

be floating around the country that we are enjoying this great economic time when, in fact, the indicators show just the opposite.

I happened to be presiding when the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, Senator BINGAMAN, observed that people who are doing the work in America are getting less and more rapidly plummeting down to the point where we were in 1967 in terms of real income or purchasing power for the American people. Also we can observe that it is worse than might be indicated by family income because we increasingly have multifamily members working in America. When I was quite young, it was somewhat unheard of. It was not a way of life in America. Nonetheless, the real purchasing power is going down.

I do not like to point fingers as to why this is happening, but I think, Mr. President, when you look at the policies that were adopted by the current President of the United States, Bill Clinton, it is four-tiered. It is increased spending, increased taxes, increased borrowing, and increased regulations. I do not very often quote a very distinguished talk radio show host but I remember the other day he said, "If you really want to be competitive with the Japanese, export our regulations to Japan and we will be competitive." I think there is a lot of truth to that.

Some people may have forgotten that back in the first year of the Clinton administration, in 1993, there was a tax increase that was characterized by Democrats and Republicans alike, and I specifically recall the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee characterizing that tax increase as the largest single tax increase in the history of public finance in America or anyplace in the world. That was a very large tax increase.

I recall, also, when the chief adviser to the President, prior to being sworn in for her duties, made the observation that there is no relationship between the level of taxation in a country and the economic activity, and further went on to say what we need in this country in addition to the taxes we currently have is a value-added tax to be comparable to that in other industrialized nations that would immediately increase revenues \$400 billion.

I suggest this is where this administration has gone wrong, because the problem we are having in America is not that we are taxed too little, but we are taxed too much.

I, the other day, on the 9th of January, witnessed the birth of a charming little man by the name of James Edward Rapert, in Fayetteville, AR. At that time I looked at this very small baby, where I was actually there in the room during the delivery of that small child in Arkansas, and I realized that innocent child, who had not done anything wrong on his own, inherits a share of the national debt of \$18,000 that that one individual will have to pay off during his lifetime. That indi-

vidual did not do anything to cause this.

Also, I noticed if we do not change this trend that has been continued by the current administration, that that small child, James Edward Rapert, will have to pay 82 percent of his lifetime income just to support the debt. That is how we have gotten to the point where we are now, where we have to do something about it.

There was a man who came to this country by the name of Alexis de Tocqueville many years ago. He actually came here to study our prison system, and when he got here he was so impressed by the freedom in this country and by the wealth of this Nation that he wrote a book. The final paragraph of that book said: Once the people of this country find they can vote themselves money out of the public trust, the system will fail. And that is exactly where we are today, right on the brink of having a system that will fail. The economy is not good today.

One more thing I want to say before yielding the floor, back to this tax thing, is the President has opposed a budget balancing amendment to the Constitution. He actually campaigned on a budget balancing amendment to the Constitution. Also, he vetoed the Balanced Budget Act. When he vetoed that Balanced Budget Act he was saying that we do not want to live in the confines where we will be able to eliminate the deficit in 7 years.

That particular act also included some tax relief. There was a lot of criticism I heard from conservative Republicans all across the country: We do not care about tax relief until we balance the budget. What they do not realize is all we were trying to do is correct a mistake that was made in this country back in 1993 when we passed the largest single tax increase in the history of public finance in America or anyplace else in the world. If anyone was not for that tax increase, then they should be for tax relief.

I think it is incumbent upon us, and certainly those in the freshman class, who are new here to the U.S. Senate, to have an absolute commitment to giving tax relief, to giving families more of the expendable income that they work so hard for. That is our commitment. It is not just for those of us who are around today but the new generations that are coming up, the James Edward Raperts. Incidentally, that happened to be my grandson.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent morning business be extended for a total of 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MINNIE PEARL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition and in memory of one of America's most beloved country

personalities, Minnie Pearl, who died Monday night at the age of 83. Minnie Pearl was born Sarah Ophelia Colley, in Centerville, TN, the daughter of a prosperous sawmill owner and lumber dealer. As a student at Nashville's Ward-Belmont Finishing School in the middle of the Great Depression, not many would have thought Sarah Colley had the background to believably portray Minnie Pearl, that man-hunting spinster from Grinder's Switch, TN. But her down home country comedy act, old-fashioned dresses, and a wide-brimmed hat with a price tag still dangling, found a place in the hearts of millions of Americans.

Today, the State of Tennessee and the entire country mourn the loss of a truly outstanding and inspirational American.

After completing her drama education at Ward-Belmont, where I should add that she was a student with my mother, Sarah Colley traveled throughout the rural South for 6 years, putting together amateur theatricals for churches and civic groups. During that time she met various country folk who formed the foundation for the character of Minnie Pearl, as well as Minnie's friends and neighbors from fictional Grinder's Switch. The name Minnie Pearl was actually a combination of Sara Colley's favorite country names.

When she returned to Tennessee in 1940, the story-telling character of Minnie Pearl had fully developed, and WSM radio in Nashville asked her to audition for the Grand Ole Opry. A week after her audition, Minnie Pearl made her debut on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry and was an immediate hit. Before her second performance the next weekend, Miss Minnie had been asked to become a regular member of the Grand Ole Opry cast.

In the 50 years since she burst onto the stage, Minnie Pearl traveled with country music legend Roy Acuff, entertained troops in World War II, and was featured on NBC-TV's "This Is Your Life." She recorded numerous albums, continued her frequent appearances at the Grand Ole Opry, and appeared as a regular on the nationally syndicated television program, "Hee Haw." In 1975 she became the first person elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame for comedy work, and she has been honored by the Academy of Country Music with its Pioneer Award.

Unlike her country counterpart, Sarah Colley caught her man, Henry Cannon, and was married to him for more than 40 years, until her death this week. As active members of the Brentwood United Methodist Church just outside of Nashville, Sarah and Henry Cannon have been actively involved in charitable and community affairs all over this country. Sarah Cannon worked tirelessly for many causes, including the Children's Hospital, the American Cancer Society, and so many others. For her hard work for the Cancer Society, and in recognition of her

personal struggle against breast cancer, Sarah Cannon was awarded the American Cancer Society's 1987 National Courage Award.

The Cancer Center at Centennial Medical Center, where she died this week, was named for her—the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center. That same year, she received the Roy Acuff Humanitarian Award for Community Service. The Nashville Network also created the Minnie Pearl Award in her honor, which is an annual community service award given to members of the country music industry for their dedication and commitment to their community.

As I traveled across the State of Tennessee, so many entertainers and so many artists would come forward and recount stories about how they, when they first came to Nashville to break in but when nobody knew them, would be pulled over to the side by this legendary figure, Minnie Pearl, and Minnie Pearl would give them those words of encouragement and inspiration to plug ahead.

Mr. President, I knew Minnie Pearl personally because my father was her family physician for about 35 years. Whether she was in character as Minnie Pearl or whether she was simply living in her own private life, or whether she was encouraging aspiring young artists upon their arriving in Nashville, Sarah Cannon touched the hearts and souls of all with whom she came into contact. It was her warm smile, her folksy humor, her words of encouragement, her tales, and most of all her famous "How-dee" greeting—these will all be missed by those whom Minnie Pearl had entertained for years.

Her kind and loving character will be missed by those across the State of Tennessee and across this country. Mr. President, today I thank Minnie Pearl and Sarah Cannon for all that "they" have given to their community, to their State, and to their country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MINNIE PEARL

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I want to recognize the passing this week of a great entertainer and citizen, Sarah Ophelia Colley Cannon. Mrs. Cannon, better known as Minnie Pearl, was a tribute to the entertainment industry and to our community. She graced the stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN, with her animated humor for 51 years. Who could forget the stories of Grinders Switch, her straw hat with the \$1.98 price tag still attached, and her well-known and beloved "How-dee!"

Minnie Pearl made many contributions off-stage as well. She was a humanitarian who contributed much to her community. Many of her efforts were focused on fighting cancer. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan presented Mrs. Cannon with the American Cancer Society's Courage Award. In 1991, the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center

at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville was dedicated in her name. I know that I join all Tennesseans and all Americans in saying that Sarah Cannon and Minnie Pearl will be sadly missed.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD DOWD OF WEST SPRINGFIELD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the John F. Kennedy Library is honoring Donald Dowd of West Springfield, MA with its 1996 Irishman of the Year Award. It is a privilege to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Don for his commitment and dedication to the people of Massachusetts and the Nation.

The Irishman of the Year Award was established in 1986 by the Friends of the Kennedy Library to pay tribute to unsung leaders of Irish heritage. This award honors individuals for their outstanding contributions to their communities and it honors President Kennedy's great love for his Irish heritage and his belief that "each one of us can make a difference and all of us must try."

Few have done more for their community or for Massachusetts than Don Dowd. Don is currently vice president and Northeast manager of government affairs for the Coca-Cola Co. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the New England Council, the Adopt-A-Student Program for Cathedral High School in Boston, the Armed Services YMCA in Charlestown, and the board of trustees of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Don's commitment to his community and our Commonwealth is further exemplified by his work with the Massachusetts Chapter of the Special Olympics and his work with the New England Governors' Conference.

Don eminently deserves this year's Irishman of the Year Award. Massachusetts is proud of Don's outstanding leadership, and we are proud of his friendship as well. I commend him for his many achievements, and I wish him continued success in the years ahead.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, pursuant to section 304(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1384(b)), an advance notice of proposed rulemaking was submitted by the Office of Compliance, U.S. Congress. This advance notice seeks comment on a number of regulatory issues arising under section 220 of the Congressional Accountability Act. Section 220 applies to covered congressional employees and employing offices the rights, protections, and responsibilities established under chapter 71 of title V, United States Code, related to Federal service labor-management relations.

Section 304 requires this notice to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD; therefore, I ask unanimous consent

that the notice be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the notice was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE—THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995: EXTENSION OF RIGHTS, PROTECTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CHAPTER 71 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, RELATING TO FEDERAL SERVICE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Summary: The Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance ("Board") invites comments from employing offices, covered employees and other interested persons on matters arising in the issuance of regulations under section 220 (d) and (e) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("CAA" or "Act") Pub. L. 104-1, 109 Stat. 3.

The provisions of section 220 are generally effective October 1, 1996. 2 U.S.C. section 1351. Section 220(d) of the Act directs the Board to issue regulations to implement section 220. The Act further provides that, as to covered employees of certain specified employing offices, the rights and protections of section 220 will be effective on the effective date of Board regulations authorized under section 220(e). 2 U.S.C. section 1351(f). Section 304 of the CAA prescribes the procedure applicable to the issuance of substantive regulations by the Board.

The Board issues this Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) to solicit comments from interested individuals and groups in order to encourage and obtain participation and information as early as possible in the development of regulations. In particular, the Board invites and encourages commentors to address certain specific matters and to submit reporting background information and rationale as to what the regulatory guidance should be before proposed rules are promulgated under section 220 of the Act. In addition to receiving written comments, the Office will consult with interested parties in order to further its understanding of the need for and content of appropriate regulatory guidance.

Dates: Interested parties may submit comments within 30 days after the date of publication of this Advance Notice in the Congressional Record.

Addresses: Submit written comments (an original and 10 copies) to the Chair of the Board of Directors, Office of Compliance, Room LA 200, John Adams Building, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, DC 20540-1999. Those wishing to receive notification of receipt of comments are requested to include a self-addressed, stamped post card. Comments may also be transmitted by facsimile ("FAX") machine to (202) 426-1913. This is not a toll-free call. Copies of comments submitted by the public will be available for review at the Law Library Reading Room, Room LM-201, Law Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building, Washington, DC, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

For Further Information Contact: Executive Director, Office of Compliance at (202) 724-9250. This notice is also available in the following formats: large print, braille, audio tape, and electronic file on computer disk. Requests for this notice in an alternative format should be made to Mr. Russell Jackson, Director, Service Department, Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, 202-224-2705.

Background

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 applies the rights and protections of eleven federal labor and employment law statutes to covered Congressional employees