

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5, 1995, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 837. Had I been present I would have voted "yea." This vote was on passage of H.R. 2684, the Senior Citizens Right to Work Act of 1995.

I am pleased to voice my support for H.R. 2684 which will allow our senior citizens to appropriately supplement their income during retirement. Social Security was intended to be supplemented in retirement by pension and asset income. However, under current law, individuals aged 65 to 69 years old with earnings above \$11,280 lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 earned. Coupled with standard income taxes and other payroll taxes, this amounts to an overall tax rate of over 70 percent for many of the Nation's working elderly—more than double the rate paid by the wealthiest individuals in America.

I am also pleased that this legislation was brought up as a stand-alone bill, rather than as a provision in the Republicans' budget reconciliation package, which I strongly opposed. In fact, the budget reconciliation package will make this legislation even more vital for America's seniors because the budget package will increase out-of-pocket costs for average Social Security recipients. With their budgets further strained by these increased costs, seniors will need extra earnings just to keep up in the new Republican reality.

I urge prompt enactment of H.R. 2684. Our economy needs older workers. Older Americans deserve the opportunity to continue to enjoy meaningful employment. Last year, Congress eliminated the mandatory retirement age. This year, Congress must act to eliminate this discriminatory policy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I was not present for rollcall votes Nos. 842, 843, and 844. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 842, "no" on rollcall No. 843, and "yes" on rollcall No. 844.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
GUADALUPE MONTOYA

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in remembering Guadalupe Montoya, a special woman from my district who died recently after years of contributing to her community.

Lupe came from a family that has roots in California dating back to the early 1800s. Al-

though born in Texas, Lupe's family returned to Southern California in the 1920s, where she spent most of her life. Despite a limited knowledge of English and only an eighth grade education, the example of community activism she set instilled in her children and her neighbors a desire to take part in the political process that endures to this day.

As a neighborhood campaigner for a young Edward Roybal—then a candidate for Los Angeles County Supervisor—Lupe demonstrated how issues important to her Hispanic community could be addressed through political activism.

By trade, Lupe was a seamstress and had several important clients from throughout the Los Angeles area. Along with her job, she managed to raise five children who have become active in their own communities.

When Lupe retired, she became an active senior volunteer, receiving numerous certificates of appreciation from the City of Los Angeles. In addition, she earned a commendation from the California Assembly for her volunteer work. And she was recognized by the United States Retired Volunteer Program and received a letter of congratulations from former Speaker of the House Thomas "Tip" O'Neill.

But perhaps the greatest testament to her legacy is the respect and admiration she commands among her friends and family, and the sense of community involvement she has left behind.

Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Guadalupe Montoya.

RECOGNITION OF THE NEWPORT
FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 100TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Newport Fire Department—Station No. 5. Located in the heart of historic Newport, RI, Station 5 recently celebrated its Centennial anniversary with a weekend full of festivities.

Station 5 traces its roots back to 1794, when Company 5 was founded. During those days the Station was based on the corner of Spring and Mary Streets. Throughout the next 100 years, the Company would move two times before building its current home on West Marlborough Street. The West Marlborough Street location was dedicated on December 7, 1895, making it the oldest continually operated fire station in the city.

Included in the Centennial celebration was a dinner honoring the station and past members. During the celebration the same menu was served as the original dedication ceremony 100 years ago.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute today to the years of selfless, devoted service that Company 5 has given to the city of Newport.

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, RAY MILAM

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a unique individual who was honored this past weekend with a surprise appreciation dinner. That person is Raymond Milam. This tribute focused on Mr. Milam's role in the education of the children of New Jersey, especially those children living in urban areas.

Ray Milam coordinates the professional services of the New Jersey School Boards Association's Technical Assistance Unit. The unit helps the 30 special needs school districts identified in a New Jersey Supreme Court decision on the State's school funding laws. In addition, the Technical Assistance Unit services the remaining 32 urban boards of education in 17 of the State's 21 counties. Ray Milam is an active advocate and service provider for parents, children, and urban educators. Mr. Miram is a graduate of Hampton University. He received his graduate degree from the University of Iowa. Throughout his professional career he has been a teacher, consultant, trainer, local school district administrator, and State Department of Education director.

During his tenure with the New Jersey School Boards Association, Mr. Milam has had the opportunity to impact on our urban school districts in many positive ways. Understanding the special needs of our urban young people, he has been able to develop training programs that have helped sensitize members of school boards, as well as school administrators and faculty. More importantly, he has used his position to recommend and introduce highly qualified professionals to urban school districts which were looking for candidates to fill important vacancies. He has been particularly successful in matching school boards with superintendents in many urban districts around the State.

I wish I had the opportunity to share personally with my colleagues the wonderful thoughts, remembrances and sentiments that filled the program and "Memories to Cherish" booklet. It was evident from these expressions of friendship—personal and professional, respect, gratitude, and love that Ray Milam has truly earned and deserves the recognition he received on Saturday, December 9, 1995. What was mentioned time and time again was the gentleness of a man who has been able to consistently and clearly focus on the problem at hand and develop a solution where all are able to rededicate themselves to working for the benefit of our school children. When we talk of the measure of the man; in the case of Mr. Raymond Milam it is his strong commitment to helping our children prepare for responsible and productive citizenry in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will join me as I congratulate Raymond Milam for an outstanding career in the field of education and wish him and his family: his wife Jean Stewart Milam; his children Pamela, Maria and Kenneth; and his grandson Damon all the best in the future.

UNREASONABLE SHIPPING RATE PROVISION HARMS OFFSHORE AREAS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my concerns with the maritime provisions of H.R. 2539, legislation to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Federal Maritime Commission. As the conferees meet on this legislation, I urge them to strike the section defining a "zone of reasonableness" for rates.

This provision would allow carriers to raise their rates 10 percent per year, plus 7.5 percent in the version passed by the other body. Such increases would be deemed reasonable and no challenge would be allowed. It does not matter if costs decrease, the price of fuel is cut in half, more efficient ships can do the job at half the price, labor costs are significantly lowered, or economic factors cause all other prices to decrease.

To call this a zone of reasonableness is an oxymoron. I know of no other industry which is guaranteed a yearly increase of 10 percent plus inflation. I know of no other law that guarantees in statute a formula for increasing prices year after year. Such a guarantee is not a move toward deregulation of the transportation industry as the legislation is designed to do.

For those of us who receive a majority of our goods by ocean carrier, this provision would significantly impact our economy. We do not have other transportation options. If enacted, this legislation would encourage businesses on Guam to buy fewer goods from the mainland because of the unprecedented increases in rates. It would result in an increase in the importation of goods from foreign nations because we would have no other choice. People on Guam want to buy goods from the mainland, but not if the shipping costs make consumer prices increase at an astonishing rate.

As the conferees meet on H.R. 2539, I urge the conferees to consider the economic effects of enacting such an anti-competitive provision, under the mantle of deregulation, and the dangerous precedent it sets. I encourage the conferees to strike this provision.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL BRUTON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness at the recent passing of Michael Bruton at the age of 59. Michael Bruton, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, died Sunday, November 12, from complications caused by cancer.

Michael held numerous positions with the CFL and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He was elected president of the CFL in 1994, and had been assistant to the president since January 1986. He served as vice president of the CFL.

Michael started his union career in 1954, when he became an apprentice electrician

with Local 134. He was a 1954 graduate of De La Salle High School in Chicago. He attended Washburne Trade School and received his journeyman credentials in 1958. He also attended the Kennedy Electronics School and the University of Illinois Labor Program from 1972 to 1976. In 1989, he was appointed to the board of directors of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority by Mayor Richard Daley. Michael was a former member of the Illinois State Board of Education. He served as secretary of the board and vice chairman of its Equal Employment Opportunity Committee.

Michael was a member of St. Daniel the Prophet Church on Chicago's Southwest Side and its Holy Name Society. He coached basketball at St. Daniel in the 1980's, and was active in the Boy Scouts of America. Michael served on the board of the United Way/Crusade of Mercy Catholic Charities, the Board of Governors of the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau. He also was a labor representative on the Chicago Private Industry Council and served several other charitable and civic organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to his wife, Marilyn; three sons, Michael, Timothy, and Thomas; six daughters, Susan Cerebona, Mary Beth Carroll, Nancy Herbst, Sharon, Denise, and Karen; three brothers, Lawrence, Patrick, and James; and two sisters, Ann Howell and Pauline Thomas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. STEPHEN LEE, LOCAL FARMER, PATRIARCH, AND AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago our Nation celebrated the Thanksgiving holiday. It was a time to spend gathered with family and being thankful for all that we have. For the family of Stephen V. Lee, Jr., a local cranberry farmer back home in my district, it was a time to truly give thanks.

Stephen Lee is an American success story. After serving his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Mr. Lee returned to America and took up the family tradition as a cranberry farmer.

Although his family had successfully farmed their property as early as the 1870's, the Great Depression had forced its closure until Mr. Lee took individual initiative to restore and revive the family's agricultural heritage. After years of hard work, Mr. Lee and his sons reclaimed the land, restored old bogs, and built new ones used for growing the berries. His original loan of a couple thousand dollars in the 1940's has flourished into a multimillion-dollar farm. Throughout this productive return to the family heritage of cranberry farming, Mr. Lee has continued to be a strong father and grandfather as well as a leader throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, recently *Modern Maturity* magazine published a story entitled "Crimson Harvest" which details the life of Stephen Lee. I would ask that this article also be included as part of Extension of Remarks as a tribute to Mr. Lee.

[From *Modern Maturity*, Nov.-Dec. 1995]

CRIMSON HARVEST

(By Mark Wexler)

On a brisk autumn afternoon Stephen V. Lee, Jr., looks out onto a sea of floating red berries and beams like a little boy who has just opened a bag of Halloween candy. "How that's what I call a pretty crop," he says with a big smile. "There's good crimson color on the fruit this year, and that means a sweet Thanksgiving."

Lee is a fourth-generation cranberry farmer living the American dream in the heart of New Jersey's scenic Pine Barrens region. In the late 1940s he used a \$4,000 loan to rescue his historic family farm from the brink of bankruptcy. Now, after years of hard work, he's turned the operation into a million-dollar business.

"This is my life," he says, pointing to the miles of red-colored bogs surrounded by trees and marshes. "I've got cranberry juice running through my veins." Today, at 85, Lee continues to put in long days in what he calls his "labor of love," and his two sons are by his side.

Family farmers like the Lees cultivate most of the world's cranberries on only about 30,000 acres in the United States and Canada. There are 44 other families that grow the berries in the Pine Barrens, a 2,000-square-mile oasis of forests, wetlands and wildlife in southern New Jersey that in 1979 was designated a federal preserve, which protects the area by controlling development. Last year Pine Barrens growers produced more than 53 million pounds of cranberries, a figure only Massachusetts and Wisconsin farmers surpassed. "It's not the easiest way to make a living," says Lee, "but it keeps me young."

The object of Lee's affection is more American than apple pie. European settlers introduced the apple to this continent; the cranberry is native to North America. A slender vine that creeps along the ground, the cranberry plant produces a tart-tasting, finicky fruit that survives only in very specialized conditions: It requires an acid peat soil, sand, plenty of fresh water, and a growing season stretching from April to November. Under those conditions the vines can live indefinitely; some Cape Cod cranberry plants are more than 150 years old.

Cranberries don't actually grow in water. Instead, they blossom on the dense mat of vines that make up impermeable beds in marshy areas called bogs, which glacial deposits originally formed. Native Americans in the Northeast picked the berries from the natural bogs and used them to flavor their food and dye their blankets and clothing. Because raw cranberries have an astringent effect that contracts tissue and stops bleeding, the Indians also used the fruit to make poultices for wounds. And they made a tea from the leaves to use as a diuretic.

Legend has it that when the Pilgrims arrived in New England in 1620, the Wampanoag Indians who greeted them gave the settlers ibimi ("bitter berries") as goodwill gifts. Apparently the word ibimi didn't roll easily off the Plymouth colonists' tongues, so they coined their own names for the fruit. Noticing that the vine's flowers vaguely resembled cranes' heads, they eventually dubbed their new food "crane-berries."

Historians disagree over whether cranberries were actually served at the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621, but one fact is certain: They became a big hit with the English settlers, who found the fruit not only edible and useful as a dye but also "excellent against the Scurvy."

Word of the miraculous berries soon spread back to England, and the colonists recognized a good thing when they saw it. With a