

work, the prisoners who fail to fulfill their quotas are punished and liable to have their prison terms extended. The health of many prisoners has been effected by continual exposure to the greenhouse atmosphere, rendering them barely conscious of the surroundings.

On August 25, 1992, I finished my prison term and was finally released from prison. Thirteen days later I escaped from Tibet. Before escaping, I made arrangements to acquire some of the instruments of torture in order to show them to the outside world. I have brought a few of them here to show to you. One is the type of electric cattle-prod that was rammed into my mouth and also the sexual organs of nun political prisoners. This is the type of thumb-cuff that is used to tie the detainees diagonally across their backs by the thumbs. This is one of the special type of knives used by the Chinese police to stab prisoners. These are just some of the torture instruments used in the Laogai of Tibet.

Mr. Chairman, the Tibetan people have been suffering under the repressive Chinese rule since 1949. Thousands and thousands of innocent Tibetans have lost their lives and the six million that remain are struggling to keep the Tibetan culture alive under very difficult conditions.

As the power dynamics in Beijing shift over the next several months, there will be a tremendous opportunity for the international community to foster a more democratic society in China. I appeal to you and to the United States government to remain vigilant in your effort to hold China accountable for its actions against the Tibetan people.

Just a few weeks ago, I testified before the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights, where a resolution condemning China's human rights violations against both Tibetan and Chinese people was narrowly defeated. This was a very important effort, and I humbly urge your government to return to Geneva next year with a renewed effort concerning human rights in Tibet and China. I sincerely believe that unless there is strong international condemnation of the Chinese government's treatment of the Tibetan people, they will continue to commit such horrors as described earlier against innocent political prisoners who insist on the fundamental rights of freedom of speech, association, and religion, as well as the recognized right of self-determination.

I am exceedingly grateful to you Mr. Chairman, and to all members of this Committee, as well as all others for listening to this short description of my life in the Laogai in Tibet. I am only one of the few lucky ones who survived and managed to escape to the outside world. Many of my friends and other political prisoners died in the prisons and Laogai in Tibet. With them also went the story of their untold sufferings.

I thank you Mr. Chairman. *Tashi deleg!*

TRIBUTE TO KAMI GRUDZIEN AND KRISTINA CANNON

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to two young women who are extraordinarily ambitious and creative. Kami Grudzien and Kristina Cannon, of Coventry, RI, are two of the seven

winners in the National Teen Business Plan Competition.

This competition, sponsored by the Income of Her Own organization, encourages teenagers to create their own businesses and develop their economic skills. Kami and Kristina produced an extremely ingenious idea which incorporated their vision, creativity, and compassion. Their plan is to start a company called World Cheerleading Dancers. This business will stage two competitions each year for young girls who want to develop dance and cheerleading moves into a choreographic routine. This competition will provide young women with the opportunity to simultaneously develop self-confidence and performance skills.

In addition to becoming entrepreneurs, Kami and Kristina also plan to make a positive contribution to the community with their enterprise. Five percent of the profits made by this venture will be donated to the Impossible Dream Foundation, which makes dreams come true for ailing and handicapped children.

Besides being seasoned performers and budding entrepreneurs, Kami and Kristina are also successful students at Coventry Middle School. Kristina is an accomplished student athlete in softball and volleyball, and Kami has received national recognition for an outstanding 500-word poem on the Holocaust.

These two young women are among our Nation's most promising leaders. Their example is a source of pride for all Rhode Islanders. I am truly inspired by individuals like Kami and Kristina, who pursue the American tradition of creativeness and ingenuity in business while having a positive impact on the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting these two outstanding young women as they begin to plan to hold their first competition later this summer, and wish them continued success.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, as we consider tax cuts this week the difference between the Democrat and Republican philosophies underlying becomes crystal clear. Democrats believe that taxpayers exist to serve Government. They really think that Government confers upon its citizens the privilege of earning and keeping money. Republicans work under a completely different mindset. Taxpayers—also known as citizens—come first, not the Government. Republicans believe that individuals know best how to spend the money they earn—at least better than some bureaucrat sitting in a Washington office.

That is why we are proposing to let American families keep more of the money they earn. The American family represents the backbone of our society. Our current tax system penalizes families with children. It does not properly reflect the cost of rearing a child today. The average family spends more on taxes than it spends on food, clothing, and shelter combined. Many families now need a second earner not to support the household,

but to support the Government. Republicans know this and are working to relieve American families of this tax burden.

It cost middle-income families more than \$5,000 per year to rear a child. The American family deserves a \$500-per child tax credit. Our bill allows families with annual incomes of up to \$200,000 to receive a full tax credit of \$500 per child. For incomes exceeding \$200,000, the tax credit is proportionally reduced to zero so that families making \$250,000 or more receive no credit. As a result, over 29 million families and 51 million children will benefit. Nearly 70 percent of those families benefiting have incomes of less than \$75,000.

Mr. Speaker, the most important thing we can do for the American family is to get Government off of their back. The Republican child tax credit provision gives American families more of what they earn. Our bill increases the resources available for parent to meet their child-rearing cost, not Government costs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN HOMEMAKERS/CAREGIVERS AND MIDDLE-CLASS FLEXIBLE SAV- INGS ACT OF 1995

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the American Homemakers/Caregivers and Middle-Class Flexible Savings Act of 1995. This bill is being introduced by my colleague, MAURICE HINCHEY, on behalf of the Progressive Caucus as part of our 11-point alternative to the Republican Contract With America.

My constituents have impressed upon me the growing financial plight of many middle- and low-income working Americans. They are working harder and longer and finding it more difficult all of the time to make financial ends meet, let alone put any money into savings. This legislation will make it easier for middle- and low-income Americans who earn up to \$75,000 to save more, while giving those Americans who are in an unforeseen financial pinch greater penalty-free access to their Individual Retirement Account [IRA] funds.

This Progressive Caucus bill will help middle- and low-income taxpayers in four fundamental ways.

First, it will substantially increase the level of contributions that they can deposit in an IRA. Since IRA's were first made possible in 1981, the contribution levels governing how much can be contributed annually and who can deduct their contributions, in sum or in part, have eroded due to inflation.

Our bill increases contribution levels to make up for inflation since 1981. It also indexes contribution levels yearly to keep pace with inflation.

Second, our bill authorizes higher IRA contribution levels for nonworking spouses in households with one or more children under the age of 6. That contribution level will also be indexed to keep pace with inflation.

This provision could be called the IRA homemaker provision. Arguably, those Americans who most need to save for retirement

are those who stay at home—women primarily—to nurture their children in their most important formative years. That financial sacrifice should be recognized and redressed by allowing nonworking spouses with young children to better save for later years.

Third, our bill will also allow middle-class taxpayers greater flexibility to withdraw their IRA funds without being subject to the 10 percent penalty in order to pay for expenses for higher or vocational education, to pay catastrophic medical expenses, to start a small business, to buy a first home, or to meet unemployment emergencies. Arguably, wealthier taxpayers don't have commensurate cashflow problems vis a vis their IRA's and should still be encouraged to keep their money in savings.

There is no question that more Americans are confronting daunting educational expenses. At the rate tuition costs continue to rise—at least twice the rate of inflation—4 years at a State university by the year 2000 may cost over \$50,000. Also growing numbers of American workers are returning to classrooms to prepare for midcareer changes or to upgrade existing job skills. This legislation will permit withdrawals for higher education and/or vocational education for many of these Americans who are struggling to put themselves or their children through college.

With health care costs skyrocketing, we simply must find ways to help ease the burden of sudden medical expenses for American working families. A serious illness can be financially devastating to all but the very wealthy. Our bill will allow individuals and families to withdraw IRA funds penalty-free for catastrophic medical expenses during the taxable year to the degree that the amount of such expenses does not exceed 7½ percent of adjusted gross income—that is, the existing threshold for deductibility of medical expenses for itemizers. Individuals could draw upon their IRA's for themselves, spouses, children, and/or parents.

It is also true that most of the new jobs being created are to be found in America's small businesses. Therefore, it should be made easier for entrepreneurial Americans to amass startup capital when they decide to start a new business in midcareer or otherwise.

Finally, our bill also extends a helping hand to unemployed Americans as well as first-time homebuyers.

Let me conclude by underscoring that Progressive Caucus members believe if there is to be tax cut legislation enacted this year that tax relief should be focused upon middle- and low-income taxpayers. Well-to-do individuals and corporations already received disproportionate tax cuts throughout the 1980's.

It is fitting and proper that the tax relief to be provided under our bill is to be financed, at least in part, by taking a first step to cut tens of billions in corporate welfare in the Federal budget—the establishment of a minimum tax on the income of foreign-owned companies earned from business activities in the United States.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK IN FALL RIVER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many more people talk about making Government more efficient than actually doing anything about it. One organization that has done something about it is the housing authority in the city of Fall River, MA. Recently I was privileged to attend a ceremony in which the Fall River Housing Authority announced an agreement among itself, the Citizens Conservation Corporation, the Eastern Utilities Corporation, and HUD which will promote energy conservation, and provide additional funds for the improvement of public housing at no cost to the taxpayers.

The major recipient of these funds will be Cardinal Medeiros Towers, a high-rise development for people with handicaps which was built 24 years ago, and is in need of improvements. This program is an excellent example of how public officials, citizen groups, and private corporate entities can work together for our mutual benefit. Because I was so impressed with this, I asked Richard Viveiros, executive director of the housing authority, to prepare for me a summary of this effort, which I wish to insert at this point in the RECORD. I do so because I hope this will encourage others to emulate the excellent work of Mr. Viveiros and his colleagues. And I want to offer my congratulations to all of those involved.

SUMMARY

On March 20, 1995, the Fall River Massachusetts Housing Authority signed a contract with Eastern Utilities Corporation/Citizens Conservation Corporation [EUA/CCC] enabling both parties to enjoy the benefits of private investment in a public housing authority.

CCC will invest \$2.1 million to implement a host of energy efficiency improvements that will save the authority at least \$7.5 million over the next 15 years. The authority will pay CCC for the cost of design, construction, and legal fees associated with this project out of energy savings projected as \$500,000 per year as a result of improvements to 7 federally aided developments for elderly/disabled.

Cardinal Medeiros Towers, a 208-unit high-rise development for the physically impaired and constructed in 1970, will be the major recipient of the CCC investment. Approximately \$600,000 of CCC moneys is slated for the replacement of an antiquated and inefficient steam heating system with new high-efficiency boilers, which will dramatically improve the comfort level of the building and dramatically reduce energy costs. Other improvements for this facility include new thermostats, new windows, and upgraded exterior lighting.

The 6 other federally aided developments for elderly/disabled will enjoy similar physical improvements and energy savings.

The Fall River Housing Authority experience marks the first time that private money's have been leveraged for public housing energy conservation and physical improvement tasks and was hailed as an avenue for other public housing authorities to consider, in light of dwindling HUD resources.

Both the authority's director, Richard J. Viveiros, and congressman BARNEY FRANK, advocated increasing private/public ventures

as funding alternatives. Viveiros, at a formal, public contract signing ceremony, termed the partnership as a win-win situation for all involved. "There are no losers here," stated viveiros, "CCC gets a reasonable return on its investment, our housing stock is substantially upgraded, and residents enjoy a safer and more comfortable housing environment—all without any governmental funding."

REINTRODUCTION OF THE RECYCLING INCENTIVES ACTS

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, 6 years ago, along with the late Senator John Heinz and former Senator Tim Wirth, I introduced a new concept in environmental protection. The idea was simple—use market forces to achieve environmental protection.

My ideas for tire recycling, newspaper recycling, oil recycling and lead acid battery recycling were well received. The bills attracted hundreds of cosponsors. But, unfortunately, no action has been taken on any recycling issues during the past three Congresses.

Today, I am reintroducing each of these four bills with an impressive group of colleagues. Now is the time for Congress to get serious about addressing the country's solid waste problems. Now is the time to begin putting creative solutions to work.

The common approach of these bills represents a radical departure from the traditional approach to environmental policy—that of "command and control." We can no longer afford to commit scarce dollars to environmental programs that either do not work or work only at enormous cost to all of society. The concept of using market forces to achieve environmental goals is gaining influence all over the world. The era of using proactive strategies to develop markets for recycled products has arrived. And the United States needs to get with the program.

Mr. Speaker, our constituents are demanding that we produce results. Join me in demonstrating that those of us committed to sound environmental protection at the least cost to society have produced legislation of which we can be proud.

I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor the Tire Recycling Incentives Act, the Newsprint Recycling Incentives Act, the Lead Battery Recycling Incentives Act, and the Used Oil Recycling Incentives Act. Let's do something together that is both economically and environmentally responsible.

VIOLENCE IN KARACHI

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to my colleagues about a great tragedy that is now occurring in Karachi, Pakistan.

Karachi is by far Pakistan's most important city, as well as its largest and wealthiest. It is