

crime—for example, S&L bailout, defrauding Federal Government on procurement, criminal penalties for willful violation of child labor laws by employers that result in serious bodily injury or death of minors in the workplace, eliminate deductibility of legal expenses when a company is accused of a crime—and on drug trafficking and abuse.

The third bill in the Progressive Promise is The Corporate Responsibility Act, which cuts corporate welfare in the form of special subsidies and tax loopholes of benefit to many of America's wealthiest corporations; to require companies to internalize pollution clean-up and other costs of production instead of continuing to foist them on the American taxpayer, and to reform basic labor laws to restore collective bargaining rights and balance in employer-employee relations.

The fourth bill in the Progressive Promise is Family Foundation Act, which will enable parents to get decent-paying, stable jobs in order to afford child care and health care for their families; to raise the minimum wage and index it for inflation; to strengthen child support collection; to abolish financial penalties for two-parent families; to protect the sanctity of the family and safeguard the health and well-being of all our children; and to ensure that all Americans are well fed.

The fifth bill in the Progressive Promise is The American Homemakers and Caregivers Act, which target IRA's and other savings incentives on middle- and low-income Americans; special provisions to extend generous IRA options to spouses who stay home to nurture children under 6 years of age, thus recognizing the importance of parental child-rearing; to allow penalty-free IRA withdrawals for home health care, education expenses, or to start a small business; and targeted deduction for child care expenses.

The sixth bill in the Progressive Promise is The National Economic Security Act, which cuts the Pentagon and CIA budgets and star wars spending in favor of shifting limited resources to meet domestic social needs and investments to strengthen the U.S. national economy.

The seventh bill in the Progressive Promise is The Cradle-To-Grave Health Care Act, which require a vote on sense-of-the-Congress resolution against cuts in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; to establish a state-based, single-payer health care plan that provides cost-effective, comprehensive and affordable health care for all Americans, including long-term care and prescription drug coverage; and to stress disease prevention and health promotion in our communities.

The eighth bill in the Progressive Promise is The Job Creation and Invest in America Act, which would create at least 1 million jobs in the United States in each of the next 2 years from \$127.2 billion in new investment to rebuild and upgrade America's physical infrastructure and clean up the environment; to pay for these investments by closing tax loopholes for offshore production while rewarding U.S. companies that invest, produce, and create jobs in the United States; to require the wealthiest U.S. corporations and citizens to pay their fair share of taxes; and to establish a national commission to find ways to encourage social investment of billions in pension funds to meet domestic needs in America.

The ninth bill in the Progressive Promise is The Taking Back our Congress Act, which curbs influence-peddling and special-interest lobbying through tougher lobbying restrictions and campaign finance reform; to prohibit ex-members of Congress and executive branch officials from lobbying on behalf of foreign governments and companies; to improve ballot access so more Americans can run for office; and to authorize some public financing of congressional elections to make it more affordable for more candidates to run regardless of personal wealth.

The tenth bill in the Progressive Promise is The Public Interest Legislature Act, which strengthens financial disclosure requirements and to prevent financial conflicts of interest in voting decisions by Members of Congress.

The eleventh bill in The Export American Products, Not American Jobs Act, which eliminates or limits special tax and trade incentives and taxpayer-backed programs that reward U.S.-based multinational corporations for producing offshore; no new fast-track and trade agreements without enforceable worker rights, environmental, agricultural, and safety health standards; to prohibit importing child and forced labor products; and to reduce U.S. trade deficit by eliminating unfair trade barriers to U.S. exports.

PROTECT AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the stage is set for Congress to get its fiscal house in order. The American people demand it. The years of frivolous tax and spend policies are over. Our mandate is clear. Passing the balanced budget tax limitation amendment will restore fiscal sanity and accountability.

The voters elected us to defend their liberties and their wallets by making Government smaller. The tax limitation balanced budget amendment will keep the Federal spending beast under lock and key. It will force Congress to balance the budget the right way. It will force Congress to cut spending rather than balance the budget on the backs of the American taxpayer.

Our forefathers envisioned a Constitution that serves the needs of the people, not the needs of the Federal Government. America needs and wants a protaxpayer Constitution, not a protax Constitution. I urge my colleagues to support the tax limitation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD POLLACK

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Ronald Pollack. Ron is retiring after a lifetime of personal and professional devotion to public education.

Ron began his career as a teacher and counselor in the Detroit public schools. He is retiring as the director of the Department of

Support and Auxiliary Services from the County of Macomb's Intermediate School District.

Ron's varied experience has allowed preschoolers, special education students, adult education students, and many others to profit from his expertise. In addition to his leadership role at the ISD, he has taught at some of Michigan's most reputable Universities, including Wayne State, Oakland, Saginaw Valley, the University of Detroit, and the University of Michigan. He has also acted as a consultant for adult education classes co-sponsored by the United Auto Workers and both Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp.

Taking an active role in one's community is a responsibility we all share, but few fulfill. Ron Pollack has devoted himself to this task through both professional and civil endeavors. His commitment to education is second to none. Meanwhile, he also finds time to work with many outside groups dedicated to improving individual lives. The Private Industry Council, the Metropolitan Detroit National Alliance of Business and numerous other organizations have all benefited from Dr. Pollack's commitment to excellence.

Education was not simply a job to Ron Pollack, it was an avocation. He richly deserves all the best in retirement. He has been a good friend for many years and I ask that my colleagues join me in offering heartfelt congratulations and a sincere thank you for a job well done.

RURAL COMMUNITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 1994

HON. JIM CHAPMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. CHAPMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce, along with original cosponsors, the Rural Community Wastewater Treatment Affordability Act of 1995. HR 692. This legislation, which I first introduced in the 103rd Congress and was drafted with the assistance of the National Rural Water Association and the Rural Community Assistance Program, is designed to ensure that rural and disadvantaged communities have greater access to the Clean Water Act's state-revolving fund [SRF] program.

While the purpose of the SRF program is to assist localities in their efforts to modernize existing treatment works and construct new ones through a low-interest loan program, it has fallen far short of this goal in rural communities. One of the largest obstacles for rural systems is that they can rarely finance 100% loans, even at low interest rates, because they have limited revenue generating capabilities and cannot achieve economies of scale.

It has become clear to me and many of my colleagues who represent rural communities that the federal government must take a more active role in assisting these communities with their wastewater treatment infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, my bill will make SRF loans more affordable to small systems by allowing negative interest loan financing, extending the loan repayment period from 20 to 40 years and requiring that 1-2% of each state's SRF

allocation be used to make grants to communities for planning and predevelopment costs. In addition, the bill allows non-profit corporations to be eligible for SRF funding, as they currently are under USDA's Rural Utility Service's water and waste disposal program. Finally, the bill authorizes \$15 million for rural water organizations technical assistance programs. This provision will allow organizations like the Rural Water Association and the Rural Community Assistance Program to provide hands-on, in-the-field, technical assistance to rural communities, thus, assisting these communities in making the most efficient use of scarce resources.

As reauthorization of the Clean Water Act is deliberated this year, I look forward to working closely with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to ensure that rural and disadvantaged communities are not left behind.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Rural Community Wastewater Treatment Affordability Act and join me in assisting our nation's rural communities.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to first restore, and then to increase, the income tax deduction for health insurance premiums paid by those who are self-employed, at a rate of 25 percent for 1994, and 80 percent for 1995 and thereafter.

Fully one-quarter of self-employed Americans—3.1 million farmers and craftsmen, professionals and small business proprietors—have no health insurance. Compared to all other workers, the self-employed are one and a half times more likely to lack essential health care coverage.

As we search for methods to increase access to necessary medical services and reduce the crushing burdens of uncompensated care, which threaten the fiscal stability of both affected individuals and the entire health care system, there can be no doubt that U.S. tax code should encourage the self-employed to purchase health care insurance. Instead, current regulations discriminate against the self-employed and discourage the individual initiative that has always been a bedrock of the American economy.

As part of the expense of employee compensation, businesses can deduct the full cost of any health insurance provided to employees. Similar treatment of health care premium costs has never been fully available to the self-employed. And, unless we act quickly, the loss of the limited deduction in effect during recent tax years will soon be keenly felt by the self-employed. In order to provide consistent tax treatment of medical insurance expenses, my bill restores for 1994 the 25 percent deduction that has enjoyed nearly a decade of strong bipartisan support.

The availability of this deduction should not only be renewed, it should be adjusted equitably. Because businesses, on average, contribute—and fully deduct as an expense—80 percent of the total cost of employee health in-

surance premiums, my bill increases the percentage of premium costs which can be deducted by self-employed persons to 80 percent, effective with tax year 1995. This is similar to the provision thoughtfully considered and passed by the Ways and Means Committee of the 103rd Congress.

With approximately 41 million medically uninsured persons in the United States currently, measures which encourage working people to provide for their health care coverage within the private sector are essential. The particular form of an individual's employment situation should not determine the tax treatment of health care costs incurred as part of the cost of doing business. Rather, as nearly as possible, parity of deductibility should be obtained within the tax code.

In the interests of both fairness and sound health care policy, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 691.

IN HONOR OF HUGO H. LANGE

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, seventy-eight years ago a 28 year old farmer from Floresville, Texas responded to the Nation's call for service during World War I. Corporal Hugo H. Lange joined Company H, 328th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Infantry Division of the Army during the Saint Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives in France. Corporal Lange's actions during the Meuse-Argonne offensive earned him a Silver Star, the Nation's third highest decoration for battlefield heroism, and a promotion to Sergeant.

Hugo Lange's citation reads, "For Gallantry in Action: Sergeant then Corporal Hugo H. Lange, Company H, 328th Infantry, distinguished himself during the severe fighting west of Chatel Chehery, France on 8 October 1918. Finding himself detached from his platoon, rallied and reorganized the men he could find, amounting to half a platoon, and successfully led them forward, this being the first detachment to reach the battalion objective. His aggressiveness, bravery and leadership through out the Argonne offensive contributed much to the success of his company."

After Lange's death in 1935, his daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Braden, discovered that the Army had never given her father the Medals of Valor. Through Mrs. Braden's efforts, the Army has decided to honor Hugo Lange's heroism with a ceremony today at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Lt. Gen. Marc Cisneros, Commanding General of Fifth US Army and Fort Sam Houston, will present the Silver Star Medal and the World War I victory medal—with three campaign clasps—to one of Hugo Lange's sons, Mr. Victor Lange, and to Mrs. Braden.

I commend the family of Hugo Lange for their efforts to enhance and preserve their family history. Fewer and fewer of today's youth have firsthand experience of military service. In addition, we are losing more and more of our World War I and World War II veterans. Their history, and the stories of their struggles, need to be preserved and passed on to all future generations.

A MATTER OF CHARACTER: THE VIEW FROM THE IRON RANGE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on January 4 the House of Representatives welcomed its new majority. The event marked a political sea-change in the leadership of the House.

I would like to submit to you an editorial that ran in my hometown newspaper, the Chisholm, MN, Free Press, circulation 3,100. Its publisher, Veda Ponikvar, holds the distinction of being the first woman newspaper publisher in the State of Minnesota. I have known Veda all my life, and have always respected her insight, her wisdom and her articulate advocacy of the values we share as Minnesotans, and Americans.

I commend to you, my colleagues, a view of Washington from Minnesota's Iron Range.

[From the Free Press, Jan. 10, 1995]

CHARACTER IS MORAL ORDER

The great hope of any society is individual character. One must look into people as well as at them for Character is the diamond that scratches every other stone.

Character is moral order seen through the medium of an individual nature. In Character there is also unselfish leadership with the stamp on our souls of the free choice of good or evil we have made through life. Therefore, Character, like porcelain ware, must be printed before it is glazed. There can be no change after it is burned in.

A SHINING, SPOTLESS EXAMPLE

The noblest contribution which any man or woman can make for the benefit of posterity is that of a good character. The richest bequest of posterity is that of a good character. The richest bequest which any man or woman can leave to the youth of their native land is that of a shining, spotless example.

We have in the Congress of the United States a man in the personality of Newt Gingrich, who for over a decade has lived off of the American taxpayer. For the services rendered, he also has enjoyed a host of perks, including a very lucrative and all-inclusive health plan. He did little to institute some sort of national health bill that would lessen the burdens and worries of the electorate. He now is the Speaker of the House, a position that most men earn by integrity, selfless dedication, and humility.

What a sick, ugly example he has set for the Youth of this nation with his despicable assessment of The First Lady, Hillary Clinton. In public as well as in private, those elected to office and entrusted with the responsibilities of governing our nation, need to watch their language; be gentlemen and gentle ladies at all times; and give to the nation a luster of excellence and propriety.

That Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Gingrich are poles apart politically has nothing to do with proper manners and the decency to respect the highest office in the land. Mrs. Clinton is no neophyte in the area of governance. She is an accomplished attorney; has a brilliant mind, and above all, a desire to make life a little easier for the poor, the sick, the aged, and the impoverished. The nation didn't see one Newt Gingrich serving the homeless during the Thanksgiving Holiday. But Mrs. Clinton was there, serving those less fortunate. She deserves an A for effort on many fronts. We cannot say the same for Mr. Gingrich.