

INTEREST RATES SHOULD NOT BE RAISED

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve to not raise interest rates again for the seventh time in a year. For months we have seen good numbers in unemployment and the gross national product, yet our working people have not seen this prosperity. This recovery is a slow one, and many have not felt its positive affects on their lives. While we all struggle to find an answer to these puzzling economic times, one thing seems clear: Another interest rate hike by the Fed is not the answer.

True, many traditional indicators are up. However, there are many warning signs that the economy is slowing down. Commercial real estate, retail sales and single-family home construction is lagging behind, as is the recovery of our working people.

These are difficult times. People in my district are working longer hours for less pay, in jobs that they are often over-qualified for. Many don't even know if the job they have today will be there for them tomorrow. In many companies, the trend is to hire workers for temporary positions, those that do not provide health care and other benefits. This kind of instability and uneasiness does not make my constituents feel like the economy is strong—they wonder when the recovery will help them.

It is true that the Fed needs to guard against inflation—but these times do not warrant another change. Inflation indicators show no signs of a drastic change upward. Therefore, the Fed has no need to make drastic moves in raising rates. Since our economic recovery has begun, the Fed has kept monetary policy tight, in order to keep growth slow. Now, it is time for the Fed to allow the recovery to reach those that need a boost the most—the working people of America.

LINE-ITEM VETO

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues and I came prepared to cure Congress of its spending addiction. We offered up our prescription in our Contract With America. Now we are busy carrying out the treatment.

Last week, we passed the balanced budget amendment, and this week we are ready to administer the next part of the cure—the line-item veto. Our President will have at his disposal the same legislative scalpel that 43 of our Nation's Governors use to cut wasteful spending out of their budgets.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize former President Ronald Reagan as the "Godfather" of the Federal line-item veto. It would be a great honor to cure this Nation of its spending illness and pass on the legacy of the Reagan budgetary remedy—the Federal line-item veto. This is the fiscal treatment the American people have been waiting for.

Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayer works hard for every dollar they earn and have to send to Washington. The least we can do is make sure that we work together to spend those dollars wisely.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by official business outside of the Chamber, and was therefore unable to vote during rollcall No. 80. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

RIVERHEAD PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, an invaluable public servant is retiring after years of exemplary service as the town supervisor of Riverhead. Since 1979, Joe Janoski has been well respected by many people throughout the State, county, and town governments for his knowledge and experience in local government. In addition to this service, Joe serves as a member of many community organizations including: Knights of Columbus; Lifetime Member of the Polish Town Civic Association; and the Boy Scouts of America.

He is known and respected for his presence at all community functions. He is recognized for his outstanding service and dedication to the community by numerous community organizations including the Riverhead Tri-Club—Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions—and was awarded Man of the Year by the Riverhead Chamber of Commerce.

His greatest accomplishments are the rebirth of balanced economic growth of the town and the professionalization of Riverhead government. He led the way for townwide extension of public water, upgrading and improvement of the town's sewer district facilities, establishment of a scavenger waste facility, establishment of a juvenile aide bureau, and many other milestone projects.

We all wish Joe the best in his well-deserved retirement and owe him a big thank you.

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, February 1, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

There was a lot of pressure on President Clinton going into his State of the Union Address, with many calling it one of the most critical speeches of his presidency. Ameri-

cans want him to cooperate with Congress, but also to show he has backbone and can stand up for his principles. The changes voters called for in November have clearly put him on the defensive and have left him struggling to find his agenda for the next two years. The President spoke about where he wants to take our country and how he intends to work with the new Congress to accomplish his goals for the nation. He had mixed success.

Overview: President Clinton said the country is stronger than it was two years ago, but he is concerned that not all Americans shared in the gains. He insisted that government should work better for average Americans.

His overall emphasis was that we should work together for the common good. He is clearly worried that the "common bonds of community" have become "badly frayed"—citizens are working together less and shouting at each other more. He stressed the shared responsibilities of government and citizens. In contrast to his speech in 1994, he articulated no new major federal programs. His speech was short on demands for action, but long on appeals for responsibility and comity.

He endorsed some traditional programs—school lunch, Head Start, clean air and water—and called for an increased minimum wage and a national campaign against teenage pregnancy. He considerably scaled back his goals for health care reform. He sounded conservative themes when he advocated downsizing government, cutting regulations, reforming welfare, cutting taxes, and strengthening defense. He attacked lobbyists, and called on Congress to pass lobbying and campaign finance reform. He spoke only briefly about foreign affairs, urging Congress to pass the Mexican loan guarantees, the START II Treaty, and new legislation to strengthen our hand against terrorists.

Apparently the American people still listen to President Clinton. Polls indicate that some 80% of viewers approved of the direction he laid out for the country in his speech.

Drawbacks: The speech was too long—eighty-one minutes. This president clearly likes to talk; as usual, he spoke easily and forcefully. He spoke with humor, extended a conciliatory hand, and acknowledged his own mistakes.

But I left the speech feeling that in some ways an opportunity was lost. He had a chance to explain his core principles to the American people in simple terms. Yet the speech was clearly too long and too diffuse, and did not convey forcefully his convictions and his agenda. It covered some three dozen different programs and subjects, making it hard for listeners to pick out a few central themes.

Major Points: Politically his speech was right down the middle—a very centrist speech. He avoided the extremes of the right and the left, favoring a smaller, less costly government but still acknowledging a role for government.

The President stressed putting away partisan differences and pettiness and working toward the common good. These comments were well received by the American people, but the partisan nature of Members' applause throughout the speech instead might suggest a difficult year ahead.

"Opportunity" and "responsibility" were words often repeated, and he talked at length about a "new covenant" between government and the American people: Government will help them obtain the tools they need to improve their lives, while in return asking them to take responsibility for themselves and their communities. This means,

for example, asking welfare recipients to work when possible and college students to perform community service in return for student loans.

He said that the federal government can be downsized. He noted the 100,000 federal jobs he has already cut and pointed out how changes already in the works will result in the smallest federal workforce next year since the days of President Kennedy. At the same time, he said that government still has an important role to play. He does not view government as the enemy, but as a partner: It should not do things for us that we can do ourselves, but we should use government to do those things we can only do together.

The President said Congress should not go too far and roll back the progress made on cutting the deficit, reforming education, fighting crime, or improving public health and the environment. He said the new Congress should not respond to voter anger by taking it out on the most vulnerable in society—particularly the elderly and young children. As the President put it, we want lean government not a mean government.

The President stressed the need to prepare the American people for the demands of the new global economy. He mentioned vigilance on the deficit, reducing barriers to American exports, and his Middle Class Bill of Rights to help middle class families raise and educate their children, train for higher paying jobs, buy a first home, and save for retirement. He put a heavy emphasis on education as a key investment in our country's future.

The President was precise and forthright on some issues, like welfare reform and tax cuts, and oblique on others, like a balanced budget amendment, unfunded federal mandates, and deregulation. At times he displayed forceful leadership, and at other times he did not dispel the doubts about his position and his leadership.

What's Next: In the weeks ahead, the President must sharpen his vision for America. And then he needs to follow through. That will be the real test. Many Americans comment on a wide gap between the Clinton promises and the Clinton performance, and they question how long the President's positions will stand. He needs a strong follow through and a sharply focused agenda to build on the favorable reactions to his speech.

EYE BANK ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA—MARCH 1995 NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH PROCLAMATION

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, across the country, transplantation surgeries are saving and enhancing many lives. Eye, organ, and tissue donation and transplantation have benefited thousands of people nationwide. Today, I am asking that we take a moment to focus on eye donation and on the importance of preserving and restoring sight through the miracle of corneal transplantation. The benefits of sight restoring transplant surgery extend beyond the individuals who received the transplants; they also extend to the recipients' families, communities, and businesses. In recent years, the efforts of Congress, educators, and the media have had an enormous positive impact on the success of eye donor programs.

Every year thousands of corneal transplants are performed across the country, restoring precious sight to young and old. In 1993, over

90,000 eyes were donated to eye banks across the United States. From those eyes, over 40,000 corneas were used in transplantation procedures. The remaining eyes were used for research, training, and other surgical procedures. While the figures for 1994 are still being tallied, even greater totals are projected.

Anyone can be an eye donor. Neither cataracts, poor eyesight, nor age prohibit one from being a donor. However, it is important for individuals who want to be donors to inform family members of their wishes.

Since 1961, when the Eye Bank Association of America [EBAA] was founded, EBAA member eye banks have made possible one-half million corneal transplants, with a success rate of over 90 percent. The EBAA is the Nation's oldest national transplant association. The EBAA is dedicated to the restoration of sight through the promotion and advancement of eye banking. It has led the transplantation field with the establishment of medical standards for the procurement and distribution of eyes and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye banking personnel. These standards have been used as models for other transplantation organizations. There are over 110 member eye banks operating in over 150 locations in 43 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, Saudi Arabia, England, and Australia.

Despite the extraordinary efforts of eye banks, there are still many people who wait in darkness for corneal transplant surgeries due to a lack of donated tissue. At any time in the United States, about 6,000 people are on waiting lists for corneal transplants. Public education is the best way to increase donation, as it enables people to talk to their loved ones and learn of their wishes before times of crisis and grief.

We, in Congress, can lead the effort to educate the public about the need for eye donation and encourage more Americans to become donors. We have joined the Eye Bank Association of America every year since 1983, and do so again by proclaiming March 1995 as National Eye Donor Month. In so doing, we call on all Americans to support us in promoting the worthy endeavor of enhancing the lives of fellow citizens through the restoration of sight.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF RIDGEWOOD-BUSHWICK SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to offer my congratulations to the Ridgewood-Bushwick Senior Citizens Center [RBSCC] on its 25th anniversary celebration.

Through the leadership of its founder and first director, Assemblyman Vito Lopez, and the support of its staff, the elderly community of Bushwick has a center that is dedicated and committed to them and their families. Like the arches that support our city's bridges, the RBSCC is the arch for the Bushwick senior community. It bonds the older generation with the younger one. It is a place where our pioneers interchange ideas and provide solutions. It provides nutritional, recreational, and sup-

port services to over 600 seniors. When the daily struggles of life become overwhelming, the center is a safe haven.

Its continuous success is greatly due to the endless commitment and dedication of its staff and volunteers. Their hard work exemplifies that they, like Assemblyman Vito Lopez, share a common vision for a growing community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Assemblyman Vito Lopez for realizing his vision, the staff and volunteers for their undying labor, and the seniors for giving us insight and strength. Congratulations.

TRIBUTE TO GOSHEN COLLEGE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the significant achievement of an institution in my district, a college of distinction that has been educating young people for 100 years: Goshen College in Goshen, IN.

Goshen College was originally founded in 1894 as the Elkhart Institute. In 1903 this institution evolved into Goshen College and adopted the motto "Culture for Service." Throughout the college's long history, it has maintained a partners-in-education relationship with the Mennonite Church which has supported the college as it developed and helped shape its direction. True to the spirit of its motto, the college has focused a great deal of energy to developing multicultural awareness. In 1968 the college added a study service trimester to its general education requirement. This unique program gives students the opportunity to live in a foreign country while studying language and culture and completing a service project. Goshen College has pioneered multicultural education and has become a model for other foreign study programs at colleges throughout the United States.

The fact that Goshen College has been educating and molding young adults for 100 years speaks to the dedication of the people who have been a part of that tradition. Mr. Speaker, I commend Dr. Victor Stoltzfus, president of Goshen College, and the many fine faculty, staff, and students who have given their hearts and energies to the college over the years. I am proud and honored to recognize this milestone in this illustrious history, and I know that Goshen College will continue to thrive in its second century.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET STRUCTURE ACT OF 1995

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Federal Budget Structure Act of 1995. I am joined by my good friend and colleague, Representative BOB WISE, one of Congress' most forceful advocates of capital budgeting. While maintaining a unified budget, this