

with a raise in the minimum wage, he would see that the average American minimum wage earner would benefit to the tune of about \$36 per week by an increase from \$4.15 to \$5.25 per hour. That's about \$1,872 a year. Now I ask you, what American in their right mind would prefer \$27 and a reduction in funding for education to \$1,872 a year. As the young people say these days, "I don't think so."

A proposed rebate by repeal of \$27 per year wouldn't even be a drop in the bucket to most Republicans, pocket change to those who usually avoid any comparison with the average American unless it is an election year. Even as an election year ploy, the Gingrich-Army Republicans ought to be able to do better than \$27 a year. But to suggest that even that pittance be offset on the backs of children takes GINGRICH to grinch in a fast minute.

Mr. Speaker, our educational system is already in danger of running out of gas because of all the cuts that the Gingrich-Army Republicans have already shoved down the throats of the kids on the playgrounds, parents, and the members of school boards across America. We need to increase Federal support to education, not reduce it.

The Gingrich-Army Republicans want our educational system to run out of gas in the middle of the superhighway. Once again, the Gingrich-Army Republicans have shown that they are completely out of touch with the American people.

HONORING THE LANCASTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire-fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

H.R. 3413, COMMUTER RAIL SAFETY ACT OF 1996

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will improve working conditions for train employees, while improving safety for rail commuters.

On the morning of February 9, 1996, hundreds of New Jersey commuters experienced the worst commuter rail accident in the history of New Jersey Transit. The accident claimed the lives of 3 people—including 2 train engineers—and injured 162 others. In combination with other safety factors, the accident was possibly a result of operator fatigue because one of the train engineers was working a split shift on very little sleep.

On a split shift, a train employee may work up to 12 hours, provided that employee is given a continuous rest period of at least 4 hours. The operator of one of the trains involved in the New Jersey Transit accident reported to work at 6 p.m. Thursday evening and operated trains until 1 a.m. Friday morning. He had a rest period from 1 a.m. to 5:40 a.m., when he resumed operating trains until 8:40 a.m.—the time of the accident. Several of New Jersey Transit's train engineers at the time of the accident regularly worked split shifts, often splitting a late evening shift and an early morning shift.

While there is no way to know whether or not operator fatigue, due to what is known as a "split shift", played a major role in the New Jersey Transit collision that occurred in February, one thing is certain—the split shift was not sound policy.

In response to the deadly New Jersey Transit train crash, I am introducing the Commuter Rail Safety Act of 1996. This legislation addresses the suspected cause of the tragic February accident—operator fatigue. As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which oversees our Nation's railroads, I feel it is my obligation to take additional measures to ensure the safety of train employees and commuters.

Under the Commuter Rail Safety Act, commuter train operators will no longer be forced to work risky shifts whereby they work several hours in a late night shift, take a 4-hour break, and then begin working an early morning shift. This provision addresses the problem of diminished alertness during morning hours that results from having been on duty during the nighttime. Furthermore, by doing away with overnight duty on commuter trains, my legislation eliminates the problem of employees not having an adequate place for rest in the middle of the night. In many instances, an employee working an evening/morning split shift is forced to sleep in a chair, in a noisy train station, or in an unoccupied railcar.

This legislation still allows split shifts that begin the initial tour of duty in the morning, 4 to 8 a.m., for such shifts do not interfere with an individual's natural sleep cycle—circadian rhythm.

The second provision in the Commuter Rail Safety Act is to provide train employees with 8 hours notice of their next job, with the only exception being shorter notice in the event of an emergency.

Currently, a train employee might be given anywhere between 1 and 3 hours' notice to report for duty. We feel that this practice fosters fatigue due to the resulting irregular and unpredictable work schedules. By allowing 8 hours' notice, this bill gives employees more preparation time for duty—preparation time to rest!

Third, this bill provides train employees with 8 hours of undisturbed rest, with the only exception being the 8-hour notice for duty.

While most rail carriers currently provide 8 hours of so-called undisturbed rest, many see no problem in calling an employee during this rest period. Daily interruptions experienced by train employees, including constant phone calls updating employees of their next job or asking them to fill in for industry's scheduling mistakes, are unnecessary and create undue stress on those employees. It is critical that all train personnel who are responsible for the safety of hundreds of commuters each day be adequately rested.

Last, this legislation establishes criminal consequences for any rail employer or employee who intentionally fails to report rail accidents or injuries to the appropriate Federal and State authorities. In fact, it goes so far as to prevent an employer from discharging or discriminating against an employee who properly reports such an event. This provision prevents coverups of safety violations on the part of employer and employee and is a critical part of this safety legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Commuter Rail Safety Act has one focus—safety for train employees and commuters. It is my hope that, with the Commuter Rail Safety Act, we will be able to prevent tragic accidents, such as the NJ Transit collision, from happening in the future. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JOSEPH AND MICKEY WAPNER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ANTHONY C. BEILENSEN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are honored to pay tribute to our good friends Judge Joseph and Mickey Wapner, who this year are being recognized by the Brandeis-Bardin Institute for their significant contribution to Jewish life. We can think of few couples who together have been so involved for so long in Democratic Party politics and Jewish community activities as have the Wapners. Allow us to share a few examples.

Beginning in the 1960's, Mickey established a pattern of total devotion to the causes and people in whom she believed. In 1960 she was speakers bureau coordinator for the John Kennedy for President campaign; from 1967 to 1970 she was west coast director of public relations for the American Jewish Committee; from 1966 to 1968 she was a member of the California Commission on the Status of Women. In 1970 Mickey was named assistant

to the dean and director of alumni and development at the UCLA Graduate School of Architecture, a position she held until her retirement in 1983. Despite her busy professional life, she continued to tend to Jewish and political affairs throughout the 1980's and into the 1990's.

Her husband has proved that being a visible television personality is no excuse for neglecting one's community. From 1981 to 1993 he was judge on the nationally syndicated program "The People's Court," which made him a bona fide celebrity. Still, during this time Judge Wapner continued his extensive involvement in civic and community affairs, including membership on the board of trustees of Alternative Living for the Aging and honorary chairman of the National Jewish Hospice. He is the recipient of numerous honors, such as the Golden Glow Award from Senior Health and Peer Counseling and the Maimonides Award from the legal services division of the Jewish Welfare Fund.

Both Judge and Mickey Wapner have been staunch supporters of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute, which this year is honoring the couple at its annual dinner. The Moelle Library and tennis and basketball courts at the institute are a result of the generosity and leadership of the Wapners.

We ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting Joseph and Mickey Wapner, dear friends who have done so much for so many. Their selflessness is a shining example to us all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NIANTIC-HARRISTOWN SCHOLASTIC BOWL TEAM

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the gifted students of the Niantic-Harristown Scholastic Bowl team for their recent class A State championship. We often honor our athletic champions, but I believe it is equally important to celebrate the academic achievements of our students. The dedication and hard work that went into this season would be hard to overestimate. I salute the efforts of the team and the leadership and encouragement of their coach, Donna Cheatham.

I am pleased and proud that the young people of my district are placing such a high regard on scholastic achievement. They understand that information is the key to success now and in the future, and that problems can be solved via the rigorous application of knowledge. The future of this country depends on people who will not back down from a challenge, and are willing to explore the world around them. The scholastic bowl provides an excellent forum for this kind of critical thinking, combining it with the pressure and excitement of a tournament situation.

Mr. Speaker, what makes the accomplishments of the team all the more special was the way in which it was received in the community. A reception and rally were held for the squad, where families, friends, and the surrounding area showed just how much pride they took in this victory. Undoubtedly, this is

just the precursor to future successes for the team members. I wish them the best of luck in all of their endeavors, and hope that their achievements will inspire other young people to strive for the same. I would now like to read their names into the RECORD. Michael Pyle—team captain, Thomas Moore, Adam Vaught, Brian Woodard, Nicki Scales, Misty Pettyjohn, Anna Leonard, Edward Leonard, Clint Walters, and Michael Loud.

MONTCLAIR DAYS OF CARING

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, May 11, marks the beginning of Montclair days of caring. Montclair days of caring is an effort developed by the United Way of North Essex and a steering committee made up of Montclair community leaders and service providers.

Montclair, NJ, is a township filled with individuals and families that care about their community. The Montclair days of caring is a perfect example of what can be done by a community of caring people. The residents of Montclair will participate in volunteer graffiti-littered walls with murals; cleaning up a neighborhood park, the railroad tracks, a day camp, the black top recreation area behind a center; painting the interior and exterior of the homeless shelter; working with youth in hands-on leadership problem solving exercises through gymnastics; creating get well cards for hospital patients; drawing on placemats for senior nutrition sites; repairing a gazebo; collecting and dropping off items needed for the homeless shelter; and donating blood.

I am sure Montclair's volunteers will go home with a full sense of accomplishment and a sense of community building. They would have participated in activities to encourage people, young and old, to get involved in Montclair to make the town the best it can be.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will want to join me as I thank all the volunteers for their efforts in Montclair days of caring. I want to congratulate the United Way of North Essex and the steering committee for taking the initiative in developing this project.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. JEFFREY SATINOVER

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, this is about the best book on homosexuality written in our lifetime. Read this interview and learn. And pray.

[From the Wanderer, Apr. 18, 1996]

THE WANDERER INTERVIEWS DR. JEFFREY
SATINOVER

(By Paul Likoudis)

Q. Do you accept the concept of mediarchy, that is, that the United States is ruled by a media elite? If so, to what extent are people's feelings and thought patterns manipulated by homosexuals or homosexuals through the mass media?

A. I think the best answer comes from Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn. In his 1978 graduation address at Harvard—which was not well-received by the liberal elite—he said that the degree of thought control exercised by the Western media in relatively spontaneous ways was far more effective and tyrannical in its capacity to impede free thought among Americans than anything ever achieved by the totalitarian regime in the Soviet Union.

Let me give you one example and then make a generalization: There was a series of studies published in scientific journals which tested and measured the effect of various short descriptions of possible causes of homosexuality on subjects' attitudes toward homosexuality.

These studies showed that certain carefully crafted statements such as "homosexuality is biological," as opposed to "developmental," would cause a dramatic shift among naive subjects toward accepting and approving homosexuality.

Recognizing this, gay activist promoters deliberately, carefully, and widely promulgated the fantasy that homosexuality is "genetic." This has had an enormous impact as predicted, even though there is not a shred of evidence for it. Such evidence as there is merely supports the possibility that there are nonsexual inherited factors that make homosexuality easier.

Tactical manuals aimed at educating activists and sympathizers are routinely published by major houses and are available for all to read. These make it explicitly clear that activists have a game plan for altering public opinion through the media. Anyone reading the manuals can see at once how successfully these tactics have been implemented.

Q. Some homosexuals have recently boasted that they control the so-called professions of appearance—public relations, advertising, fashion, media, interior decorating, and so on. Do you think this boast is justified, and, if so, do you think the fashion industry reflects the views and attitudes homosexuals have on women and of young people?

A. Let me answer this way: A friend of mine recently self-published an enormously successful children's book. He and the illustrator, both devout Christians, met with groups of potential children's books publishers in New York. But the publishers were unaware of their religious convictions and generally conservative leanings. They, therefore, spoke openly of the fact that the book presented far too positive a picture of fatherhood and the publishers made it clear they were engaged in a subversive mission to undermine the image of family in the psyches of children.

With respect to fashion, which always flirts with the edge of the "forbidden," there is an inevitable and not necessarily entirely bad aspect of it which will appeal to "gay" sensibilities. A lot of "gay" literary criticism emphasizes the inherently violative nature of the homosexual approach to boundaries of every sort. As part of an overall artistic world within a relatively stable culture, these violations probably do no more than add spice to the stew in a relatively benign way.

But in our cultural stew the base stock is almost entirely evaporated and so the spice is now all you can taste. You can't survive on it.

Q. To what extent is the feminist women's movement co-opted or linked to the homosexual movement?

A. In George Orwell's 1984, one of the most shocking, and at the time implausible, features he envisioned was the stark separation of the sexes into two involuted and mutually hostile camps.