

Many conservative "monetarists" share the belief of liberals that gold is "a barbarous relic," in the words of the late, great British economist, John Maynard Keynes.

They prefer allowing the dollar to "float" in value, letting its price be determined in world markets by supply and demand. And the Federal Reserve System, under Chairman Alan Greenspan, appears to be doing a credible job of wringing inflation out of the economy and keeping the dollar stable against other currencies.

But it's no secret that one reason for Mr. Greenspan's success is that he keeps a close informal eye on gold prices. Before he became Fed chairman, he openly expressed support for a gold standard on grounds that gold is an excellent barometer of the supply and demand for paper money.

But Mr. Greenspan may not be around forever. And interest rates remain stubbornly high by historical standards, imposing a huge cost not only on the federal budget but on the average American. These higher interest rates reflect the premium charged by lenders who must worry about the future course of the dollar. When gold was the standard, long-term rates seldom rose above 4-5 percent, compared with at least 6-8 percent today.

Few ordinary citizens can comprehend the Federal Reserve's money-market manipulations. They must guess at what's going on behind the doors at the Fed. The result is they demand a premium as a hedge against future inflation.

But even ordinary citizens can understand a gold standard. When the price of gold rises, they know that inflation may be in the offing. When it falls, they know it's time for the Fed to print more dollars in order to fend off deflation. A gold standard gives voters a practical reality check on the performance of the elites in Washington.

In short, the gold standard is no wacko idea. It's been tested over centuries. It may not be perfect, but it has provided a better hedge against the ravages of inflation and deflation than most other systems. And it is a fundamentally democratic mechanism that enhances the ability of the ordinary citizen to control his or her destiny. What's wacko is the notion the folks in Washington have done such a swell job maintaining the value of the dollar.

#### THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID RECOVERY ACT OF 1996

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Medicare and Medicaid Recovery Act of 1996.

Providers and suppliers are using the Bankruptcy Code as a vehicle to defeat the Secretary's effort to recoup overpayments from the Medicare trust funds. Specifically, providers and suppliers, who owe financial obligations to Medicare, are seeking relief from bankruptcy courts to have their outstanding overpayments, which are unsecured, discharge or greatly reduced. The Medicare Program has been unsuccessful in efforts to halt such action.

Federal bankruptcy legislation is designed to provide equality to all creditors in the distribution of a debtor's assets. However, there are three main exceptions to the equal distribution principle that allow some creditors to receive

more than others. The three main devices for some creditors getting more are, first, liens, second, exceptions to discharge, and third, priorities.

With the third main exception—priority—creditors have a demand to first payment from any assets the debtors have available for payment to unsecured creditors. Creditors with priorities get paid before other unsecured creditors.

The Federal Government has long had a priority for taxes, duties, and related penalties. However, it does not have a priority for nontax claims, such as Medicare and Medicaid overpayments to providers. The Government's priority for nontax claims was abolished in 1979.

A 1992 report issued by the Office of Inspector General, entitled "Federal Recovery of Overpayments from Bankrupt Providers," found that as of March 1991, the Medicare trust funds lost \$109 million due to the ability of providers and suppliers to discharge their outstanding overpayments. While the report recommends giving Medicare claims a priority status in bankruptcy, better cost savings would be achieved by excepting these claims from discharge. This bill would correct this situation by prohibiting providers and suppliers from using a bankruptcy forum to avoid these outstanding obligations.

This bill addresses a second problem—individuals who owe financial obligations to the United States, or who have had a program exclusion imposed against them for other reasons, are seeking relief from the bankruptcy courts to have their exclusion subject to the automatic stay. Currently, the Secretary of HHS is required to exclude from participation in the Medicare and State health care programs health care professionals who have defaulted on their student loan or scholarship obligations owed to the United States. There are also a number of other bases for exclusion, such as criminal convictions related to the delivery of a health care item or service, or patient abuse. The purpose of the Secretary's exclusion authority is to protect the public, as well as the beneficiaries of the Medicare and State health care programs, from individuals and entities who have demonstrated by their past conduct that they are untrustworthy. This bill makes clear that the Bankruptcy Code should not be used to defeat this congressional purpose.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE THREE VILLAGE POST NO. 336 OF THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, a venerable veterans' organization that is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting the Three Village Post No. 336 of the Jewish War Veterans, located in Port Jefferson Station, Long Island, NY. As members of America's armed services, Three Village Post members served their country with exemplary patriotic duty. As part of the

Jewish War Veterans they epitomize those patriotic ideals, striving to maintain recognition of their comrades' sacrifices, while working to protect the rights and well-being of all veterans.

The oldest, continuously active veterans organization in the United States, the Hebrew Union Veterans Association was established on March 15, 1896 by Civil War veterans of the Union Army. Part of the group's original function was to help dispel the persistent falsehood that Jews did not serve in the Civil War. After World War I, when the group's rolls ballooned, they changed their name to the Jewish War Veterans—USA.

To celebrate the J.W.V. centennial anniversary, on Sunday, October 27, the Three Village Post will hold a special ceremony at the North Shore Jewish Center, in Setauket. At the centennial celebration, post members, their family, friends, and supporters will pay homage to those Jewish War Veterans who have fought and sacrificed in defense of democracy, so that America may remain strong and its people free. As Post Commander Robert Sandberg wrote to me, in a brief history of J.W.V. and Post No. 366: "The J.W.V. can be doubly proud. First, that we can live peacefully and freely in this wonderful country, and second, that American Jews themselves and their forebears fought and helped win that peace and freedom."

Since establishing its charter on January 27, 1975, the Three Village Post has sustained the benevolent and patriotic traditions of the J.W.V. Its members have spent thousands of volunteer hours working with the residents of the Northport Veterans Hospital and the State Veterans Home at Stony Brook. Each year, two local high school seniors receive a Jewish War Veterans' scholarship. To maintain the community's awareness of the sacrifices our veterans have made, post members participate in the local Memorial Day and Independence Day parades, along with the grave site memorial services at nearby Calverton National Cemetery.

In this, the Jewish War Veterans' centennial anniversary year, its members continue to work for the ideals on which the organization was founded. Remembering the sacrifices of all veterans is central to those ideals and the J.W.V. is working tirelessly to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp to honor the Jewish War Veterans' 100th anniversary. Mr. Speaker, it was the selfless sacrifices of all veterans that have made America a great republic. None have sacrificed more, nor have others worked harder to protect America's democratic ideals than our Jewish war veterans. I respectfully request that the entire U.S. Congress join me in saluting the 100th anniversary of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America. Congratulations.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM BEVILL

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend, TOM BEVILL. TOM is retiring after this session and I am saddened to see such a thoughtful legislator leave this

House, but I am grateful to have had the distinct pleasure of serving with a man whose integrity is an example to us all.

In his time in the House, TOM won respect from both sides of the aisle for being a decent, honorable gentleman.

TOM and I have been good friends since 1966, the year he was first elected to the House. As chairman and ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, TOM has served the Nation and the Congress with rare distinction and poise and we are all in his debt.

His mentor and mate, beloved Lou, deserves accolades, a wonderful woman. I know they will enjoy finally being able to spend time together back in Alabama.

TOM is, without question, one of the most able and dedicated Members who has ever served. It has been an honor to have shared this floor with him. TOM will truly be missed.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO SUSPEND DUTIES ON CERTAIN IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which supports important regional and national interests.

My home, the 7th Congressional District of Washington, is also the home of K2 Corp. the last remaining major U.S. manufacturer of skis and one of three major makers of snowboards in the United States. K2 conducts all significant manufacturing operations for skis and snowboards at its Vashon Island, WA facility. In fact, all K2 snowboards and virtually all K2 and Olin-brand skis sold throughout the world are individually crafted by technicians on Vashon Island. Moreover, K2 sources almost all of the components for its skis and snowboards in the U.S. stimulating the U.S. economy through its purchases of raw materials from U.S. suppliers, especially in the Pacific Northwest region of the country. However, for two key ski and snowboard components, i.e., spring steel edges and polyethylene base materials, K2 has been unable to find a supplier of these products in the United States that can meet its needs. Therefore, K2 has been forced to import these products, which are subject to U.S. customs duties upon importation. This legislation provides for a temporary suspension of customs duty on the two raw materials which are vital to the U.S. production of skis and snowboards and which are unavailable from domestic producers.

K2 is working hard to remain visible in the highly competitive international market for skis and snowboards. In fact, K2 has endured as a U.S. ski manufacturer in the face of fierce price competition, while several other major ski companies no longer manufacture skis in the United States. This temporary duty suspension legislation would support jobs in the region, as well as K2's ability to continue developing innovative, fine quality products. Equally important, a temporary duty suspension would help K2 preserve and increase its competitiveness in the global marketplace.

K2 is the only major export of skis made in the United States. In addition, K2 is one of

three principal exporters of U.S.-made snowboards. Thus, K2's exports of U.S.-manufactured skis and snowboards represent a substantial percentage of U.S. skis and snowboards sold worldwide. If K2 is unable to remain competitive in global and domestic markets, skis manufactured in the United States may disappear from the global marketplace. The temporary duty suspension proposed by this legislation would help prevent the shutdown of the only remaining U.S. producer of skis.

#### TRIBUTE TO FATHER JAMES W. SAUVE

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest regret that I note the passing this past Monday, September 23, of Father James W. Sauve, who was most recently the executive director of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities.

Father Sauve was born in Two Rivers, WI, where his father Willard still lives. He spent 10 years at Marquette University in Milwaukee as a professor, campus minister and administrator; and another 10 years in Rome as Executive Secretary of the International Center for Jesuit Education.

I believe other members will comment more fully on Father Sauve's accomplishments, but it is quite clear that he made immense contributions to education in general and Jesuit education in particular. In his passing, we have all suffered a great loss, but through his life we have all gained immeasurably. No greater tribute can be paid to any man.

I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to Father Sauve's family and friends, and hope that they will not only mourn his death, but be able to celebrate his life.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. LYUSHEN SHEN

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a friend of mine and a friend of America who unfortunately will be leaving Washington this week after spending many years here.

Dr. Lyushen Shen, director of public affairs at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office here in Washington, will be returning home to the Republic of China on Taiwan where he will assume his new post as director of North American Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I am absolutely certain that Lyushen will succeed in this important post which directly affects the working relationship between the Republic of China and the United States.

Dr. Shen has been the chief congressional liaison for the Republic of China for many years. He has nurtured the steady improvement of United States-Republic of China relations, and has been a truly indispensable diplomatic resource. The American people, in-

cluding Members of Congress, all have a favorable impression of Taiwan.

This is directly attributable to the personal efforts made by officials such as Lyushen Shen. Lyushen has always been clear yet patient in explaining to us the differences between the cultures of the East and West, his government's efforts in reducing its trade surplus with the U.S. and his people's deep affection and regard for the American people.

As a Member of Congress who has strongly supported the Taiwanese in their struggle for democracy and prosperity, I have appreciated Lyushen's input. It has been my privilege to work with Lyushen over the years, and I will miss him.

I wish him and his family the very best.

#### HONORING MARTHA K. ROTHMAN

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 26, 1996*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding leader of the child care community in Arizona and in the Nation, Martha K. Rothman, and to congratulate her organization, the Tucson Association of Child Care [TACC] for its 25 years of outstanding service to children. Martha has been the central force in the development of TACC. Through her vision and leadership, she has encouraged its growth from a small group who developed the first child care centers through the Model Cities Program to what it is today: a large network that makes a positive impact upon the lives of 20,000 children each day in Tucson, Phoenix, Yuma, Sierra Vista, Douglas, and Nogales.

The basic mission of TACC is to provide daily care for young children through a small group setting by licensed family care workers in their homes. This system provides the small group attention needed by young children while monitoring their safety and health through the DES regulatory and TACC oversight services. No child care provider in Arizona is more respected than TACC.

In providing daily child care for children, it became apparent to Martha that additional services and family support services were needed. Because Martha is a master of bringing visions into reality, the following lists only a few of the services that have been initiated through TACC: The Center for Adolescent Parents, Happy Hours School Age Child Care Program, Happy Hours Summer Camp, Educational Intervention for Children and Families, Pima County Health Start, TLC: Choices for Families, Sick Child Program, Kidline, Parentline.

Martha Rothman's determination to provide quality services and care for children has led to her involvement in a number of professional organizations that work for the betterment of children. Her commitment to excellence has earned her many awards and accolades from a grateful and admiring community. She has been honored as the Woman of the Year by the Tucson Jewish Community Council, as a Woman on the Move by the YWCA, as a Pace Setter by the United Way, and she has received the Governor's Meritorious Service Award. The list continues and her other awards are equally noteworthy.