

do long term to protect Social Security.

One relatively simple method of buttressing that fund and also putting the Federal Government in better financial shape is to follow the advice of former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis.

He had an op-ed piece recently in the Los Angeles Times that really makes sense, which I ask to be printed in the RECORD after my remarks.

The difficulty rests with our system of campaign financing. Those who benefit by the present system of not taxing incomes above \$62,700 are the big contributors to our campaigns. Even if you do not buy the idea of lowering the Social Security tax, revising the exemption certainly makes our tax system a much more just system.

Mike Dukakis is right.

The article follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, March 15, 1996]

A FAIR FLAT TAX TO RALLY BEHIND

(By Michael Dukakis)

Steve Forbes hoped to ride into the White House on a flat income tax with a low-earner exemption. He apparently had a lot of company, at least on the Republican side of the street.

Of course, when you look at it closely, the flat tax is nothing more than another attempt to give a huge tax break to wealthy taxpayers like Forbes. But it sounded good at least when he first proposed it, and it transformed him, at least temporarily, into a serious challenger for the Republican nomination.

Suppose, however, that a candidate for the presidency ran on a plan for a flat tax with a high-earner exemption. We'd think he was out of his mind.

Yet that's exactly how the Social Security tax works. We pay a flat tax of 6.2% on every dollar we make, up to \$62,700. All wages above that are tax exempt.

The high-earner exemption is as regressive as it sounds. And it's taking a huge chunk out of the wages of average working Americans. A worker making \$60,000 a year pays eight times the rate paid by someone pulling in a half-million a year and 80 times the rate paid by someone making 5 million a year. To put it another way: A \$60,000 earner pays 6.2% on all her earnings; a \$500,000 earner pays the 6.2% on the first \$62,700, which is 0.78% of all his earnings, and the earner of \$5 million pays the same, which is 0.078% of his earnings.

It's bad enough that working middle class Americans are feeling less and less secure. For those lucky enough to still have a job in these days of massive corporate downsizing, the Social Security tax is the unkindest cut of all.

In fact, more than half the people in this country pay more in Social Security taxes than they do in income taxes. And you can bet they aren't among the wealthiest 20% to whom virtually all income growth has gone since 1980.

What can we do about it? It's a simple as it is common sense. Get rid of the high-earner exemption, cut the Social Security tax rate and apply it to all earned income—just what the flat-taxers say they want to do to the income tax.

If we made this one move, the Social Security flat tax rate would decrease by 12%. Everyone earnings less than \$82,000—that's more than 97% of American workers—would get a tax break. It wouldn't increase the federal deficit one dime. But it would eliminate

the necessity for the kind of tax cut that budget negotiators are wrestling with, which would add billions to the deficit.

Lower taxes for the overwhelming majority of working Americans. Heightened fairness. A fiscally responsible tax cut for the middle class. These are the goals that all fair-minded Republicans and Democrats should be able to support.

Of course, people like Steve Forbes would have to pay the same rate as the rest of us. But wasn't that the principle behind the flat tax in the first place?•

TERM LIMITS

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate failed to invoke cloture on the resolution that would have allowed the States to decide whether the Constitution should be amended to impose term limits on Congress. I supported invoking cloture and I want to express my disappointment that we were not able to limit debate on this important issue.

Mr. President, in 1994, 63 percent of Alaskans who voted cast their ballot in favor of congressional term limits. I want to explain why I support the resolution and also cite some reservations I have concerning this idea.

As a majority of Alaskan voters believe, term limits may indeed provide for the infusion of fresh ideas and new perspectives through the Halls of Congress. Term limits may also make Congress more responsive to its constituents; decrease the possibility of corruption that some see as stemming from longevity in office; and enhance the role of merit, rather than seniority, in the distribution of power.

However, term limits unquestionably restrict the ability of voters to vote for whom they wish, thereby indiscriminately terminating the public service work of both good legislators and bad legislators, alike.

Term limits would remove many of the most competent and experienced Members from office prematurely, thereby destroying the so-called institutional memory. The only individuals who would retain an institutional memory would be professional staff. Term limits may very well enhance their ability to shape legislation and become entrenched as the permanent bureaucracy of Capitol Hill.

Similarly, the professional lobbyists in Washington may also find their influence with Members of Congress improved, as they are far more familiar with the details of issues affecting their industries than new Members of Congress.

Finally, I would note that term limits could well diminish the influence of Senators and Congressmen from States with small populations, such as Alaska. I am especially concerned that term limits in the House will increase the power of States like California, Texas, and New York, which have delegations as large as 52 Members as opposed to States such as Alaska and Wyoming, each of which only has one Representative.

Despite my reservations, Mr. President, the people of Alaska have clearly indicated their preference for term limits and I abide by that decision. I would support the constitutional term limit amendment because it would establish a uniform term-limit rule which would apply to all 50 States.

Uniformity among States is imperative not only because the Supreme Court has ruled that individual States cannot constitutionally limit mandated uniformity, but also because States with term limits would be placed at a serious disadvantage in the Congress with States that do not limit Members' terms.

A uniform term-limit amendment would place all 50 States on equal footing in representing constituents in Congress and that is why I support such an amendment. I will therefore vote in favor of the constitutional amendment approach to term limits to ensure that Alaskans are guaranteed equal representation in the Congress.

I hope the majority leader will be able to bring this measure back before the Senate this year so that we can bring this issue to a final vote.●

TRIBUTE TO RON VAN DE HEY

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I would like to honor Ronald Van De Hey for his outstanding service to Outagamie County and the entire Fox Valley area as he resigns from his position as county executive. Ron started his career in public service as a school board member in 1972. In 1982 he was elected mayor of Kaukauna, where he served for 9 years. His experience as mayor made him an excellent choice for the position of Outagamie County executive, where he has served with distinction since 1991.

Ronald Van De Hey has always had a strong commitment to the people of his community. He was active not only in his elected positions but as a member of charitable and professional organizations as well. Foremost in Ron's mind was always the desire to improve the lives of his fellow citizens.

His colleagues will remember his diplomatic manner. His ability to work with people on all sides of an issue and achieve a compromise everyone can feel good about will be sorely missed. While Ron was flexible, he also knew when to stick to his guns and rely on the strength of his convictions. In the role of the executive he was willing to make the tough decisions, even when it was not the popular thing to do.

Ronald Van De Hey is an excellent illustration of the quality people who serve in local government. He has set an example of public service, not only for other county officials, but for everyone who holds elected office at the local, State or Federal level.

I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. I am sure he will continue to be a valuable asset to the Fox Valley area.●

WOUND, OSTOMY AND CONTINENCE NURSES SOCIETY

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I am pleased to welcome the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society [WOCN] to Seattle, WA, June 15-19, for their 28th annual conference. The theme of the conference, "The Future Is Ours To Create," will focus on future opportunities and challenges relating to the changing and expanding role of enterostomal therapists [ET] nurses and other nurses specializing in wound, ostomy, and continence care.

Founded in 1968, the WOCN is the only national organization for nurses who specialize in the prevention of pressure ulcers and the management and rehabilitation of persons with ostomies, wounds, and incontinence. WOCN, an association of ET nurses, is a professional nursing society which supports its members by promoting educational, clinical, and research opportunities, to advance the practice and guide the delivery of expert health care to individuals with wounds, ostomies, and incontinence.

In this age of changing health care services and skyrocketing costs, the WOCN nurse plays an integral role in providing cost-effective care for their patients. This year's Seattle conference will provide a unique opportunity for WOCN participants to learn about the most current issues and trends related to their practice. I am honored that WOCN has chosen Seattle to host its conference and wish them every success. •

SEA-LAND CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN CHARLESTON

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to the contribution of Sea-Land Services to the city of Charleston over the past 30 years. Not only my hometown, but the entire State of South Carolina has benefited from the services of this company.

Sea Land's founder, Malcolm McLean, is the father of modern containerization. It was his idea to use standardized boxes for shipping goods internationally by sea. By limiting the handling of a container's contents, this technique afforded rapid, safe, and inexpensive transportation of goods all over the world, thus having a profound impact on world trade and economic development. It is a simple concept, containerization of goods to be handled only at their origin and their destination, but it is one of the more important innovations in recent history.

Since its arrival in 1966, Sea-Land has enjoyed a prosperous relationship with the city of Charleston. It has expanded to meet the growing trade needs of South Carolinians, and now moves cargo to and from more than 35 countries. In 1966, Sea-Land's container ship, *Gateway City*, first sailed into Charleston harbor; 30 years later, Charleston's container cargo has grown

from 80,000 tons to over 8.2 million tons, with the value growing from \$512 million to more than \$20 billion.

Charleston's efficient inland links and close access to the open sea led other steamship companies to follow Sea-Land's lead and make the city their south Atlantic base of operations. The trading potential offered by these ocean carriers has opened markets around the world for U.S. products. Cargo ships provide many opportunities for economic development in the regions they serve.

Due to the relatively transparent movement of goods these days, few people realize that 95 percent of our international trade moves by ship. This is a tribute to the success of containerization and the transportation industry. The effects of Sea-Land's contribution to the shipping industry go beyond Charleston to the entire State and the Southeast. Manufacturers in 26 States use the extensive shipping services in Charleston. The trade relationships that Sea-Land makes possible bring countries together across the world.

The State of South Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic growth recently, attracting interest and investments from all over the globe. Without the capital commitments of our ports and ocean carriers like Sea-Land, this would not be possible. We appreciate the continued commitment Sea-Land has made to our area and look forward to another 30 prosperous years. •

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MAHMOUD FAHMY

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my warm congratulations to Dr. Mahmoud H. Fahmy of Dallas, PA who will be honored by his colleagues, friends, and family at a testimonial dinner this evening. Dr. Fahmy has recently retired from Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, PA where he spent 30 years of his professional life. Although formally retired from Wilkes University, Dr. Fahmy is currently the President of his own business, serves as chairman of the Luzerne County Community College Board of Trustees, and is a member of countless community service organizations.

I have had the pleasure of personally knowing Dr. Fahmy and appreciating his dedication, not only to domestic educational endeavors, but to international projects as well. Dr. Fahmy's exemplary duty and service to the community at large has earned him the great respect of his colleagues, friends, and family. I would like to join them in commending him for his dedication to his community and to his profession. Dedicating one's career to education is something very special and should be recognized by all of us who enjoy the fruits of this great country.

The State of Pennsylvania is very lucky to have Dr. Fahmy amongst its citizens, and should be very proud of

his accomplishments. I would like to conclude by extending to him my best wishes for a happy retirement and much success in his future endeavors. •

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I join my colleagues again this year in remembering today the 1.5 million Armenians who died in 1915 in the hands of the Ottoman Empire. These Armenians were victims of a policy explicitly intended to isolate, exile, and even extinguish the Armenian population. As we look at world events today—in Bosnia, Rwanda, and elsewhere—we must remember the events of 1915, with the hope that with history as a guide, humanity will not engage in such brutality again.

We will also learn from history that America served as a haven for those Armenians fleeing persecution. At the time of the atrocities, America spoke out in defense of a defenseless people, and provided massive amounts of humanitarian assistance to the Armenian people. Today, America still leads the world in championing human rights, and our shores offer refuge to those fleeing persecution throughout the world. On days like today, we must remember what we stand for, and ensure that the U.S. continues to be a beacon of strength and hope for the heroes that stand up and survive such atrocities.

I compliment President Clinton on his commitment to the Armenian cause, and I am proud to join him and my colleagues today in commemorating this important occasion. •

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, the city of Washington, DC, is blessed this week with the presence of some of the most dedicated people in America—its teachers. Each state's Teacher of the Year is visiting Washington to be honored for their top notch work in educating our children.

As a husband of a teacher, I know how some people view the teaching profession. I have heard all of the jokes. And, I have read the articles—including some recent ones—deriding the Nation's teaching force and claiming that teachers are the root of our educational problems.

Well, Mr. President, the Teachers of the Year that are here this week should dispel those myths. These teachers are simply among the best and the brightest our Nation has to offer.

For most of us, there was at least one teacher along the way who touched us, who motivated us, who inspired us. A teacher who was more than just a body at the blackboard. For students in the Indian River School District in my State of Delaware, one of those teachers is Darryl Hudson. He is Delaware's Teacher of the Year, and I want to congratulate him and take just few minutes to honor him.

Mr. Hudson—named the top teacher among over 6,000 public school teachers