

speaker who had a speech prepared, and everyone started leaving, and more people left, and more people left, and more people left. Finally there was only one left. So he went and finished his speech, then went to thank the gentleman for staying, and the gentleman says: "The only reason I stayed is because I'm the next speaker."

And I thought I would mention this at this time.

□ 2230

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, we thank the gentleman for staying.

Mr. MANZULLO. We thank the gentleman for staying. Does the gentleman from Michigan have anything else to add?

Mr. HOEKSTRA. We are going to hear a lot more about this issue and others like it. We on our side of the aisle, we have pushed for family tax relief. We believe that Washington already collects enough of our money and we do not want any more money in Washington. We want to return it back to families. We want to return it back to small businesses, because we believe the best engine for growth in this country are small businesses and Americans deciding the priorities for where they spend their money.

This I believe is just the beginning of a whole new series of taxes that a Clinton administration would love to put on the American people. You and I were both here in 1993 when we in this Congress, you and I both voted against it, but when we in this Congress came forward and it passed the Clinton tax increase, where again it became very clear, government is not big enough, we do not have enough money, we want more. This is just what I believe is the first scheme to get more money from the American people.

I think it goes after it exactly the wrong way. It taxes the very things that are important to families, that are important to children. It hides the tax, because it would be a tax at the manufacturer's level, not at the sales tax level, so once again people will be paying taxes and they will not know that it is actually going to the Federal Government. At the same time, it does it in such a way that much of the tax dollars that will be raised will be used to fund bureaucrats here in Washington.

The gentleman and I, we are talking about tax simplification, we are talking about going to a flat tax, we are talking about going to a consumption tax, or anything that takes the huge array of IRS tax booklets, so we could actually go fill our taxes out on a postcard or whatever. All this represents is a whole new series of taxes, complicated taxes describing what camping utensils will and will not be taxed, which flotation vest, which hiking boots. It is absolutely the wrong way to go at this time, or almost at any time.

I cannot see any time where this kind of a tax in this kind of a direction

would be appropriate. But it is an important lesson I think for the American people to understand that this is what the Clinton administration is talking about. This is the direction they are going.

Mr. MANZULLO. Reclaiming my time, Madam Speaker, and we have at times tried to put a bit of levity into Secretary Babbitt's and President Clinton's proposal to increase taxes on things such as bicycles, mountain bicycles and outdoor sleeping mats. I think it is a dark day in America when the administration would come to the American people and say, because you use the outdoors, we are going to tax you.

We are talking about a hidden 2 percent to 3 percent tax on a camera, on films. We are talking about kids that buy binoculars to look at birds and other animals in the fields, we will have a 5 percent hidden tax. We are talking about a simple book that talks about nature.

Is that not interesting? You can have a book that describes how to rearrange the inside of a house, that would not be subject to a tax, but a book that talks about how to examine birds and wildlife and things outside—ostensibly even plants—would be subject to a tax.

This is the forgotten America of whom I have spoken so many times in this Congress, the person who gets up at the crack of dawn, packs the lunch. Perhaps both spouses go to work; one of them is working solely for taxes. They get the kids off to school, they write the checks, and they ask themselves in the morning, why is it that we are working harder than ever in our entire lives and taking home less money?

The answer is very simple, because government at all levels is too big. What is even more dangerous about this new proposed Babbitt-Clinton tax is the fact that Americans will be paying a tax and not even know it is a tax, because the tax will be buried into the cost of the manufacturer's product.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Madam Speaker, think of the arrogance that is used to describe this tax, the arrogance toward the American taxpayer, because they say the user fee must not act as a barrier to a product sale.

Do these people never get outside of the beltway? Who thinks that the average American family, the parents that pack their kids off to school in the morning, that they have an extra 5 percent to pay for backpacks, for compasses, for dry bags, sleeping bags, hiking boots? No big deal, it is only 5 percent. They have that.

They talk about the pressure on the family, and the financial pressure, but then it is kind of like where are they coming from? Five percent, of course they can; hey, they have 5 percent more to send to Washington. And they do it on a whole range of things.

It is an arrogant way of taking a look at the American family and saying, we in Washington need 5 percent

more, and you, at the family level, you have it. You can afford to easily give us 5 percent, because if we ask you for 5 percent more, that will not be a barrier to you being able to buy this product.

Where have they been? And maybe it is time for the Clinton-Babbitt team to get outside of the beltway and talk to some real Americans, and find out how much 5 percent means to them.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD this teaming with wildlife product list which shows the proposed tax on the products.

The material referred to is as follows:

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE PRODUCT LIST

The following list is a draft of those products being considered for a user fee. Before this list is incorporated into the draft legislation, we are asking companies, customers (users) and coalition members to provide feedback on this list, as well as other details of the proposal. The products listed below would have a graduated user fee of ¼%-5% of the manufacturer's price. The user fee must not act as a barrier to a product's sale. Beside each category is a suggested level for the user fee. Feedback from companies and consumers will help determine the final list of products and the percent to apply to each.

Outdoor Recreation Equipment (5%): Backpacks, Camping stoves, Camping stove fuel, Camping tarps, Camping utensils (connected/folding), Canoes, Canteens, Climbing equipment, Compasses, Cooking kits, Dry bags, Flotation vests (selected classes—not standard life boat vests), Hiking boots, Hiking staves, Kayaks/spray skirts, Mountain bicycles, Outdoor sleeping mats, Skis/poles/boots (cross-country, downhill, telemark), Sleeping bags, Snowshoes, Tents, Paddles, Portable water purifiers, Prepacked camp foods, Scuba diving masks/snorkels/goggles/flippers, Snowboards, Stuff sacks, Wet suits/Air tanks/Regulators/Spearguns, Whitewater rafts.

Backyard and Wildlife Products (5%): Wild bird seed and other wild animal feed (except seed packaged for pet feed); Wild animal and wild bird feeders such as hummingbird feeders, suet feeders and other types of feeders; Wild bird baths; Wild bird houses, bat houses, squirrel houses and houses constructed for use by other wildlife; Nest platforms for wild birds.

Books, videos, Audio (5%): Field guides to bird identification, nest identification, animal tracks, mammals, fishes butterflies, insects and other animal groups; "How-to" guides such as wildlife viewing guides, hiking and paddling guides, etc.; Audio tapes of wildlife calls; CD-Rom guides to wildlife and its enjoyment.

Binoc, Monoc and Spot Scopes (5%): Binoculars, Hand lenses, Monoculars, Spotting scopes, Tripods, Window mounts.

Photographic Equipment and Supplies (2-3%): Cameras, Film, Lenses, Lens filters, Photo disc, Range finders (including those designed for use with photographic cameras and parts thereof).

Recreational Vehicles (RV's) (¼%-½%, no more than \$100): Campers/motor homes/travel trailers.

Sport Utility Vehicles (¼% no more than \$100):

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DE LA GARZA] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Madam Speaker, I take the time today to inform the House and my colleagues that yesterday, September 16, was Mexican Independence Day. I spent the day visiting schools on the border area where I live that were celebrating on our side of the Rio Grande River the Mexican independence. I would like to relate to why it impacts on our side, and a little bit of what we have in unison with the people of Mexico and the nation of Mexico.

First, let me say that the odyssey began some 500 years ago, when the first Spanish galleons traveled across the Atlantic under the sponsorship of a gracious queen of Spain, really searching for the Far East and the spices, and all of the other things that they wanted to bring back to Spain and to Europe, but a sailor named Christopher Columbus navigated his way and ended up in the islands of the Caribbean. From then came further and further immigration to the new lands, to the new world.

Some of the first galleons that traveled from Spain, and the Spanish and the Portuguese navigated the world over, all the seas of the world, and then Great Britain and all of the other navies of the European nations, those that had navies, but this was the beginning of colonizing, the beginning of bringing people.

Records show that the Spaniards came to Hudson Bay, to the northeast part of the United States, throughout the Atlantic, through the Gulf, but the eventual landings in which we are interested tonight came into what is now Mexico, basically Mexico and the Gulf parts of the United States. Although others went to what is now Peru, Chile, Argentina, they began settlement throughout all of the Americas.

The relation to us, and this is of interest, is that in 1776, the process for independence began in what is now our Nation, the United States of America, by mostly immigrants from Great Britain, some German and other Europeans, but basically from Britain who had taken dominion over the lands that we now know as the northeast part of the United States, and a few States of the South. All of us know the interest and it was mentioned in earlier debate about taxation without representation.

Eventually there was that yearning for independence which all individuals have inherently, so began the quest for independence, and the independence that was declared independent; or we, those who represented our country at that time, their desire for independence led to the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Mexico came some 33 years later, in 1836. That was what began the process, on September 16, 1810. So what I wanted to bring out to the attention of our Members is that people of similar interests and similar desires that lived in Mexico and were the leaders of Mexico wanted their independence from Spain,

so we had probably the most powerful nation in the world at that time, Spain, with dominion over what we now know as the Americas.

They were saying the same thing, and that is the interest that we insist that our children and hopefully all of our people understand, that unity in thought and in deed by people of similar character and similar interests, and by accident, there were many similarities. There was a cry for independence here; there was a cry for independence in Mexico.

A bell was rung in Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell that all of us know. Thirty-some years later a bell was rung at a village named Dolores Hidalgo, which could be almost the echo of what we heard in Philadelphia, almost the echo of the bell that rang at Dolores Hidalgo, shouting the same thing: Liberty, just, freedom, equality. It has been hard to achieve and it is not yet ultimately achieved, both in our country or in Mexico, but that was the beginning.

George Washington was, in Mexico, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Castilla. We had a Betsy Ross that is credited for weaving the first flag of our country. Mexico had a lady, Dona Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez, that was a part of the independence movement, and actually warned the Mexican insurgents or the Mexican freedom-loving leaders of that effort that the Spaniards were coming to catch them and imprison them.

Those are the things that we recollect at this time, because they almost copy our Constitution, and the Jefferson and the Franklins, Mexico had their counterparts. Morelos was a foremost Parliamentarian in Mexico, and they have had harsh times because of internal problems, military.

But this is something that we ought to realize and consider in our dealings with Mexico, that we were dominated by the British, and I say we, those that lived here at that time.

□ 2245

My part of Texas was not a part of the endeavor of 1776 because we were a part of New Spain. Then when those great Mexicans, of which my family was one, although we lived far away from the area up where the events occurred, it was nonetheless part of New Spain, and later it became part of Mexico when Mexico secured its independence from Spain. And then when Texas secured its independence from Mexico in 1836, we became Texas. And then when Texas joined the Union, we became citizens of the United States of America for which we are proud and we have served. You can count the Purple Hearts, you can count the Medals of Honor, you can count those who served. I served twice, Navy and Army. My mother's youngest brother died in the service of our country. We have his Purple Heart. So those are the things that unify us. I wanted to say to some of our colleagues that might have some concern that we have a double culture.

Well, double or triple culture does not diminish an individual, it enhances the individual. It brings more knowledge, it brings more activity related to their individual ethnic beginnings.

In Texas, the center part of Texas when Mexico wanted to colonize the northernmost part of their territory at the time, which stretched basically from Texas to California, to Oregon, all what we call now the Southwest, they sent impresarios which they offered land to go bring from Europe people to colonize, to come and live on the land. But one caveat was, don't bring Spanish, don't bring British, don't bring French. Those were the three nations that coveted that area. So they went to middle Europe and they brought German and Czech and Slovak and Polish, some Hungarians. Madam Speaker, those are the ethnic groups in my congressional district now in Texas that came when we were a part of Mexico. They settled in that area, and I have in my district all of those ethnic groups, speaking their language, their culture.

Next week there is going to be a Czech night near Corpus Christi. We have the German festivals, we have the Polish festivals. This is part of what the United States is. This is a mosaic of what we are and who we are. That is why the interest in the Mexican independence. Because if they had been no Mexican independence, we may not have at this time what we now know as the United States of America.

Also in an unfortunate incident of history, two-thirds of Mexico became part of the United States. Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Oregon, Utah, Colorado, almost all of that area which was Mexico became part of the United States. And now we proudly proclaim and pledge allegiance to our flag. But yet we have respect for whom our ancestors were, what they did, and where they came from. And so we have this dual, that when we celebrate Mexican independence day, many of our families, my family, were part of that effort and became independent from Spain, as our brethren from the northeast became independent from Great Britain. And now we are what we are, incidents of history but nonetheless reality in the world we live in. And because of that, we are the most powerful Nation in the world, in the history of the world.

Also this morning, Madam Speaker, I was able to participate in a Hispanic month celebration at the Department of Agriculture. As unmerited as it may have been, they honored me with a plaque being chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. But this is something that most of our colleagues need to know, and the people need to know, that when the Spaniards came to the new world, they brought what was the beginning of American agriculture, the greatest agricultural nation in the world. But they brought the seeds for wheat, the vines for the grapes. They brought many of the European agricultural products. But here was corn and

cocoa and some argument about tobacco but I insist that tobacco was here. Potatoes. Throughout the Americas, we wove together what the Europeans brought with what we already had here. And in many parts of this Western Hemisphere, the Indians, we call them that, the Aztecs in Mexico, they had irrigation systems, they had aqueducts. At the same time they had aqueducts in Spain and all the areas of Europe. The basic American water law comes from Spain. But the natives in this hemisphere, the Aztecs, performed surgery. They had zoological gardens grander than any that you see now throughout our country. They had pyramids grander than those on the River Nile. And in Guatemala and in the Yucatan and in Peru, the Incas, we had a civilization equal at least to that that came from Europe. This is part of our history, part of our culture.

That is what I wanted to tell my colleagues, that when we celebrate Mexican independence day, we are celebrating part of what has been an impact on what is now the United States of America, including territory. Because this was the way to the Pacific that belonged to Mexico at that time, in 1848, the Treaty of Dolores Hidalgo that was transferred to the then fledgling United States of America. So you cannot separate the issue. I as an individual cannot separate or bring myself to separate myself from the culture, from the ethnic derivatives. I serve this Nation, this country, that flag. But yet some of my ancestors served the other country and that flag, and forever I will have respect for both, but loyalty to this one. So that is something I wanted to make clear. For those who may have some confusion, for those that may ask, well, why would we celebrate Mexican independence?

Mexico has had a very harsh history, occupied by Spaniards first, occupied by the French. President Benito Juarez began the process of ridding Mexico of the French occupation. The Austrian emperor opposed an emperor of Mexico named Maximilian and they did not have the ability to resist but eventually a humble Indian named Benito Juarez led an effort to rid Mexico of the imposition of foreign rule. And we celebrate the Fifth of May, which is the culminating battle, not the end, of getting the French out of Mexico. That is celebrated on the border and through many parts of the United States where there are Mexicans or of Mexican descent, because this was what rid all of the new world of foreign powers. The French were the last to occupy Mexico and after that, there has been basically no formal occupation of any of the lands of North and South America. We celebrate that with great joy, we do in Texas because the general that led the Mexican troops had been born in Texas, when Texas was a part of Mexico. So we take great pride in that. That general was born in what is now my congressional district, in Goliad, TX, when his father was head of the garrison for

the Mexican army in Goliad, TX. Goliad later played a part in the Texas effort for independence against Mexico. But I wanted to congratulate, if for no one else but myself as a Member of this House, the people of Mexico and the Government of Mexico.

One word that I would like to leave, and it is quoted quite often, that President Benito Juarez said that "among men, as among nations, respect for the rights of others is peace." And that we honor on the Fifth of May.

And then another great President of Mexico and my good and dear friend, President Gustavo Diaz Ordaz, said right here from this rostrum when he delivered an address to a joint session of Congress that, and I quote, "Geography has made us neighbors, history has made use friends." He said that right from here, Madam Speaker. And that is what we celebrate when we celebrate. You cannot separate the United States of America, as we know it today, from the Mexican people, from the Mexican culture because, as President Diaz Ordaz said, "Geography has made us neighbors, history has made us friends." That is irrevocable, that is inseparable.

And so I join with all of those that celebrated yesterday throughout the United States Mexican independence with this explanation, if I might call it, of why we do that, why we are proud, and what we have done in order to foster and enhance the United States of America which for those of use that are citizens is indeed something that we feel that an accident of history made me a citizen of the United States of America but one that I am terribly proud, but I will always have a love, admiration and respect for the Mexican people because at one time we were part and a great part of our country was part of their country. That is irrevocable, but also you cannot separate it from your feelings and from the interests that you have when neighbors honor and respect neighbors.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GANSKE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of illness.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), on Tuesday, September 17, on account of being unavoidably detained.

Mr. HEINEMAN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. GREENE of Utah) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes September 20.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes each day on September 17, 18, 19, and 20.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. GREENE of Utah, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes on September 17 and 18.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GONZALEZ) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. DEUTSCH.

Ms. DELAURO.

Mr. LEVIN.

Ms. WOOLSEY.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

Mr. DELLUMS.

Mr. REED.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. NADLER.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. POSHARD.

Mr. PALLONE.

Mr. JACOBS.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. GREENE of Utah) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska.

Mr. FIELDS of Texas.

Mr. TALENT in three instances.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey in two instances.

Mr. BASS.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. BERETER in two instances.

Mrs. MORELLA.

Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. SCHIFF.

Mr. MARTINI in two instances.

Mr. HUTCHINSON.

Mr. DORNAN.

Mr. BURR.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DE LA GARZA and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. CLINGER.

Mr. DUNCAN.

Mr. CHRYSLER.

Mr. GOODLATTE.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

Mr. EVERETT.

Ms. KAPTUR.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.