

would save billions of dollars each year in time and paperwork. It will spur massive economic growth.

Mr. President, I believe that Congress absolutely must overhaul the Federal income tax system and, at the same time, overhaul the Federal Government. Any flat tax proposed must be based on three fundamental principles: First, it must be simple and pure—there should be no exceptions or deductions other than a standard personal deduction; second, it should provide Americans with a tax cut; third, it should be coupled with a meaningful cut in spending.

On the first point, it is abundantly clear that the Federal tax laws are too complex, unfair, and unworkable. There are more than 480 tax forms confronting the taxpayers of the United States. I have copies of all of the tax forms at my desk, and I ask Senators, at some convenient time, to contrast that pile of forms to the flat tax postcard which I have in my hand.

Incidentally, I ask unanimous consent that this proposed tax postal card be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HELMS 15 PERCENT FLAT TAX

FORM 1—INDIVIDUAL WAGE TAX—1995

Your first name and initial (if joint return also give spouse's name and initial), last name.

Your social security number.

Home address (number and street including apartment number or rural route).

Spouse's social security number.

City, town, or post office, state and ZIP code.

1. Wages, Salaries, and Pensions.

2. Personal Exemptions: a. \$20,000 for married filing jointly, b. \$10,000 for singles, c. \$15,000 for single head of household.

3. Number of Dependents, not including spouse.

4. Personal Exemptions for Dependents (line 3 multiplied by \$5,000).

5. Total Personal allowances (line 2 plus line 4).

6. Taxable Wages (line 1, less line 5, if positive, otherwise zero).

7. Tax (15% of line 6).

8. Tax already paid.

9. Tax due (line 7 less line 8, if positive).

10. Refund due (line 8 less line 7, if positive).

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, U.S. taxpayers spend 5.4 billion hours and \$192 billion every year trying to fill out these tax forms. One can only imagine how easy it would be simply to submit this postcard in lieu of the existing paperwork.

Mr. President, taxpayers spend a lot of money trying to comply with or to avoid the tax laws. We all know that.

A study by James Payne of Lytton Research estimates that the Tax Code costs \$593 million every year, which includes tax avoidance, tax compliance, paperwork, and lost production. The flat tax would save taxpayers an enormous amount of time and money.

Now, the second benefit of the flat tax proposal that I just sent to the desk would provide millions of Ameri-

cans with a tax cut. Over the years, taxpayers have been taken to the cleaners by the Federal Government, a government which has taken more and more money away from the American workers every year.

I noticed in a report from the Heritage Foundation recently that in 1948 the average family of four paid 2 percent of its income to the Federal Government. In 1992, that same family of four would pay 24.5 percent of its income to Uncle Sam. That is only Federal taxes.

Third, we should dramatically reduce the size of the Federal Government by eliminating every dollar of Federal spending that is not absolutely essential. Entire programs should be abolished or reformed, including the Internal Revenue Service itself. With a flat tax, those countless thousands of IRS agents would no longer be justified in harassing the taxpayers.

A General Accounting Office study, by the way, Mr. President, disclosed one-half of the 10 million notices sent out by the IRS are—quoting the General Accounting Office—“incorrect, unresponsive, unclear, or incomplete.” I might add, or all four.

Mr. President, the flat tax would have a profound effect on the economy. It will promote growth by increasing incentives for work and investment and production. It will eliminate the double taxation of interest and dividends and the taxation of capital gains, which will increase savings, of course, and investments, and obviously it will stimulate growth and create jobs.

The economists have said that a flat tax would increase work output by 3 percent, and an additional 3 percent from capital formation. That translates into about \$1,900 extra for every American worker by the year 2002.

Furthermore, increased savings will push interest rates down and thus reduce the cost of capital and the cost of homes, cars, and college educations for American families.

Finally, Mr. President, this bill provides a transition rule for home mortgage. I thought about this a lot. I came to the conclusion that those families who have existing home mortgages should be allowed to deduct the interest for the duration of that existing mortgage. This is only a transition rule and applies only to existing home mortgages.

Now, I recognize that the concept of flat tax is not new. As a matter of fact, I offered my first flat tax bill, S. 2200, back in 1982, March 15. It called for a 10-percent flat tax.

Needless to say, I commend Representative ARMEY for his having put forward a solid proposal. He is doing the Nation a great service and I plan to support his version, cosponsor it, when it comes over to the Senate.

Our tax system has become so complex and so economically unproductive, outmoded, and riddled with exceptions that it is no wonder that the American people have lost faith in their Government to such a high degree.

Mr. President, a flat tax is based on equity, efficiency, and simplicity. I think the American people want a flat tax because they understand that it is fair. They understand that it will save billions of dollars and that it will be a spark plug for the economy.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 25, a bill to stop the waste of taxpayer funds on activities by Government agencies to encourage its employees or officials to accept homosexuality as a legitimate or normal lifestyle.

S. 304

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] were added as cosponsors of S. 304, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the transportation fuels tax applicable to commercial aviation.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to stop the waste of taxpayer funds on activities by Government agencies to encourage its employees or officials to accept homosexuality as a legitimate or normal lifestyle.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND], and the Senator from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES] were added as cosponsors of S. 678, a bill to provide for the coordination and implementation of a national aquaculture policy for the private sector by the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish an aquaculture development and research program, and for other purposes.

S. 877

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 877, a bill to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act to exempt physician office laboratories from the clinical laboratories requirements of that section.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to enhance the safety of air travel through a more effective Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 979

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] was added as a cosponsor

of S. 979, a bill to protect women's reproductive health and constitutional right to choice, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Federal income tax shall not apply to United States citizens who are killed in terroristic actions directed at the United States or to parents of children who are killed in those terroristic actions.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the depreciation rules which apply for regular tax purposes shall also apply for alternative minimum tax purposes, to allow a portion of the tentative minimum tax to be offset by the minimum tax credit, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146

At the request of Mr. JOHNSTON, the names of the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR], and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. NUNN] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 146, a resolution designating the week beginning November 19, 1995, and the week beginning on November 24, 1996, as "National Family Week", and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 149

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 149, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the recent announcement by the Republic of France that it intends to conduct a series of underground nuclear test explosions despite the current international moratorium on nuclear testing.

AMENDMENT NO. 1539

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON the name of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1539 proposed to S. 343, a bill to reform the regulatory process, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21—RELATIVE TO THE PORTRAIT MONUMENT

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. FORD, Mr. DOLE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. PELL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. D'AMATO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; ordered to be held at the desk:

S. CON. RES. 21

Whereas in 1995, women of America are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their right to participate in our government through suffrage;

Whereas Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony were pio-

neers in the movement for women suffrage and the pursuit of equal rights; and

Whereas, the relocation of the "Portrait Monument" to a place of prominence and esteem in the Capitol Rotunda would serve to honor and reserve the contribution of thousands of women: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That the Architect of the Capitol shall restore the "Portrait Monument" to its original state and place it in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I want to call attention to the Senate that on August 26, Americans will celebrate the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage.

On August 26, 1920, the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote was ratified in the State legislatures of the country after having been sent to the States by the Congress of the United States.

Alaska was in the forefront of the suffrage movement. Few people know that during the mining days that preceded this century, in the last part of the last century and the early part of this century, women voted in the mining camps in the organization of local governments in our territory.

As a matter of fact, the first act of the first territorial legislature in Alaska was to grant women the right to vote. That 1913 resolution said that:

In all elections that are now or may hereafter be authorized by law in the Territory of Alaska or any subdivision or municipality thereof, the elective franchise is hereby extended to such women as have the qualifications of citizens required of male electors.

It just so happens that E.B. Collins, who was my first senior partner when I went to Alaska and practiced in Fairbanks, was the speaker of the first house of representatives in that territorial legislature. He said to me that he felt like giving women the right to vote was one of his greatest victories in the days of the Territory of Alaska. I am sure he would be pleased to know today, that his position as speaker of the State of Alaska is held by an Alaskan woman, Gail Phillips of Homer, AK, and the president of our Alaska State Senate is Drue Pearce, another successful Alaska woman.

Unfortunately, history has not fully recognized the role that these courageous suffragists have played in our history. While a statue was commissioned to honor those women involved in the process, it has been relegated to the basement of the Capitol and faces a back wall. At one time, the inscription was actually painted over with white-wash.

In our Rotunda, most of the statues honor Presidents, and as we know, all to date have been men. Someday I hope the Rotunda will be graced with a statue of the first female President. Until then, it is my hope to honor the role women have played by moving the women's suffrage statue up to the place of honor it should have in the Rotunda. So today I am sending to the desk a resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to move the women's stat-

ue from the basement into the Rotunda before August 26.

Mr. President, this concurrent resolution is cosponsored by Senators DOLE, FORD, HATFIELD, PELL, HELMS, MOYNIHAN, KASSEBAUM, HUTCHISON, and MIKULSKI.

I ask unanimous consent that it be held at the desk until the close of business Monday so all Senators who may wish to do so may cosponsor it, and then having cleared this with the minority and majority, I ask that it be held on the calendar until such time as the leadership will bring it to a vote, which I hope will be very soon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I thank this young lady, Sherry Little, who works on the Rules Committee staff, who brought this statue to my attention.

I thank the Senator from Michigan for his courtesy.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 1995

HARKIN AMENDMENT NO. 1541

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 1487 proposed by Mr. DOLE to the bill (S. 343) to reform the regulatory process, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . DIRECTIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CONCERNING REGULATION OF FISHING LURES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) millions of Americans of all ages enjoy recreational fishing; fishing is one of the most popular sports;

(2) lead and other types of metal sinkers and fishing lures have been used by Americans for fishing for hundreds of years;

(3) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed to issue a rule under section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act, to prohibit the manufacturing, processing, and distribution in commerce in the United States, of certain smaller size fishing sinkers containing lead and zinc, and mixed with other substances, including those made of brass;

(4) the Environmental Protection Agency has based its conclusions that lead fishing sinkers of a certain size present an unreasonable risk of injury to human health or the environment on less than definitive scientific data, conjecture, and anecdotal information;

(5) alternative forms of sinkers and fishing lures are considerably more expensive than those made of lead; consequently, a ban on lead sinkers would impose additional costs on millions of Americans who fish;

(6) in the absence of more definitive evidence of harm to the environment, the Federal Government should not take steps to restrict the use of lead sinkers; and

(7) alternative measures to protect waterfowl from lead exposure should be carefully reviewed.