

can result in greater recycling and reuse than either program could alone.

In celebration of Earth Day, just 2 weeks away, I introduce this legislation that will help us to reach our environmental goals by conserving our natural resources and reducing litter and pollution. I urge my colleagues to support comprehensive recycling by cosponsoring the National Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act of 1995.

REPEAL THE SHORT-SHORT TEST FOR REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANIES

HON. MICHAEL PATRICK FLANAGAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, to qualify for taxation as a regulated investment company [RIC], a mutual fund must meet various tests. One of the tests is that a RIC must derive less than 30 percent of its gross income from the sale or distribution of certain investments, such as stocks, options, futures, securities, and forward contracts, held less than 3 months. This is known as the short-short test. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to repeal the 30 percent of gross income limitation applicable to regulated investment companies.

The short-short test severely inhibits the ability of RIC's to adequately respond to fluctuating market conditions. Under present law, RIC's are not able to protect their investors as well as possible. This is because RIC's can not, for example, completely hedge their investments against adverse market trends. Similarly, if prices go up, a portfolio manager may not be able to sell certain securities, even if it is advisable to do so, solely because of the short-short test. They are stymied by the 30-percent barrier, even though it could be advantageous to go beyond that point and realize more than 30 percent of their gross income from certain investments. The inability to freely trade stocks, options, securities, and the like can adversely affect 401K's and various types of retirement funds invested in mutual funds.

Portfolio managers cannot totally maneuver to protect their investors without having their RIC status adversely impacted if they violate the 30-percent mark. The repeal of the short-short test will give those managers the capability to fully protect profitability for their shareholders. As it stands now, portfolio managers are often forced to make investment decisions based on tax strategy rather than investment strategy.

The short-short test is also an administrative nightmare. RIC's have to track the percentages of short-term and long-term gain realized daily and cumulatively throughout the year, and the holding periods of their assets. This, of course, creates extra costs for RIC's that are passed on to shareholders. Repeal of the short-short test will eliminate an inordinate amount of paperwork and accounting costs for the RIC's, and help their shareholders keep more of their investments.

Repeal of the short-short test has previously received strong bipartisan support. It passed the House unanimously on May 17, 1994, as part of the Tax Simplification and Technical Corrections Act of 1993. Unfortunately, the

legislation was not enacted into law. I am bringing the issue forth for the 104th Congress because I believe it is still a much needed reform that can only help, and in no way hurt, the American economy.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL T. YANAGISAWA AND HIS WORK ON IMAGE INTENSIFIER NIGHT VISION EQUIPMENT

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the accomplishments of an outstanding individual and fellow Texan who has done exceptional work in the development and manufacture of night vision equipment. This equipment enabling armies to fight in the dark is one of the most profound changes in military capability in history. It was a critical factor in the low loss of life and played a major role in the success of Operation Just Cause in Panama and Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait. These examples alone prove conclusively that night vision technology has revolutionized military tactics and strategy.

Sam Yanagisawa was instrumental in the development and manufacture of the first generation of image intensifier night vision equipment and of subsequent generations of goggles for night flying and for use by ground troops. His leadership, dedication, innovation, and frankly, his genius, led the way in providing our fighting forces with a night fighting capability that has proved decisive. He has been in the forefront with both the public and private sectors.

Mr. Yanagisawa was one of the founders of the U.S. Night Vision Manufacturers Association that help persuade our forces to adopt this equipment and develop the necessary doctrine for its employment. His initiative, foresight, and professionalism contributed immeasurably to the success of this effort. At the same time, he served on the Army Science Board, chaired two summer studies, and currently serves on the Air Force Studies Board.

Mr. Yanagisawa served in various positions at Varo Inc., from 1967–1987 where he developed the first generation of night vision tubes and equipment at high rate of production and introduced special process computers for the complex production of photocathodes, an integral part of image intensified devices. He went on to facilitate the efficient production of second generation tubes and equipment so that night goggles could be practicable for ground and airborne applications. He retired as chairman and CEO of Varo in 1987.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Sam Yanagisawa for his hard work, diligence, and outstanding accomplishments in the development of night vision. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his years of dedication and join together in commending him for showing great foresight and commitment to the night vision industry. We thank him for his genuine contributions to our Nation's security and wish all the best in his future endeavors.

H.R. 1378, REGARDING RENUNCIATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

HON. SAM GIBBONS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Republicans in the House of Representatives, acting on behalf of powerful lobbyists representing unnamed clients, succeeded in stopping a provision that would have prevented wealthy Americans from avoiding billions of U.S. tax by renouncing their American citizenship.

Earlier this week, I introduced H.R. 1378, which would require that those unnamed clients be identified to the public. The legislation would require the Secretary of State to publish in the Federal Register the names of individuals who renounce their U.S. citizenship. Individuals enjoying enormous tax advantages through renunciation of their U.S. citizenship should be publicly identified.

In the debate last week, Republicans tried to faithfully follow the script prepared by lobbyists representing wealthy expatriates and those few wealthy Americans planning to renounce their allegiance to their native country in the near future. Their arguments were eloquently refuted by the Democratic Members participating in the debate and we need not repeat that debate.

However, the Republicans did stray from the script prepared by these lobbyists in several respects, and I want to respond to those arguments. They accused the Democrats of engaging in class warfare and attempting to tax wealthy individuals out of existence. They argued that these wealthy individuals would not have engaged in the despicable act of renouncing their allegiance to the United States but for the punitive levels of taxation in this country.

The Republican concern for the wealthiest among the privileged class is understandable given their political philosophy but, from the average taxpayer's perspective, it is seriously misguided. The wealthiest of the wealthy did quite well during the 1980s. The wealthiest of Americans saw their share of total income almost double in the 1980s. According to Treasury Department data, the share of total income reported by the top one-half of 1 percent of taxpayers increased from 6.05 percent in 1979 to 11 percent in 1989.

Their argument that our taxes are at punitive levels is totally false. The United States has one of the lowest tax burdens of all industrialized nations in the world. It is true that our rates exceed those provided by the tax havens to which these wealthy people are fleeing. However, those individuals can reside safely in those havens only by reason of the defense expenditures of this country which enable wealthy expatriates to live safely anywhere in the world. Many of these expatriates continue to live and work in this country for large portions of the year.

The argument that I find most appalling is the argument that we engaged in class warfare when we tried to prevent these billionaires from avoiding their tax responsibilities by renouncing their U.S. citizenship. Two weeks ago, Republican Members of this House compared poor Americans to "alligators" and

"wolves" and engaged in crude stereotyping of welfare recipients by referring to "studs" outside their homes. They passed a welfare reform bill that took \$66 billion away from the poorest of American citizens. None of this was considered class warfare by the Republicans. However, they condemn as class warfare our attempt to make a handful or two of the wealthiest of the wealthy bear the same burden of tax as all the rest of us.

I will continue to work toward making our tax system fair to all who benefit from this great country. H.R. 1378 is one small step in that direction.

CHECK-OFF FOR OUR CHILDREN ACT

HON. DAVID MINGE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, Representatives JAN MEYERS, PETER DEFazio, TILLIE FOWLER and I are introducing a bipartisan bill to provide the American taxpayer with a way to contribute directly to eliminating the national debt. This legislation allows citizens to check a box on their Federal tax return and indicate the amount of the tax refund each citizen would like to direct to retire the national debt. The Check-Off for Our Children Act will form a partnership for America's future between citizens and the Congress of the United States to reduce our national debt and to reclaim the economic future of the next generation of Americans.

I think that everyone would agree that America is at a crossroads in history. The next 20 years will determine whether we will let our staggering debt turn the American dream into a nightmare. The growth of our economy, creation of meaningful jobs, a reduction of Federal spending, revitalization of our infrastructure and the preservation of our environment for future generations all depend upon our ability to reduce our national debt. We have all benefitted from these deficits over the years, but now it is time to own up. Unless the Congress and our citizens act in unison now, the Federal Government's sole function will soon be to transfer tax dollars to meet interest payments on the debt and the rapidly expanding entitlement programs.

There is now a growing willingness in the hearts and minds of the American people to play an active role in retiring the national debt, thanks in part to the efforts of Lucile McConnell and The Fund to End the Deficit. Lucile has worked tirelessly to educate Americans about the threat the deficit poses to future generations and opportunities they have to help solve this problem. This desire can be met by a little known Federal statute, Public Law 87-58, which was signed into law in 1961 by President Kennedy. This law enables every citizen to contribute directly to retiring the national debt. In conjunction with the Check-Off for Our Children, taxpayers can simply mark a check-off box on their tax returns to designate a portion of their tax refunds on the condition that it be used only to retire the national debt.

The greatest principle of democracy is that we each have a choice. The Check-Off for Our Children gives each of us a choice to turn

back to the principles underlying our democracy: responsibility, participation, citizenship, and fiscal restraint. Each of us must take responsibility for our country and our future. We in Congress have a responsibility to make the difficult choices required to cut Federal spending and balance our budget. The Check-Off will ensure that every American has the opportunity to make a direct contribution to retire the national debt.

As we reduce the national debt, we will realize at least three immediate benefits. We will reduce the risk of inflation as excess cash is applied to debt retirement. We will stabilize interest rates. And most important, as we reduce the amount we must spend on interest every year, we will also reduce overall Federal budget requirements. The benefit for future generations goes far beyond these three—the benefit to our children is the inheritance of a renewed America.

THE SAGINAW GANG CRIME TASK FORCE: COMMUNITY POLICING AT ITS BEST

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the safety of our streets is a key concern for all Americans. And just as people have become more aware of our crime problems, many good citizens have become personally involved in developing creative solutions to augmenting the ability of our hard-working police departments in the fight against crime.

The city of Saginaw had been the victim of an unacceptably high crime rate. Murders, firearms violations, and aggravated assaults were greater than surrounding areas. A 1994 survey by the Michigan Prosecuting Attorney's Coordinating Council also documented the existence of at least 13 gangs in the Saginaw area, with membership in the hundreds. These gangs were responsible for the inordinate amount of crime in Saginaw.

The Saginaw County Sheriff, Tom McIntyre, along with local Chiefs of Police, State Police officials, agents of the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Secret Service concluded that the police needed help to deal with these gangs. Continuing work by the office of Saginaw Mayor Gary Loster, Saginaw County Prosecutor Michael Thomas, and other community organizations confirmed the concerns about gang-related crime. It became clear that resources devoted to gang activities were insufficient and that a concerted effort to deal with these gangs was necessary.

Mayor Loster and FBI resident agent Phil Kerby were then responsible for creating the Saginaw Gang Crime Task Force. Each participating agency was asked to contribute human resources to the gang crime effort, and they did it. The Task Force garnered greater public support, and their resources grew.

Since the formal introduction of the Task Force to the public on April 6, 1995, the Task Force has been directly responsible for making many public events safer. Murders are down 20 percent. Violent crime is down 10 percent. People feel better about their neighborhoods, and Saginaw is on its way to restoring its reputation as a wonderful, inviting city.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to join me in praising the dedicated men and women who make up the Saginaw Gang Crime Task Force and Saginaw community leaders who have worked so hard to deal with gang crime. It shows once again that there is no better resource for our nation than concerned, committed citizens working with public servants doing the best that they can under very difficult circumstances.

HONORING PONCHO SANCHEZ

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate one of the greatest jazz musicians in America, Poncho Sanchez. To recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Sanchez within the music industry, the city of Washington DC has proclaimed April 19 as "Poncho Sanchez Day."

Mr. Poncho Sanchez is a self-taught musician who has dedicated his life to the cultivation of the Latin jazz genre. He is considered one of the most prominent conga players and percussionists in America today.

Beginning his musical career in 1975 as a member of the Cal Tjader band, he toured and recorded with the band until Tjader's death. During that stage of his career he had the honor of sharing with Tjader, a friend who was also a mentor, one Grammy award for the album "La Onda Va Bein." Mr. Sanchez not only has enjoyed the opportunity to perform with the Cal Tjader band, he also has had the pleasure to performing and recording with other jazz stars, including Carmen McRae, Clare Fischer, and Woody Herman.

In 1982 Poncho Sanchez began his solo career with the album "Sonando" which helped reaffirm his place in the jazz world. His more recent achievement have included performing with Tito Puente, who played with Sanchez's band at the Playboy Jazz Festival and who appears in the album "Chile con Soul," as well as receiving three Grammy nominations. The unique style he has developed, blending powerful Latin music with lyrical jazz notes, places him in a category all his own.

Mr. Speaker, Poncho Sanchez is an exceptional artist whom I am honored to recognize. His contribution to Latin music is a sample of the richness of the Latin community. Again, I would like to send my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Sanchez for this deserved recognition.

TRIBUTE TO KATE BYRNES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kate Byrnes, the 1995 California Teacher of the Year. Kate Byrnes works for the Marin County Office of Education as a teacher for the visually impaired and as an orientation and mobility specialist. She has served the