

the town of Chester was founded. Chester was formed from parts of Warwick, Goshen, Monroe, and Blooming Grove.

With its Greycourt meadows known as the Black Dirt Area, Chester provided an unparalleled farming area for early settlers. Onions, celery, lettuce, and other vegetables provided a market that sustained many families whose ancestors still reside in Chester. The uplands of Chester provided a dairyman's paradise. The advent of the Erie Railroad in 1841 provided these farmers with an outlet to distant markets. Moreover, the formation of this railroad provided residents of New York City with their first means of fresh milk and vegetables.

In 1892, the village of Chester, in the northern part of the town, was incorporated. About that same time, an ingenious system brought water to Chester from Walton Lake. In 1903, the Grange came to Chester and was an important influence on the agricultural sciences until the 1960's.

Dairy farming continued to grow in Chester until the 1950's when it slowly began to decline. The Chester Meadows still produce an abundance of vegetables. New businesses, shopping malls, industrial parks are all growing and becoming an integral part of the Chester economy. A new town hall, and library have both been constructed to meet the ever growing needs of this now modern town. Sugar Loaf, one of the oldest communities in Orange County, has changed from a sleepy country village to one of industry and skilled craftsmen. While many of the farmers have disappeared, Chester has now become a desirable place to settle and raise a family.

Beginning on June 2, the town of Chester held a 3-day celebration commemorating its sesquicentennial anniversary. The celebration was hosted by town supervisor, Stephen Shortess, and town historian, Clark Holbert, and included the dedication of a new town flag for Chester, an award ceremony from Chester High School, a dinner dance, and many other fun-filled events. A dinner dance featuring a live band and a fireworks show concluded the opening ceremonies.

On Saturday, June 3, a celebrity softball game against a team of town officials took place. After the game, Vidbel's Olde Circus performed at Chester Commons. A barbecue dinner and dance concluded the second day of the celebration.

On Sunday, June 4, a religious service began the day, and was followed by an old time community picnic, featuring performances by various ethnic groups. Closing ceremonies began at 5 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join in congratulating the town of Chester on this very special occasion.

HAPPY 53D ANNIVERSARY TO
HELEN AND HUBERT JOLLY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a couple who has endured the test of time. Today, Hubert and Helen Jolly are celebrating their 53d wedding anniversary.

They met at a high school dance in Albany, NY—two young people from adjoining boys

and girls schools. Soon after, they fell in love and on July 13, 1942, Helen and Hubert made a commitment to spend their lives together, a commitment they have taken very seriously.

In these days of disintegrating families, it is reassuring to see a strong, stable marriage built on love, respect, and trust. They show the rest of us by example that a marriage can truly endure. Their faith, loyalty, and sense of humor has been a great example to their 7 children and 10 grandchildren. Their willingness to help others by giving their time and service to their church, scouts, little league, PTA, and other organizations throughout their lives has been greatly appreciated by their family and friends.

While the families have spread across the country, not a Christmas goes by where their children and grandchildren don't think of Helen and Herb's wonderful Christmas Eve celebrations filled with good food, drinks, and lots of laughter and joy. Although the entire family cannot celebrate together, the traditions are carried on through the generations.

A World War II veteran, Herb is active with the VFM and has marched in dozens of parades proudly wearing his uniform. A lifelong humorist, Herb can still reel off a dozen jokes on any topic at the drop of a hat. Helen is a dynamic and energetic woman and her children and grandchildren often have a hard time keeping up with her fast pace. Together, they blossomed into a strong family that is on 53 years and growing. Their newest grandchild is due in November and two of their granddaughters are getting married this year.

With so much talk on reinstalling traditional family values, this event deserves special recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Hubert and Helen good health and many more happy years together.

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, Members on both sides of the aisle have been known on occasion for playing fast and loose with the facts and obscuring the truth with statistics.

Tonight I'd like to submit for your consideration a different perspective.

This one comes from someone in the field—a nose-to-the-grindstone Federal employee who works as a tax collector for the IRS. In correspondence I received from him, he tells me of the folly of Republican proposals enshrined in the budget resolution to cut funding for, and then privatize certain tax collection activities.

His argument is clear: only the force of the Federal Government can compel tax evaders to comply and only well-trained, dedicated IRS agents have the wherewithal to produce the kind of results that Congress seeks in bringing scofflaws to justice.

You may be tempted to put my comments down as partisan posturing but I submit here a copy of my constituent's letter for the RECORD and ask you to take it from one who knows.

July 7, 1995.

Hon. SAM FARR,

Congress of the United States, Salinas, CA.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FARR, I just heard some of the provisions of the House Budget Resolution passed last week in the name of deficit reduction, and I am appalled at the contents. It is clear that some members of Congress have taken leave of their senses, and I hope that you can assist me in changing their minds.

As a federal employee, I strongly resent the fact the House chose to "balance the budget" on our backs by increasing the contributions we will have to make to our retirement system, weakening our health insurance system, changing how pensions are to be calculated, etc. As far as I'm concerned, it was an act of cowardice, because law enforcement and general government operations only constitute about 2% of federal outlays. What about taking a look at the other 98%?! However, Congress has never been known for its ability to make the tough choices, so we expected that. We've had to make sacrifices for so many years . . . I guess we can make a few more.

Much worse than that, however, are the seeds of 'FISCAL INSANITY' contained in the Treasury Appropriations portion of the Resolution. Not only does it contain provisions for testing the contracting-out of tax collection activities (a supremely stupid exercise in futility), it cuts the Internal Revenue Service's budget for the Compliance Initiative by \$130 million, Returns Processing by \$130 million, and enforcement by \$268 million!! If the Republican majority in the House thinks this is the way to achieve deficit reduction, I know what they've been smoking—and they did inhale!!

Let me explain, I am a GS-12 Revenue Officer with the IRS here in Salinas. Even if some of your Congressional counterparts don't understand it, we at IRS do understand money. After all revenue is our middle name!! First, we are sworn, commissioned officers with broad powers of collection granted to us by statute. Giving equal powers to a private firm operating under contract would require the modification or deletion of literally hundreds (if not thousands) of existing laws!! We have a rate of assaults and threats against us that is twice that of the next highest agency, The Drug Enforcement Administration. How is a private company going to find people that will take that kind of abuse, collect taxes as efficiently and effectively as we do and make a profit?!! Who ever proposed that idea has an intelligence level sufficient to qualify him as plant life. Second, actual numbers are quite telling. The house has proposed a cut in the enforcement portion of IRS budget of \$268 million. Well, enforcement is Collection, basically. So how much does Collection collect? Here are some real numbers. My Collection group consists of a Group Manager, a secretary, a Revenue Representative (for simpler, smaller cases) and thirteen Revenue Officers (five of whom are trainees). During the first nine months (which included the highly disruptive move of our entire office to a new location), our group has collected over \$9.8 million in back taxes. At an average of \$1.1 million per month that would be \$13 million for a year. The total of salaries for our sixteen people is \$582,953 a year. That means \$22.30 in delinquent taxes collected for each dollar of our salaries. That is a "Return on Investment" (ROI) of 2200%!! Where else can you find an ROI like that? Real Estate? The Stock Market? Collectibles? None of them come close—and we do it year after year.

So in order to reduce the deficit, the house intends to cut the Enforcement portion of IRS' budget by \$268 million. Well, \$268 million X \$22.30 equals almost \$6 billion that

won't get collected. what a novel idea—you reduce the deficit by adding to the deficit!!! The number of returns to be processed increases each year, so we'll decrease the budget for doing that. Compliance has been steadily eroding for years so why not cut monies there and make it even easier for the cheats, the scofflaws and the underground economy to flaunt their noncompliance in the face of the taxpaying public. All of this OZ-type logic is giving me a headache. I guess I'd better hold onto Toto a little more tightly. It doesn't look like we're in Kansas anymore.

I hope that you share my concerns for the severely adverse impact that this portion of the House Budget Resolution will have not

only on the administration and enforcement of America's tax laws but on the budget itself? Killing the goose that lays the golden egg is counterproductive.

I've been a registered Republican all my life, but now I'm ashamed to admit it. How the House leadership could even permit (much less promote?) such a gross act of fiscal irresponsibility is beyond my comprehension. They need to rise above whatever petty personal grievances they may have with the Service and think about their country.

Taxes are the lifeblood of Government, and if the taxes due cannot be collected because of budgetary insufficiencies, we will only sink deeper into the morass of mounting

deficits in which we find ourselves already. In the end it will be the body politic that will suffer, and the damage will last for years.

I hope you will exercise your good offices as Congressman for our District by meeting with the Treasury Appropriations Committee conferees next week and convincing them how short-sighted and ill-conceived this piece of budgetary lunacy really is. Don't hesitate to give them copies of this letter if you think it will help. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. NORMAN,
Revenue Officer.