

with AIDS, and research and regulatory activities that promote public health.

Because American's welfare system is broken, we have worked hard to fix those parts of it that we could without congressional action. For instance, we have given 37 States the freedom to test ways to move people from welfare to work while protecting children, and we are collecting record amounts of child support. But now, I need the help of Congress. Together, in 1993 we expanded the Earned Income Tax Credit for 15 million working families, rewarding work over welfare. Now, my budget overhauls welfare by setting a time limit on cash benefits and imposing tough work requirements, and I want us to enact bipartisan legislation that requires work, demands responsibility, protects children, and provides adequate resources to get the job done right—with child care and training, giving recipients the tools they need.

More and more, education and training have become the keys to higher living standards. While Americans clearly want States and localities to play the lead role in education, the Federal Government has an important supporting role to play—from funding preschool services that prepare children to learn, to expanding access to college and worker retraining. My budget continues the strong investments that we have made to give Americans the skills they need to get good jobs. Along with my ongoing investments, my budget proposes a Technology Literacy Challenge Fund to bring the benefits of technology into the classroom, a \$1,000 merit scholarship for the top five percent of graduates in every high school, and more Charter Schools to let parents, teachers, and communities create public schools to meet their own children's needs.

As Americans, we can take pride in cleaning up the environment over the last 25 years, with leadership from Presidents of both parties. But our job is not done—not with so many Americans breathing dirty air or drinking unsafe water. My budget continues our efforts to find solutions to our environmental problems without burdening business or imposing unnecessary regulations. We are providing the necessary funds for the Environmental Protection Agency's operating program, for our national parks and forests, for my plan to restore the Florida Everglades, and for my "brownfields" initiative to clean up abandoned, contaminated industrial sites in distressed urban and rural communities. And we are continuing to reinvent the regulatory process by working collaboratively with business, rather than treating it as an adversary.

With science and technology (S&T) so vital to our economic future, our national security, and the well-being of our people, my budget continues our investments in this crucial area. To maintain our investments, I am asking Congress to fulfill my request for basic

research in health sciences at the National Institutes of Health, for basic research and education at the National Science Foundation, for research at other agencies that depend on S&T for their missions, and for cooperative projects with universities and industry, such as the industry partnerships created under the Advanced Technology Program.

To attack crime, the Federal Government must work with States and communities on some problems and lead on others. To help communities, we continue to invest in the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which is putting 100,000 more police on the street. We are helping States build more prisons and jail space, better enforce the Brady bill that helps prevent criminals from buying handguns, and better address the problem of youth gangs. At the Federal level, we are leading the fight to stop drugs from entering the country and expand drug treatment efforts, and we are stepping up our efforts to secure the border against illegal immigration while we help to defray State costs for such immigration.

For many families, of course, the first challenge often is just to pay the bills. My budget proposes tax relief for middle-income Americans and small businesses. It provides an income tax credit for each dependent child under 13; a deduction for college tuition and fees; and expanded individual retirement accounts to help families save for future needs and more easily pay for college, buy a first home, pay the bills during times of unemployment, or pay medical or nursing home costs. For small business, it offers more tax benefits to invest, provides estate tax relief, and makes it easier to set up pensions for employees. It also would expand the tax deduction to make health insurance for the self-employed more affordable.

MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK

As we pursue these priorities, we will do so with a Government that is leaner, but not meaner, one that works efficiently, manages resources wisely, focuses on results rather than merely spending money, and provides better service to the American people. Through the National Performance Review, led by Vice President GORE, we are making real progress in creating a Government that "works better and costs less."

We have cut the size of the Federal workforce by over 200,000 people, creating the smallest Federal workforce in 30 years, and the smallest as a share of the total workforce since before the New Deal. We are ahead of schedule to cut the workforce by 272,900 positions, as required by the 1994 Federal Workforce Restructuring Act that I signed into law.

Just as important, the Government is working better. Agencies such as the Social Security Administration, the Customs Service, and the Veterans Affairs Department are providing much

better service to their customers. Across the Government, agencies are using information technology to deliver services more efficiently to more people.

We are continuing to reduce the burden of Federal regulation, ensuring that our rules serve a purpose and do not unduly burden businesses or taxpayers. We are eliminating 16,000 pages of regulations across Government, and agencies are improving their rule-making processes.

In addition, we continue to overhaul Federal procurement so that the Government can buy better products at cheaper prices from the private sector. No longer does the Government pay outrageous prices for hammers, ashtrays, and other small items that it can buy cheaper at local stores.

As we look ahead, we plan to work more closely with States and localities, with businesses and individuals, and with Federal workers to focus our efforts on improving services for the American people. Under the Vice President's leadership, agencies are setting higher and higher standards for delivering faster and better service.

CONCLUSION

Our agenda is working. We have significantly reduced the deficit, strengthened the economy, invested in our future, and cut the size of Government while making it work better for the American people.

Now, we have an opportunity to build on our success by balancing the budget the right way. It is an opportunity we should not miss.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

March 1996.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Committee on International Relations,

the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Science, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

REIMBURSEMENT OF FORMER WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2937) for the reimbursement of legal expenses and related fees incurred by former employees of the White House Travel Office with respect to the termination of their employment in that Office on May 19, 1993, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2937

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay, from amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to reimburse former employees of the White House Travel Office whose employment in that Office was terminated on May 19, 1993, for any attorney fees and costs they incurred with respect to that termination.

(b) VERIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall pay an individual in full under subsection (a) upon submission by the individual of documentation verifying the attorney fees and cost.

(c) NO INFERENCE OF LIABILITY.—Liability of the United States shall not be inferred from enactment of or payment under this section.

SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON FILING OF CLAIMS.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall not pay any claim filed under this Act that is filed later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. REDUCTION.

The amount paid pursuant to this Act to an individual for attorney fees and costs described in section 1 shall be reduced by any amount received before the date of the enactment of this Act, without obligation for repayment by the individual, for payment of such attorney fees and costs (including any amount received from the funds appropriated for the individual in the matter relating to the "Office of the General Counsel" under the heading "Office of the Secretary" in title I of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994).

SEC. 4. PAYMENT IN FULL SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

Payment under this Act, when accepted by an individual described in section 1, shall be in full satisfaction of all claims of, or on behalf of, the individual against the United States that arose out of the termination of the White House Travel Office employment of that individual on May 19, 1993.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH] and the gentleman

from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH].

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2937 would reimburse the legal expenses incurred by former employees of the White House Travel Office due to their dismissal on May 19, 1993. The Secretary of the Treasury would reimburse such costs out of money not otherwise appropriated.

On May 19, 1993, all seven White House Travel Office employees were fired. We now know that the employees' firing and the subsequent FBI investigation was actually instigated by individuals who were pursuing travel and aviation business controlled within the White House. As a result of the actions of those individuals, the seven employees suffered public and private humiliation and incurred extensive legal expenses in their attempt to defend themselves.

Today, after the conclusion of all the investigations, no one has been found guilty of any of the charges. Both a GAO report to Congress and a White House management review acknowledged that the actions of people within the White House, the public acknowledgment of a criminal investigation, and the investigation itself tarnished the employees' reputations and caused them to incur considerable legal expenses.

On the bases of these facts, the committee feels that in the interest of equity, these particular individuals' attorneys fees should be reimbursed.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the very thoughtful manner in which the chairman of the subcommittee has managed this at subcommittee. We did adopt a few amendments to tighten it up.

I should note that this is not entirely unprecedented. As a matter of fact, well back in the early 1980's the Congress appropriated funds to compensate for lawyer's fees, Hamilton Jordan, because when he was working for Jimmy Carter he was, wholly unfairly, accused of things.

At the point the independent counsel statute, then called the special prosecutor statute, had a very, very low trigger, and very irresponsible and inaccurate accusations against Mr. Jordan triggered the statute as it was then written. He was then compensated. Indeed, the former Member of the House who is now the Secretary of Agriculture carried the bill at the time because he chaired the appropriate subcommittee, and Mr. Jordan was compensated for his attorney's fees.

So it is not unprecedented that we compensate people who were unfairly put to the need to hire attorneys. In

fact, after the Jordan situation, when Congress reenacted the independent counsel statute in 1982, I believe it was, we raised the trigger because we did not want others to have to go through that. We also included a provision there which had not been in the original act, which compensates anybody who was the subject of an independent counsel investigation, the potential target who is not indicated.

Indeed a great deal of money has been paid out, and I would guess millions of dollars for that as the price of this statute, because then under the independent counsel statute people find themselves investigated where they might not otherwise have been because the trigger, although higher than originally, is still lower than in some cases.

Also in the course of that the late Judge George McKinnon, who was a very distinguished head of the special court that appointed independent counsel, developed a lot of law which we alluded to, I believe, in this report and in the discussion in committee to properly distinguish between lawyer's fees that ought to be compensated and other fees that should not be.

Lawyers can do a lot of things for people. They can write articles; they can be public relations advisers. Judge McKinnon set down some very good criteria for differentiating between those properly compensable fees and other expenses, and I am glad to say that I think we will be building on that in that.

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I think the precedent that, having been set before, is useful to follow now, and it is not a binding precedent. No one can then come before us and say, "You must do that." We are not governed by the rule of stare decisis the way the courts are.

However, I think reaffirming the principle that people who have unfairly been put to significant legal expenses, people who were there not because they happen to be in the way of some investigation as an ordinary citizen, but people who because of their governmental position and because of a variety of factors were put to expenses that they should not have had to have been put to, that it is reasonable to compensate them. It is not the first time we have done it. In my judgment it should not necessarily be the last time, because there are other cases where people are involved.

I think it is appropriate to provide the funds for these people here, and understand that we are once again affirming a principle that people who have been unfairly put to great expenses, particularly people of no great personal wealth, ought to be able to look to this Congress for some compensation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], chairman