

So I am glad that on a bipartisan basis we were finally able to fight to bring this minimum wage bill to the floor, to get it on the floor, to defeat the crippling amendments that would have removed much of the coverage of the minimum wage, and to pass it on the House floor.

It goes now to the Senate. My hope is that there it will move equally as quickly, and then to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good day that the minimum wage finally looks like it may be increased this year.

RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the day has been much devoted to a discussion of the minimum wage. This member is trying her best to make certain that more than minimum wage residents continue to live in the District. I have just come back from the other body, where Senator CONNIE MACK, the chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, has just introduced the DC Economic Recovery Act on the Senate side, the bill I introduced on April 15 on the House side, in order to give a tax reduction to the residents of the District of Columbia, who are fleeing in awesome numbers.

The District does not have a State, so any tax incentive—tax cut will have to come from this body. The alternative to a tax cut to help to keep middle-income residents in the city is annual increases of a very significant magnitude in the Federal payment. The reason that would be necessary is that the Constitution requires the Congress of the United States to maintain the Capital of the United States. For over 200 years, it is the residents of the Capital of the United States who have maintained the capital, but their flight in great numbers and the insolvency of the city put the capital of the United States at risk.

No one can doubt that this is the case if you look at the chart before us. The tax base is already gone. Eighty-three percent of tax filers have an income of less than \$50,000. To quote Senator MACK:

Washington's situation is desperate. Middle-income residents have been fleeing the city in startling numbers.

Senator MACK was not alone in introducing this bill. Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN, a Democrat, became the cosponsor today, as well, and both spoke at this press conference. What I did not know until I walked into the press conference was that yet another Senator had on this very first day of the introduction of the bill come on, Senator SPENCER ABRAHAM.

Mr. Speaker, I sent my "dear colleague" letters out yesterday to Mem-

bers of the House, and I am pleased to say that they are beginning to come on. Mr. ARMEY has become a cosponsor today, and I am very grateful for that. The Chairs of both caucuses, Republican and Democrat in this House, support the bill.

Why is there such support for this bill? In large part, it is because the District is trying to do it the old fashioned way. This tax break will not come to the Government of the District of Columbia but to the residents, who with their own money, will revive their own city.

The District is the only city in the United States that pays for State, county and municipal functions. When it was a city of 800,000 people, as it was when I was a kid growing up in this town, it could do that. Now it is a town of half a million people, and it simply cannot pay for Medicare, cannot pay for a State prison, cannot pay for a State university all by itself.

The District is the only city in the United States that is barred by the Congress of the United States from enacting a commuter tax, so all the commuters come here, use the services my residents provide and do not leave one thin dime.

The District is the only jurisdiction that flies the American flag, where Federal income taxes are paid by the residents, but they have no voting representation in the House or in the Senate. That, my friends, I am sure you will agree, is un-American.

□ 1615

We would still pay Federal income taxes under my bill, but we would not be second per capita in Federal income taxes, as we are today. When you join our local taxes with our Federal taxes, the residents of the District of Columbia are the highest taxed residents in the United States.

The District does not say "Give me some more money." The District says, the House and the Senate, the Democrats and the Republicans, yes, and the administration, all have their versions of tax cuts. If taxes are to be cut, let the cutting start in the capital of the United States, which does not have full representation, and therefore is taxed without representation, in the capital of the United States, which is spiraling downward, and needs to give people an incentive to remain in this beautiful city.

This will not be the capital we are all proud of if we let it continue to go down. Please sign on to the DC Economic Recovery Act, as three Senators have today.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or re-

cess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-52, as amended by Public Law 104-134, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, appoints the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY; David L. Keating, of Maryland; J. Fred Kubik, of Kansas; and Mark L. McConaghy, of Washington, D.C., to the National Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 104-52, as amended by Public Law 104-134, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, appoints the Senator from Nebraska, Mr. KERREY; and Fred T. Goldberg, Jr., of Missouri, to the National Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, May 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Office of the Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER GINGRICH: Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Buildings Act of 1959, I am transmitting resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 9, 1996.

With kind personal regards, I remain
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, May 13, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on March 7, 1996 and May 9, 1996 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. A copy of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army.

With kind personal regards, I remain
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

There was no objection.

RETIREMENT SAVINGS AND SECURITY ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-221)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for the consideration of the Congress the "Retirement Savings and Security Act." This legislation is designed to empower all Americans to save for their retirement by expanding pension coverage, increasing portability, and enhancing security. By using both employer and individual tax-advantaged retirement savings programs, Americans can benefit from the opportunities of our changing economy while assuring themselves and their families greater security for the future. A general explanation of the act accompanies this transmittal.

Today, over 58 million American public and private sector workers are covered by employer-sponsored pension or retirement savings plans. Millions more have been able to save through Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). The Retirement Savings and Security Act would help expand pensions to the over 51 million American private-sector workers—including over three-quarters of the workers in small businesses—who are not covered by an employer-sponsored pension or retirement savings program and need both the opportunity and encouragement to start saving. Women particularly need this expanded coverage: fewer than one-third of all women retirees who are 55 or older receive pension benefits, compared with 55 percent of male retirees.

The act would also help the many workers who participate in pension plans to continue to save when they change jobs. It would reassure all workers who save through employer-sponsored plans that the money they have saved, as well as that put aside by employers on their behalf, will be there when they need it.

The Retirement Savings and Security Act would:

- Establish a simple new small business 401(k)-type plan—the National Employee Savings Trust (NEST)—and simplify complex pension laws. The NEST is specifically designed to ensure participation by low- and moderate-wage workers, who will be able to save up to \$5,000 per year tax-deferred, plus receive employer contributions toward retirement. The act would encourage employers of all sizes to cover employees under retirement plans, and it

would enable employers to put more money into benefits and less into paying lawyers, accountants, consultants, and actuaries.

- Increase the ability of workers to save for retirement from their first day on the job by removing barriers to pension portability. In particular, employers would be encouraged no longer to require a 1-year wait before employees can contribute to their pension plans. The Federal Government would set the example for other employers by allowing its new employees to begin saving through the Thrift Savings Plan when they are hired, rather than having to wait up to a year. In addition, the Act would reduce from 10 to 5 years the time those participating in multiemployer plans—union plans where workers move from job to job—must work to receive vested benefits. It would also help ensure that returning veterans retain pension benefits and that workers receive their retirement savings even when a previous employer is no longer in existence.
- Expand eligibility for tax-deductible IRAs to 20 million more families. In addition, the Act would encourage savings by making the use of IRAs more flexible by allowing penalty-free withdrawals for education and training, purchase of a first home, catastrophic medical expenses, and long-term unemployment. It would also provide an additional IRA option that provides tax-free distributions instead of tax-deductible contributions.
- Enhance pension security by protecting the savings of millions of State and local workers from their employer's bankruptcy, as happened in Orange County, California. The Act would (1) require prompt reporting by plan administrators and accountants of any serious and egregious misuse of funds; (2) double the guaranteed benefit for participants in multiemployer plans in the unlikely event such a plan becomes insolvent; and (3) enhance benefits of a surviving spouse and dependents under the Civil Service Retirement System and the Railroad Retirement System.
- Ensure that pension raiding, such as that which drained \$20 billion out of retirement funds in the 1980s, never happens again—by retaining the strong current laws preventing such abuses and by requiring periodic reports on reversions by the Secretary of Labor.

Many of the provisions of the Retirement Savings and Security Act are new. In particular, provisions facilitating saving from the first day on the job, in both the private sector and the Federal Government; the doubling of the multi-employer guarantee; and improving benefits for surviving spouses and dependents of participants in the Civil Service Retirement System and the Railroad Retirement System de-

serve special consideration by the Congress. In addition, many of the provisions and concepts in this Act have been previously proposed by this Administration and have broad bipartisan support.

American workers deserve pension security—as well as a decent wage, lifelong access to high quality education and training, and health security—to take advantage of the opportunities of our growing economy.

I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this legislative proposal by the Congress.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 23, 1996.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 60) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 60

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, May 23, 1996, Friday, May 24, 1996, or Saturday, May 25, 1996, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader or his designee, in accordance with this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, June 3, 1996, or Tuesday, June 4, 1996, or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House of Representatives adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, May 23, 1996, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 1996, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and the House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TURKISH STUDIES PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my serious concern about what I consider a troubling case of the manipulation of historical fact under the guise of academic integrity. This is happening at a university in my