honors Leonidas Ralph Meeham on the oc-  
9       casion of his retirement from the Administrative Of-  
10      fice of the United States Courts.

○

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. After 21 years of service, Ralph Mecham has announced his retirement from the Administrative Office of the Courts. As Director of the AO, Ralph Mecham oversaw the operation of Federal courts nationwide, working to ensure a timely and fair process to those who came before the Federal courts.

His 20-year term as director of the AO makes him the longest serving individual to hold that position. Over the last two decades, the number of cases heard in Federal courts has increased significantly. In response, Congress has provided additional financial and personnel resources to the Federal judiciary, increasing its budget from \$1 billion to \$5.7 billion and the number of authorized district judges from 575 to 678.

Mr. Mecham has helped ensure that these additional resources were used in the most efficient manner by expanding courthouses, increasing district court flexibility and introducing an online docket system. The resolution honors Mr. Mecham for his service, and I encourage the support of my colleagues.

I yield back the balance of my time and recognize the Ranking Member, who is an original cosponsor of this resolution, for his remarks.

Mr. CONYERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members.

I have very little to add, and I completely support the commendations that have been offered to Leonidas Ralph Mecham. He has served with great distinction as director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference. He began in 1952, has worked in virtually every segment of the United States industry, and there are a long list of services and universities with which he is connected.

I ask that my complete statement be included in the record.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Conyers follows:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JOHN CONYERS, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The bill honors the career of Leonidas Ralph Mecham, who is retiring after more than twenty years of service as Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference.

As the longest serving Director in history, Ralph shepherded the federal judiciary through monumental changes. Recognizing the importance of the judiciary to our system of government, he worked to increase funding for the courts during tight budget climates and improve the administration of justice. Because of his perseverance, the courts function more efficiently through better access to court records and presentation of evidence.

Ralph started his career in 1952 and has worked in virtually every segment of U.S. industry. He has served with the Four Corners Regional Economic Development Commission of the U.S. Department of Commerce, as Chief of Staff to a United States Senator, as Vice President of the University of Utah, and in service to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Political Science from the University of Utah, a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard University, and a Juris Doctor from George Washington University Law School.

I urge my colleagues to vote "Yes" on this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. And urge a yes on this resolution and return my unused time.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Without objection, all Members may insert opening statements in the record at this point.

Are there amendments?

There are no amendments. A reporting quorum is present. The question occurs on the motion to report House Resolution 724 favorably. All in favor, say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The motion to report favorably is agreed to. Without objection, the staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes, and all Members will be given 2 days, as provided by the House rules, in which to submit additional, dissenting, supplemental, or minority views.

This concludes the items on the agenda. The Chair would like to thank everybody for their efficient processing of today's business, and without objection, the Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:16 a.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

