

year ago, thanks to the able House majority leader, the flat tax was introduced in the House of Representatives and took the country by storm. Today, I am here to tell the American people the flat tax has found a home in the Senate and the flat tax is not only a legitimate proposal for tax reform, it is the leading candidate.

When considering any proposal for tax reform, one has to ask the question, "Should the Federal Government coerce free individuals by means of tax policy?" I believe the answer is a clear and resounding "No." In other words, tax policy should neither encourage nor discourage the personal decisions of free individuals in America. If one accepts this premise, one has to conclude the best alternative for tax reform is the flat tax. No other tax proposal, not the sales tax, and especially not the Gephardt un-flat tax, has the attribute of neutrality.

The Armey-Shelby flat tax taxes every dollar in the economy once and only once—all at the same rate. As a result, the Armey-Shelby flat tax does not coerce free individuals into making decisions to take advantage of a special interest tax break or to avoid some tax penalty. The basic premise of the Freedom and Fairness Restoration Act is that free individuals know best how to spend their hard-earned dollars.

The current Tax Code, while serving its purpose of revenue collection, has many problems. It contains high marginal rates as well as a hodgepodge of special interest deductions. In addition, the complexity of Federal tax laws cost taxpayers approximately 5.4 billion hours, or \$150 billion, just to comply with the current Internal Revenue Code.

As a result, the time has come to abolish the old, inefficient tax system and adopt a new, strict flat tax—20 percent for the first 2 years, and 17 percent thereafter. Generous personal allowances—\$31,400 for a family of four—will cut taxes for families and provide a level of progressivity many find essential for tax reform. The flat tax will eliminate the double taxation of savings and promote jobs and higher wages. These attributes of the Armey-Shelby flat tax are the keys that will unlock the door to economic prosperity and assures freedom and fairness for all.●

By Mr. HATFIELD (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. PELL, Mr. MOYNIHAN and Mr. REID):

S. 1051. A bill to authorize appropriations for the American Folklife Center for fiscal years 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

THE AMERICAN FOLKLIFE CENTER RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, as the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, I am introducing legislation today to reauthorize the Library's American Folklife Center

for fiscal years 1996 through 1999. I am pleased to have all the members of the Joint Committee on the Library and Senator REID join me in this effort as cosponsors.

The American Folklife Preservation Act of 1976 established the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress with a mandate to "preserve and present American folklife." This remarkable institution contains the nation's foremost collection of folklife materials, including over 1 million manuscripts, sound recordings, photographs, films, videos, periodicals, and other printed information which chronicle the grassroots cultural traditions of the American people. No other public or private establishment can compare to the Folklife Center's extensive accumulation of American folklife.

In addition to maintaining a comprehensive record of our Nation's diverse culture, the Folklife Center is also an interactive and widely used institution. The folklife reading room is the largest reading room in the nation with public access to folklife collections and publications. During 1994 the folklife reading room assisted nearly 9,000 researchers. Additionally, the Folklife Center is well known for its popular public exhibitions and presentations, such as the summer folklife music concert series in front of the Jefferson Building. This year the series opened with a performance of cajun zydeco and will close with the Argentine tango. The Folklife Center is also well known for its programs which have traveled throughout the United States. For instance, the Folklife Center's photographic exhibit "Generation to Generation: Sharing the Intangible," which depicts grassroots culture bridging the differences between older and younger individuals, had a brief stay at the Hood River County Historical Museum in Hood River, OR.

Mr. President, the American Folklife Center accomplishes its broad mandate with minimal funding and through the efforts of creative individuals. The Folklife Center has a staff of only 15 and their authorization level has been frozen since 1992. However, in 1994 they raised \$330,000—3 times the amount raised in 1990—in private funding and they have a multi-year plan to increase private funding. Consequently, the legislation I am introducing today provides a modest increase in their annual authorization from the current level of \$1,120,000 to \$1,187,000 for the next 4 fiscal years.

The American Folklife Center is an important investment in preserving our Nation's cultural background that will serve future generations as a historical reference and educational guide. I hope my colleagues will continue to support the Folklife Center by approving this legislation.●

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator HATFIELD as an original cosponsor to legislation which will reauthorize the American Folklife Center. The Folklife Center provides

our country with the invaluable service of preserving the diverse cultures which makeup American folklife.

Folklife is defined as the grassroots cultural traditions maintained at the community level and expressed through family, ethnic, occupational, religious, and regional associations. It includes a wide range of creative forms including music, verbal traditions, crafts and dance. It is my strong belief that the preservation of America's heritage is worth funding.

The American Folklife Center contains by far the Nation's preeminent folklife collection comprising over 1 million items in every medium: manuscripts, sound recordings photographs, films, videos, periodicals, and other printed materials. No other institution, public or private, contains such a vast and comprehensive collection of folklife. Further, it is the sole institution in the Federal Government authorized to preserve and present American folklife.

The American Folklife Center's authorization level has been frozen at \$1,120,000 since 1992. On this budget, the Center has maintained the largest reading room in the Nation with public access to folklife collections and publications and with formal public reference services, assisting nearly 9,000 researchers in 1994. The Center has provided for programs, presentations, field research projects, publications and exhibitions which strengthen public education about America's heritage and benefit hundreds of thousands of Americans annually. I believe it is time to increase the Center's funding, therefore, our amendment provides for the modest increase in authorization to \$1,187,000 a year for the next 4 years. This money will allow the Center to continue with their important work in preserving America's heritage.

In 1976, the American Folklife Center was established with bipartisan support. However, the Archive of Folk Culture has been a part of the Library of Congress since 1928. This long history is evidence of our country's commitment to preserving its heritage.

The Center maintains a unique collection with items from all 50 States. My State of Nevada has diverse folk traditions which are preserved by the Center. Among its unique recordings are Ute, Northern Paiute, Wasoe, and other native American music recordings made by Omer Stewart in 1938 and Willard Rhodes in 1949. There are cowboy songs and stories by "Powder River" Jack H. Lee of Virginia City and oral histories and stories of traditional life made by Duncan Emerich in 1942 and 1950.

Between 1978 and 1982, the Center conducted the Paradise Valley Folklife Project to document and analyze the traditional life and work of a ranching community in Nevada. The project was developed in conjunction with the

Smithsonian Institution and the National Endowment for the Arts. Documentary materials from the project include field notes; sound, motion picture, and video records; and 30,000 black and white negatives and color transparencies. The project also resulted in a book, "Buckaroos in Paradise: Cowboy Life in Northern Nevada," an exhibit of the same name at the Smithsonian Institution, and a videodisc, "The Ninety-Six: A Cattle Ranch in Northern Nevada."

In 1989 and 1990, the Center conducted a field research project documenting the culture and traditions of Italian-Americans in the West, which culminated in a traveling exhibition and companion book of essays. The documentary material created during the project includes recordings, photographs, architectural drawings, and other documents from central Nevada. These are just some examples of the work that the Center does in my State of Nevada. However, the Center provides this sort of work for each State's unique history.

The Center is not only a place where history is preserved, it is also a viable working institution which provides a wealth of information from where American artists can draw upon and use these valuable resources. Micky Hart, drummer for the Greatful Dead, has found unreleased and forgotten world music in the archives. This past spring he released his second CD of such sounds, "Music of the Gods," a collection of gamelan music acquired from the Fiji Islanders just before World War II.

The Center is heavily used by artists, historians, and people who simply enjoy learning about our country's cultures. It has successfully performed its duties on minimal funding over the years, and has made great efforts in generating private funds. The Center has demonstrated its dedication to the preservation of American folklife and culture, and greatly deserves the reauthorization our legislation provides.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to terminate the United States arms embargo applicable to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. HEFLIN] and the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR] were added as cosponsors of S. 607, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to clarify the liability of certain recycling transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 743

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from New York

[Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for investment necessary to revitalize communities within the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 770

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] and the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH] were added as cosponsors of S. 770, a bill to provide for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and for other purposes.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to terminate the agricultural price support and production adjustment programs for sugar, and for other purposes.

S. 955

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] were added as cosponsors of S. 955, a bill to clarify the scope of coverage and amount of payment under the medicare program of items and services associated with the use in the furnishing of inpatient hospital services of certain medical devices approved for investigational use.

S. 959

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 959, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage capital formation through reductions in taxes on capital gains, and for other purposes.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] 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.

S. 1006

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1006, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the pension laws, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146

At the request of Mr. JOHNSTON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] and the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1801

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN the names of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] were added as cosponsors of Amendment No. 1801 proposed to S. 21, a bill to terminate the United States arms embargo applicable to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SENATE RESOLUTION 154—RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Mr. PELL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 154

Whereas in 1978 the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 49, calling on the United States Government to seek the agreement of other governments to a proposed global treaty requiring the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments for any major project, action, or continuing activity that may be reasonably expected to have a significant adverse effect on the physical environment or environmental interests of another nation or a global commons area;

Whereas subsequent to the adoption of Senate Resolution 49 in 1978, the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council adopted Goals and Principles on Environmental Impact Assessment calling on governments to undertake comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessments in cases in which the extent, nature, or location of a proposed activity is such that the activity is likely to significantly affect the environment;

Whereas Principle 17 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, states that Environmental Impact Assessments as a national instrument shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of the competent national authority;

Whereas on October 7, 1992, the Senate gave its advice and consent to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, which obligates parties to the Antarctic Treaty to require Environmental Impact Assessment procedures for proposed activities in Antarctica; and

Whereas the United States is a signatory to the 1991 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, a regional treaty that calls for the use of Environmental Impact Assessments as necessary tools to minimize the adverse impact of certain activities on the environment, particularly in a transboundary context: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Government should encourage the governments of other nations to engage in additional regional treaties, along the lines of the 1991 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, regarding specific transboundary activities that have adverse impacts on the environment of other nations or a global commons area; and

(2) such additional regional treaties should ensure that specific transboundary activities are undertaken in environmentally sound ways and under careful controls designed to