

higher education, a career, or community service. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Adam Summers, Anthony Paul Pagorek, and Joseph Rybarczyk for their commendable efforts in society. It takes a great deal of tenacity and devotion to achieve such an illustrious ranking. These three young men have established promising futures, while at the same time improving the quality of life in Indiana's First Congressional District.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ATLANTIC ELECTRIC

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, Atlantic Electric, a utility serving residents in the Second District, sponsors an outstanding program to assist teenagers in Cumberland County. For its role in this effort—called the Peer Group Connection program—Atlantic Electric was honored with a Special Distinction Award for Educational Partnerships from the Edison Electric Institute [EEI]. Ms. Fern Mills, manager of community relations for Atlantic Electric, was recently in Washington to receive the award from EEI president Thomas R. Kuhn.

The Peer Group Connection program is a partnership effort between Atlantic Electric, Cumberland Regional High School, and community members of Cumberland County. It seeks to address difficulties in transition between elementary and secondary school through effective use of peer influence. The program seeks to build safe, responsive communities in which ethnic, racial, and cultural differences are respected.

In making the presentation during a Capitol Hill ceremony, Mr. Kuhn said:

Recognizing that helping teenagers helps society, Atlantic Electric joined other leading Cumberland County, New Jersey businesses in starting the Peer Group Connection, as a support group for high school students coping with the pressures of growing up. Results show higher grades, fewer absences, and a more positive attitude toward school.

To Atlantic Electric and others involved in the educational partnerships, I say congratulations—keep up the good work.

TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3756) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, here we go again, get ready, the Gingrich-

Armey Republicans had so much fun last year—shutting down the Government, causing insecurity for the American people, and downright scaring the hard-working citizens in every district about the ability of the Federal Government to keep operating—that the Gingrich-Army Republicans are trying to do it all over again. The one-sided, Republican partisan drafted Federal appropriations bill is being shoved down the throats of the President and the American people. What will happen? Well, if the bill is unacceptable to the President in his analysis of what is best for the American people, he will veto it.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't rocket science to understand what is unacceptable about this bill. In H.R. 3756, Treasury-Postal Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997 the Gingrich Republicans provide \$23.3 billion for the Treasury Department, U.S. Postal Service, and various offices of the Executive Office of the President. Sure, that's a lot of money, a billion here and a billion there, pretty soon begins to look like real money—but this funding level is \$1.3 billion less than recommended by the administration, you know, the one that is responsible to the American people for the delivery of services and programs under the jurisdiction of those Federal agencies.

One provision in this legislation is similar to a bill I have introduced to provide a permanent solution to the issue of FBI background checks. However, the Gingrich provision doesn't go far enough. Recent hearings held by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, of which I am the ranking minority member, revealed a longstanding, apparently open system with a lack of adequate protections over these kinds of sensitive records. We also learned that when Presidents leave office, they take these files with them to their Presidential libraries, where the protections are just as weak, or nonexistent.

The Clinton White House and the FBI, to their credit, have made some significant internal changes to make sure this type of mistake cannot happen again. We need to ensure, however, that future White Houses continue to provide adequate protection to these records. That is why I introduced the Background Security Records Act of 1996, H.R. 3785, to guarantee that these most sensitive and private records are protected, to tighten restrictions on how these records are obtained and treated, and to make accountable high-ranking FBI and White House officials for their protection.

My Background Security Records Act of 1996 would do four things: First, it would send back to the FBI the security records of individuals no longer at the White House; second, it would require the written permission of the individual whose record is requested from the FBI before the FBI could send it to the White House; third, the bill would extend the criminal sanctions of the Privacy Act to the misuse of these records; and fourth, it would require the Secret Service to develop accurate lists of individuals in need of access to the White House. My bill goes even farther than the provisions in this appropriations bill that don't really accomplish what is needed, the appropriations' bill provision just gives token attention to the issue.

In slashing the President's request for appropriations, the Gingrich Republicans attempt to dictate Federal administrative reorganization. For instance, by a number of tactics, the

Republicans are trying to give the Department of Defense the responsibility of modernizing the Internal Revenue Services' computer and information technology. Come on. Are the Republicans' special interest defense contractors so out of work that we have to turn over the IRS to them? Mr. Speaker, I object.

If that's not enough, those same Republican extremists who want to shrink Federal Government as long as it only cuts education, cuts social services, and cuts housing or other programs designed to provide a bridge to self-sufficiency for the middle- and low-income Americans, not the Gingrich Republicans' special interest fat-cats—now that same party wants to tie the purse strings of this administration on things that they, Gingrich Republicans, can't tie up on a straight up-and-down vote during a public debate. I think it's particularly funny that the Gingrich Republicans apparently think the American people are so dumb that they can't see this as a "tax reform" effort to further erode the ability of the IRS to administer and enforce tax collection.

Of all the appropriations bills, perhaps this one should be the most responsive to the request of a President, any President. But this Gingrich Republican bill denies President Clinton the ability to manage his own house, the Executive Office of the President. Does it make sense for any opposition party to be able to dictate to a sitting President how that President runs his or her own Government house? That is a strictly partisan attack on a Democratic Presidency.

Come on, even the Gingrich-Army Republicans can't believe the American people are that dumb. I urge my colleagues to reject this appropriations bill.

PERUVIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 175th anniversary of Peruvian independence. On July 28, 1821, Don Jose de San Martin led rebel troops in freeing Peru from Spanish rule. The victories of this Peruvian national hero in many ways laid the foundation for independence for all of South America.

I am proud to say that in the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey, this great day is going to be remembered with all the fanfare it deserves. From July 20 to 28, we will celebrate Peruvian Heritage Days. The days will consist of numerous activities to enhance public awareness of Peruvian history and cultural heritage, and the crowning event will be the parade on Sunday, the 28th. I know from personal experience that it will be both interesting and entertaining.

Mr. Speaker, on this most auspicious occasion, I feel compelled to point out that this day should be a special one not only for Peruvians and Peruvian-Americans, but for freedom-loving people everywhere. Neither the United States nor Peru would be the proud countries we know today if people who came before us had not stood up for their rights, and demanded national sovereignty and independence.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, allow me to add that regardless of whether you favor the melting

pot or the mixed salad analogy, the underlying truth of the matter remains: We are a nation of immigrants. As the grandson of immigrants, I have seen firsthand how difficult it can be to assimilate into a new society while still remembering your roots. The community of Peruvian-Americans in my district has succeeded in doing just that. For their immeasurable contributions to the richness of our society, I applaud all of the legal immigrants who collectively make up the fabric of these United States. We are all unique individuals, but we truly are also one Nation under God.

AN ADDITIONAL TOOL FOR TRYING TO REFORM CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, recent communications between the Department of Labor and California show we have another problem to correct in restoring power to the States. Bluntly, the Department is saying California has to pay unemployment benefits to certain criminals being released from prison.

Current Federal law requires employers to pay Federal employment [FUTA] taxes on work performed by their employees. This includes prison inmates who work for private companies through innovative work programs established in several States, including California. Today, some 200 people in California prisons are employed in jobs provided under agreements between the State and private businesses. However, FUTA taxes do not have to be paid for work by prisoners employed in prison operations such as the laundry or cabinet shop.

Since FUTA taxes are paid on behalf of some prisoners, the U.S. Department of Labor ruled that these prisoners must be paid unemployment benefits upon their release from their job—essentially, when they are released from prison. Failure to comply is serious: California employers, for example, would lose tax credits worth \$1.7 billion for FUTA taxes they pay on other workers if the California program is disqualfied.

Why does Labor take this position? The Federal unemployment insurance program only permits denial of employment benefits in three cases: if the worker's income exceeds certain limits; the claim is fraudulent; or the employee was fired for misconduct. Since prisoners lose their jobs when paroled or released from prison, they do not fit the exceptions.

California voters established the Joint Venture Program in 1990, creating a private work program for prison inmates. Criminals' wages are used to compensate victims, offset incarceration costs, and set-aside funds—20 percent—for the inmate's support upon his or her release from prison. In 1996, California voters overwhelmingly passed an initiative (Proposition 194) that denies unemployment benefits to criminals participating in the Joint Venture Program.

The Department of Labor decision would force California either to pay out unemployment benefits to released prisoners or to eliminate a program that has been successful in helping criminals transition back into the work

force. Allowing employees to lose \$1.7 billion in credits for taxes they pay on the services of ordinary working people is not an option, needless to say.

Legislation I am introducing today would change the law to treat all prison inmates who participate in work programs the same: Their services would be exempt from the FUTA tax. This would effectively deny unemployment benefits to released prisoners and prohibit the Department of Labor from placing such a ridiculous requirement on the States. The bill's enactment would give States an additional tool to use in trying to reform criminal behavior and I hope my colleagues will agree to its adoption in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO IRVING GEORGE LIEBERFARB

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Irving George Lieberfarb, a distinguished American from Lake Worth, FL, who recently passed away.

Mr. Lieberfarb was a worthy and admirable individual whose absence is a tragic loss to his family and his community. He was very active in the B'nai B'rith movement, and his synagogue Petach Tikva Congregation, on behalf of many worthy causes. It was Mr. Lieberfarb who brought to my attention the matter of Varian Fry, an American who had saved thousands of Jewish lives during World War II, but had never been honored. In 1939 Mr. Fry had requested the State Department allow him to secure the passage of Jewish refugees suffering under the Nazi regime. The Government responded by reluctantly offering merely 200 visas, and eventually put an end to his work by forcing him to return to America. When he criticized the U.S. immigration policy, upon his return, the Government shunned him and refused to recognize his noble deeds.

I had read Mr. Lieberfarb's article about Varian Fry and was disturbed that the actions of this man were ignored for so long. Therefore, I introduced H.R. 3352, legislation to award the congressional gold medal of honor to Varian Fry's family in honor of his great accomplishments. Mr. Lieberfarb's efforts for this cause alone exhibits his concern for righteousness and justice. It was an honor to have known him.

For this reason, I also wish to insert in the RECORD the kind words submitted by his family to the New York Times, on Friday, June 28, 1996.

Irving George Lieberfarb, of Lakewood Florida, died on June 26, 1996, Beloved husband of Irene, father of Jay and Richard. Loving grandfather of Suzanne and Julie. Brother of Mae Zeller, Daniel, and Eddie. Loving uncle of many nephews and nieces. Always thinking how much he could do for his family.

We will never forget your positive influence and always concern for the special interest of the many friends and relations. With love and gratitude, your niece and nephews, Warren, Bonnie, Monte and Jim.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEEP RIVER, CT FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Deep River, CT fire department which serves the community of Deep River with selflessness, energy, and commitment each and every day.

The first organizational meeting of the Deep River fire department was held in March 1896. Since that time, the department has grown to its present size of nearly 40 persons, receives over 200 calls each year, and has at its disposal a fleet of four pumper trucks, one emergency truck, one brush truck, and one fire boat. The Deep River fire department has also expanded to two stations which serve the local community: The fire department headquarters at the center of Deep River and a smaller station in the Winthrop section of town.

The Deep River fire department has served the community faithfully, often demonstrating real ingenuity in its work to keep the community safe. In Deep River, CT, Mr. Speaker, the only fire hydrants are located in town. The department, though, serves not only the town, but many rural areas as well. In those rural areas, using vast amounts of fire hose, the department employs a combination of skill and improvisation to obtain water from nearby streams and ponds, offering rural residents the same level of emergency service as is enjoyed by those who reside in town.

On September 29 of this year, the Deep River fire department will continue the celebration of its 100th anniversary with a community parade. At this parade, the national flag fire truck will make its way to Deep River, a further honor to this most deserving department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members of the House of Representatives join me today in recognizing the accomplishments and achievements of the Deep River fire department on its 100th anniversary, and offering our best wishes for another 100 years of distinguished service and generous sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE EISENBERG-KEEFER AND MEL KEEFER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer and Mel Keefer for their extraordinary charitable activities.

Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer, president and administrator of the Ben B. and Joyce E. Eisenberg Foundation, is a leader in efforts to improve the quality of life of the elderly, youth, and cancer victims.

In 1993, she established the Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer Breast Center at St. John's Hospital and Health Center, a comprehensive center for the study and treatment of breast cancer that sees 10,000 patients each year.