

United States of America, we thank you Capt. Paul A. Fortunato, and the rest of the brave participants in this heroic and spectacular rescue mission.

America is infinitely proud of you, and forever grateful.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to exchange my 5-minute special order with that of the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE AMERICAN SAMOA AND GUAM INTO THE EXPEDITED FUNDS AVAILABILITY ACT

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD], to introduce a bill to include the U.S. territories of American Samoa and Guam into the Expedited Funds Availability Act.

Mr. Speaker, for as long as I have been doing my banking in American Samoa, getting access to funds represented by checks drawn on banks outside of American Samoa has taken literally weeks. Banking customers throughout the United States had similar problems, and in response Congress passed the Expedited Funds Availability Act in 1987. The 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands were included in the act, but the territories of Guam and American Samoa were not.

While Guam and American Samoa are still the most distant territories, billions of dollars now move daily around the world at close to the speed of light.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of years ago the Samoans and the Micronesians carried their currency across vast expanses of open ocean in heroic voyages in wind-driven canoes made of hollowed logs. I have sailed part of the Pacific Ocean in a double-hull Polynesian voyaging canoe called the Hokuleian from Tahiti to Hawaii for 28 days, and I think I could have carried my currency in stones from one port to another faster than funds are now being made available by the Banks in American Samoa and Guam. This is the 95th year of this country, and I hope the banks in the Pacific will enter this century before the rest of us move on to the next one.

I ask that a copy of the bill be printed in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Expedited Funds Availability Act (12 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 602(20) (12 U.S.C. 4001(20)) by inserting “, located in the United States,” after “ATM”;

(2) in section 602(21) (12 U.S.C. 4001(21)) by inserting “Guam, American Samoa,” after “Puerto Rico,”;

(3) in section 602(23) (12 U.S.C. 4001(23)) by inserting “Guam, American Samoa,” after “Puerto Rico,”; and

(4) by adding at the end of section 603(d) (12 U.S.C. 4002(d)) the following new paragraph:

“(3) EXTENSION FOR CERTAIN DEPOSITS IN GUAM AND AMERICAN SAMOA.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any time period established under subsection (b), (c), or (e) shall be extended by 2 business days in the case of any deposit which is both—

“(A) deposited in an account at a depository institution which is located in Guam or American Samoa; and

“(B) deposited by a check drawn on an originating depository institution which is not located in the same State as the receiving depository institution.”.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members are recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO DEPARTING PAGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise, as chairman of the Page Board, to advise my colleagues that today marks the end of the school year for our pages and those who are here with us today, the pages here with us today, will be replaced over the weekend by a new group of pages who will be with us for the summer.

For those who may be unfamiliar, we have school year pages and we have summer pages, so this is to advise that the pages who are here today will not be here on Monday, and, second, Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the very wonderful group of young people who have served throughout this past school year. Not all of them have served the whole year. Some of them have served only this last semester, but whether it is for the whole year or the whole semester, they have rendered distinguished service, and I do not want their parting to be unnoted.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting at this point in the RECORD a list of all the pages who have served here in the spring of 1995.

The list follows:

DEPARTING PAGES—SPRING 1995

Maria Grace Abuzman, Paulette M. Adams, Seth A.G. Andrew, Angela S. Armstrong, Kathryn L. Ballintine, Alison J. Bell, Rebecca A. Belletto, Joanna L. Bowen, Kirk D. Boyle, Tamara L. Brewer, Nancy M. Brim, Erin C. Carney, Carolyn A. Cassidy, Erin A.

Coker, Todd D. Connor, Richard A. Consul, Keegan B. Cotton, Mary K. Derr, Courtney M. Duncan, and Tristan A. Durst.

Joseph F. Eddy, Micheal D. Ellison, Tatum C. Evans, Kristin M. Francis, Robert C. Gates, Rebecca M. Geraci, Jennifer C. Gerard, Carolyn J. Gereau, William J. Heaton, Joseph R. Hill, Erica L. Hogue, Anna M. Holder, Molly K. Hooper, Sarah C. Jackson, Francie J. Julien, Kathleen A. Kelly, Karly A. Kevane, Deborrah L. Kinirons, Lisa N. Konitzer, and Ross C. Maradian.

Rene Marcano, Katharine J. Mills, Abigail M. Moon, Kristina M. Motulewicz, Joel T. Niedfeldt, John S. Parker, Jeffrey A. Pojanowski, Kathleen E. Quinlan, Alison J. Rabb, Lindsay E. Rosenfeld, Marianne E. Royster, Vanessa M. Ruggles, Nick T. Ryan, Timothy P. Scharf, Allison M. Sessions, Serena M. Sherrell, Tatiana I. Sohrakoff, Jennifer T. Sontag, Kelle L. Stanforth, Joshua K. Stello, Todd J. Stonewater, Xaviera M. Vanegas, Brooke E. Wagner, Matthew R. Williams, and Calvin W. Winchester.

Mr. Speaker, it may interest my colleagues, if you do not know it, although I am very proud to talk about this, and it may interest the pages if they do not know it, that I am the only sitting Republican in the House of Representatives who was actually here the last time we Republicans controlled the House.

□ 1630

I was not a Member at that time. It was as a page that I served here in the 83d and the 84th Congresses, and I want to say also that I have always—I have long regarded, since I underwent the experience, that having been a page was probably the finest, most objective, educational experience of my life. I've said many, many times that you learn as a page by doing and observing and participating and that is just an awfully lot different than reading about it in the textbooks.

So I hope to the pages—let me say I hope that this experience has been as meaningful to you as it was for me, and I wish all of you, and I know I do this on behalf of the entire House, I wish all of you well in your life's endeavors.

Some of you will be going off to college, others to the military, perhaps others to other things. But I hope this experience has served you well, will be a constant point of favorable reflection throughout your life and that you will have much success and happiness and good health in all of your undertakings.

So from me on behalf of the House to all of our department pages, “God bless you and Godspeed.”

Let me at this time yield to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER].

Mr. DREIER. I thank my very good friend, the former page from Cape Girardeau, MO, for yielding to me, and I would like to first extend to him hearty congratulations for his stellar service. He served in the last Republican Congress, and we certainly hope that these pages on the Republican side who have blazed a trail will not follow the precedent that my friend from Cape Girardeau established in seeing the

other party control the place for 40 uninterrupted years.

I believe that, as we look at the fine work that these pages have done here for the past several months, it clearly is an example that should be set for many young people throughout the rest of the country and the world. We so often see the negative side of young people. It makes the headlines and the news, and very rarely is the attention focused on those who are providing stellar service as these pages have, and I would simply like to join with my colleagues here, and I know that every one of our colleagues would want to extend congratulations to them.

I thank you again, my friend, for allowing me to participate, and I hope very much that these young people have great futures ahead of them.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman for his contribution.

The gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. COBLE. I thank the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] for having taken this special order to honor our pages. I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] for his very appropriate remarks.

As the gentleman from Missouri well knows, this is traditionally a bitter-sweet time, happy on the one hand for the pages to return to their respective homes, some sadness on the other for having to leave this place that has been their home for the past year.

In closing I say to the gentleman from Missouri, and I say to the Speaker, we will forever be in the memories of these pages. They conversely will forever be in our memories. They have indeed done well here, and, as they depart, we wish them Godspeed and smooth seas, and again I thank the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

I am very pleased to yield to the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM].

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for offering this special order.

As my colleagues know, quite often not only the pages but the staff members on both sides of the aisle, the Republicans and the Democrats; I see these young ladies and young men that supervise these pages. I see them yell, "Snap to," when the pages arrive, and I see all of them cry when they leave because it is like a big family here, and quite often not enough of us pay attention to what I call our critters that run about. You will see them here at 5:30 in the morning going to school, you will see them here at midnight, and I challenge any one of our Members to ever see a page that did not look at them and smile and say "hi," and maybe sometimes all of us can take a note from that.

But I want to thank you for the special order and say, job well done, kids, or critters, and thank you very much.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman from California.

I am glad to yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. DOOLITTLE].

Mr. DOOLITTLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I will just be very brief.

I say to the outstanding young people who are the pages, we thank you for your service. It seems that the good times always go very, very quickly, but you will be missed and remembered, and do not lose track. Come back, stay in touch, and God bless you. Thank you very much.

Mr. EMERSON. I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN].

Mr. DORNAN. I thank my dear colleague from the great "Show Me State" of Missouri, and I am happy to see one of the best clerks in history—We are watching the new one very closely—Donnald K. Anderson on the floor here, who has also been one of the masters in inspiring these young pages.

I want to tell you pages something about my last page, where he is today. I have got a page come in in the new class. Not every Congressman can get a page every class, so it has been 5 years since I had a page. He was a son of a good friend of mine, Andy Messing's son Eric. He spent his page time here. He set a record; I bet some of you have passed it: One of the swiftest couriers, male or female, I have ever seen, and he went from here to Annapolis, and he graduated from Annapolis a few months ago, went to a brief school, and he arrived in the Mediterranean with our beautiful 6th Fleet just a few days ago. I do not know where Eric Messing is. Maybe he is on the *Kearsarge*, and what a day it is to be on the *Kearsarge*. Today, your day of graduation, a true story book place, better than any Hollywood movie, and an ex-page may be an eyewitness to this, on a U.S. carrier, a Navy-Marine Corps carrier named after one of our great battles. This morning, June 8, two big giant H-53C Stallion helicopters launched U.S. Marines as marines saved DUKE CUNNINGHAM out to rescue an Air Force F-16 pilot, two Huey Cobra gunships flying escort and two U.S. Marine Corps ADAD vertical takeoff carrier jets flying cover, and they find our Air Force captain, Scott O'Grady. He comes running out of the woods, pistol in hand, jumps on one of the Marine choppers, rescue guys helping him on board, and a rocket-propelled grenade is fired at these massive helicopters as they lift off in victory. God plays a role at this point. Mere miss, and they are all back on the *Kearsarge* now, toasting one another.

Dr. O'Grady and Mrs. O'Grady, right here, a physician in Alexandria, brother Paul, sister Stacey, all happy.

What a country you young people have just served, what a great blessed country, the United States of America, and you have a Government experience in your youth second to none. Run for office, some of you. Come back here like several of our pages, like this gentleman, who are serving their country.

Go out and become doctors and fighter pilots and young female physicists. Do anything you want, you women. But some of you, please run for office even if you lose. Try and come back here so when I come in here in a wheelchair I can visit with you about June 1995. Godspeed and, my God, bless you in your every endeavor, and may all of your dreams come true. Well done.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. GONZALEZ]. I am delighted to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Thank you very much because I have not failed on previous occasions of this nature. From my inception of a career here, the question of pages has always been foremost, and preeminently so. I believe I was the first to bring about the occasion of dipping into a segment of our population back in the Southwest that had never had a page proceed from its midst, and very proud to say that it was the beginning for him in which the stimulus he received, and being that he had never been out of the city of San Antonio up to that point, enabled him to chart a course that has resulted in his carving a niche in our San Antonio society and his finding his place on a professional level.

So I want to add my voice to the gentleman's in complimenting these young ladies and young men who have taken time. Now, it does take dedication, and it is a selected choice that each one of the individuals does. When you consider that not every youth is interested, we then have more reason to be grateful to them for their interest in the most intimate aspect of the proceedings of this great lawmaking body, and I again want to thank the gentleman for his thoughtfulness.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman for his contribution.

I think we should also note the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] alluded to it, that in the Chamber with us at this time is the distinguished former Clerk of the House, Mr. Donnald K. Anderson, who has had a long-time interest in the page program, he himself having been a page many years ago.

Mr. Anderson, unfortunately, does not have the privileges of the floor and cannot speak, but he has prepared some remarks that he would have delivered if he could have said them.

So, for the RECORD, I include at this point a statement by Mr. Anderson:

STATEMENT OF DONNOLD K. ANDERSON,
FORMER CLERK OF THE HOUSE

I am grateful, indeed, to Congressman Emerson for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the occasion of the departure of the House Page Class of 1994-5.

My roots in the Page Program are deep, beginning with my own appointment as a page in the Eighty-sixth Congress and graduation in the Class of 1960. For eighteen years as the Manager of the Democratic cloakroom, I was a page supervisor and during my eight years as the Clerk of the House was a member of

the Page Board on which I continue to serve as Member Emeritus.

The Class of 1995 is a splendid and remarkable group of young Americans. They have unfailingly distinguished themselves in every area of their page experience. Successful and useful lives are easily predictable. I am proud to have been a page and proud to be a friend of the Class of 1995.

God bless you and stay in touch.

Now, with that, Mr. Speaker, that concludes my remarks. Once again I want to thank the pages for their service and extend every good wish to them for their future success and for their careers.

THE SHOCKING AUDIT OF THE OFFICE OF SUPPORT AIRCRAFT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIM). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Today Senator GRASSLEY and I received a very important report from the U.S. General Accounting Office. We asked for an audit of the Office of Support Aircraft of the Department of Defense, and what we received in this audit is shocking. The Department of Defense, which is required to keep administrative aircraft adequate to meet the wartime needs of the United States of America, made use of 48 such aircraft during the Persian Gulf war, maintains over 500 aircraft, 10 times what they used at the height of the Persian Gulf war and, last year they spent \$378 million on these support aircraft.

There are some notable problems with their use of these aircraft. There is no centralized control. Each and every service determines who and when people will be eligible to use these aircraft. Frequently, one-star generals and lower-ranking civilian officials from the Department of Defense, instead of using their chauffeurs and their automobiles, their limousines and their drivers, to go to Andrews Air Force Base to catch a jet, opt to take a helicopter at the cost of \$1,400 to \$1,600 an hour. According to the GAO, they save between 5 and 15 minutes instead of spending \$30 on a cab. They spend \$400 to \$1,600 to operate a helicopter. I think it is more for their ego than it is for any support purposes, and that is what the General Accounting Office has found.

We also have the fact that we are providing now for the commander in Korea, C-U-S-F-K, as he is called, a four-star general, we are going to provide him with a luxury pallet. That is something which can be inserted into a jet aircraft as this general is required, often, to come back to Washington, DC, to receive orders, and the current \$350,000 luxury pallets—I think that most Americans would like to live in a \$350,000 house, but this general does not think that a \$350,000 luxury pallet is adequate to put in an airplane so he can fly back in comfort to Washington, DC. No, he needs a \$750,000 pallet so that this general can fly back and forth

to Washington, DC, in extraordinary luxury at probably seven times the average median price of houses for most Members of Congress, \$750,000 for a luxury pallet for one general.

□ 1645

It is time that the generals in the Pentagon and the civilians in the Pentagon entered into the real world, the world of limitations, the world where you do not go first class-plus when you are not on an urgent mission. And the GAO identifies that most of these missions were not urgent missions.

In fact, they also find that not only are these aircraft used to transport generals, as I said, every one-star general in the Pentagon can take a helicopter and then get a private jet any time they want. They do not have to justify it or compare it to commercial rates. They do not even have to compare it to first class rates with a chauffeur-driven limousine. They can just do it, because it is there. And there are no controls.

We not only use it indiscriminately for Pentagon brass and for officials at the Pentagon, we are carting around the cadets at our academies to football games and swim meets. We had one football game in Hawaii. The Air Force played the University of Hawaii. The taxpayers of the United States of America spent \$270,000 to transport Air Force cadets to the University of Hawaii football game. Now, is that not wonderful?

My hometown university, the University of Oregon, went to the Rose Bowl this year, something that only happened once in the last quarter of a century. It is our second time. Nobody asked the State of Oregon to support the students of the University of Oregon or the alumni of the university of Oregon and spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to transport them. People made their own way.

But no, not when it comes to the Air Force Academy. Was it a particularly important game in Hawaii? Why did we spend \$300,000 on transporting? It had something to do with the fact the game was in Hawaii. They spent a total of \$2 million transporting cadets to and from sporting events last year, many times at the cost of \$2,000 per student. Those same students could have flown first class and each student could have had a chauffeur-driven limousine and had their meals and hotels paid for, for less than it cost to transport them, and this does not include the cost of the crew on the ground and other incidental costs, wear and tear on the airplane. These are only the actual operating costs of the plane.

So it is time the Pentagon came to reality here. I have introduced with Senator GRASSLEY legislation that would reduce the support aircraft to that which is needed, truly needed by the military, 50 percent, save \$200 million next year and every year thereafter.

ALTERNATIVES TO OUR CURRENT TAX SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the need to change the tax system.

Mr. Speaker, James Madison, one of the architects of the Constitution, once warned that we must keep our laws simple. Our freedom is in danger, he explained, when laws become so complicated that no one knows what they mean and change so often that no one can predict what they will be in the future.

Our Tax Code in the United States provides an example of what happens when we ignore Madison's warning. Today, thanks to the bold leadership of Chairman BILL ARCHER, we can now discuss fundamental changes in our Tax Code, including even the elimination of the income tax.

As a former chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in Michigan, I had the opportunity to deal with several alternatives to our current tax system. Among these alternatives was a consumption tax, a sales tax with our industrial processing exemption, and a flat-rate income tax. I would like to simply make a few comments about our experience in Michigan.

Michigan is the only State in the Nation with a consumption tax. We call it the single business tax. It has been in effect since 1975. A couple of points that come from this experience are, first of all, if a consumption tax is adopted at the national level, it must include a deduction for capital acquisition. That is full expensing of the cost of machinery and buildings. Michigan's capital acquisition deduction has been the most successful element of our consumption task. It increases productivity and encourages business and job expansion.

Second, the tax base should be determined using a subtractive method of calculation. Michigan uses the additive method to get the value added, and it has given us some problems. While it is going to yield the same base as the subtractive method, it has created a great deal of confusion among businesses. The tax is viewed as our income tax by many businesses and results in such questions as why can not I deduct wages? Why do I have to pay a tax even though I do not have profit? These types of questions would be eliminated if the tax was calculated using the so-called subtractive method.

Third, the primary problem with a consumption tax is that the tax is hidden in the final price of the product. This creates a danger that the government can raise the rate without individual taxpayers being aware of it. This is what has happened oftentimes in Europe. However, our experience in Michigan has been that since the business tax rate has not been increased since 1976, it has not been a problem. In