

that surrounds it. It is clear to me that if Babbitt's mineral withdrawal succeeds there will be subsequent steps to pick away at the area until it ultimately would be consumed by the wilderness system.

As a matter of standing policy, the Montana Mining Association is opposed to administrative withdrawals of any lands from mineral entry. In this instance, the egregious violation of the intent of the withdrawal procedure for the sole purpose of mollifying preservationist interests solidifies our resolve. We firmly believe that the continual hijacking of established procedures to achieve political ends must stop. Please help us help ourselves and the country to thwart this effort.

Very truly yours,

DAVID B. ROVIG.●

GLEN GENSEAL AND SPRINGFIELD'S NEW KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the community of Springfield, IL, recently dedicated a new Korean War Memorial which features, inscribed in stone, this poem, written by Glen Genseal in tribute to our fallen soldiers in Korea:

MY BRAVE YOUNG MEN

(by Glen Genseal)

I took a walk in the park of my old home town

Hardly noticing anything that was around.

Just this day, I don't know why,

I looked at the cannon and stone war plaque when passing by.

There were name upon names written on the plaque

Of brave young men who never came back.

A certain guilty feeling came over me,

I didn't know why, but I was soon to see.

Off in the distance, I thought I heard

Soldiers marching to cadence and time.

I blinked my eyes, shook my head,

Looked at the plaque,

And here's what it said:

Take a good look at my brave young men as they go marching by,

I want you to hear all their widows and mothers cry.

I want you to touch each salty tear,

And feel each heartache, that will never disappear.

Look into the lost eyes of every wife, mother, and dad,

Then gently squeeze the small hand of each fatherless child

That war has left so sad.

Oh my friend, never forget as you walk by,

The sacrifice of my brave young men who had to die.

Let it be known and always ever so plain,

That my brave young men did not die in vain.

America will always be the home of the brave,

America will always be the land of the free.

Because of the life of each young man

Whose name, written in blood, is upon me.

God bless America and my brave young men.

Mr. President, Tracy Johnson, who has done a superb job for the people of Illinois and for me in my office in Springfield, is the daughter of Glen Genseal. She is proud of her father and of his contribution to this lasting and fitting memorial to those who served

and died in Korea, and I am proud of them both.

SURGING TAX BURDEN UNDER PRESIDENT CLINTON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, under President Bill Clinton, the Federal tax burden as a percentage of national income has risen to the second highest level in American history. As reported by economist Bruce Bartlett, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, in the first quarter of 1996 Federal taxes consumed 20.5 percent of gross domestic product. Only during periods of war and other unique economic circumstances has the tax burden risen to such levels. For instance, at the height of World War II in 1945, and of the Vietnam war in 1969, Federal taxes took only 20.1 percent and 20.3 percent of GDP, respectively. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, double-digit inflation and a Tax Code that was not indexed for inflation pushed the tax burden to an all-time high of 20.8 percent of GDP. President Clinton's 1993 tax increase—the biggest tax increase in the history of the world—is largely responsible for raising the tax burden from 19.2 percent of GDP in President Bush's last year to today's 20.5 percent of GDP. In my view, there is absolutely no justification for imposing such a heavy tax burden on the American people. We ought to let American people keep more of what they earn so that they can do more for their families and communities. And the best way to accomplish this is to reduce income tax rates for everyone by at least 15 percent.

I ask that Mr. Bartlett's Detroit News editorial be printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

The editorial follows:

[From the Detroit News, June 24, 1996]

A SURGING RECORD OF CLINTON TAX LOAD

(By Bruce Bartlett)

Recently released data show federal taxes continuing their relentless upward trend. As I have previously reported, federal taxes consumed 20.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) last year—the second highest level in American history.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, however, in the first quarter of 1996 federal revenues have risen by another 0.1 percent to 20.5 percent of GDP. As the figure indicates, federal revenues have now risen by 1.5 percentage points of GDP during the Clinton administration.

This works out to an increase of just over 0.1 percent of GDP every quarter Bill Clinton has been in office. On this basis, we can anticipate that by the fourth quarter of 1996 federal revenues will equal their all-time high of 20.8 percent.

The Congressional Budget Office now estimates that gross domestic product will amount to \$7,584 billion in 1996. Thus if revenues were simply to return to the level they were at when Bill Clinton took office, we would have to cut taxes by \$114 billion this year. And every quarter that tax revenues as a share of GDP rise another 0.1 percent, we must increase the size of the tax cut by an additional \$7.6 billion.

Predictably, the Clinton administration is hostile to the idea of a tax cut. With the sole exception of John F. Kennedy, no Democratic president in history has ever proposed a major tax cut. Democrats always want to hold on to every last dollar of the taxpayers' money—no tax cut is ever as valuable to them as the equivalent amount of government spending.

Even if they were convinced that a tax cut was justified, it is always "unfair" to cut tax rates because that means that those who pay the most taxes get a bigger tax cut. That is why Democrats like tax credits, because they are tax equivalent of government spending. Republicans, by contrast, have historically supported tax rate reductions and increases in tax exemptions, which allow people to keep more of their own money.

Republicans in Congress, therefore, committed a fatal error when they made the \$500 child credit the centerpiece of their tax plan. It essentially is Democratic tax policy. As a result, the differences between the two parties on the central issue of taxation have become blurred.

Moreover, the Republicans' obsession with balancing the budget at all costs has blinded them to the need for a tax cut vastly larger than the minuscule \$122 billion over six years that they have proposed in their latest budget. They should be talking about a tax rate reduction of at least 15 percent across the board.●

LT. COL. BRYAN T. LAWLER

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a gentleman of outstanding character and dedication to his country. Lieutenant Colonel Bryan T. Lawler of Eldora, IA has served in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years and will retire from active duty on August 1, 1996.

Colonel Lawler's military education in 1974, when he attended and graduated from the Minuteman Missile Launch Officer training course. Subsequently, after graduating in the top third of the class from Squadron Officer's school, Bryan Lawler's education culminated with a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Iowa's College of Law. He had been competitively selected for the Funded Legal Education Program and graduated with high distinction. Colonel Lawler also attended the Air Command and Staff College.

During his 22 years of service, Colonel Lawler put his Iowa Hawkeye law degree to exemplary use. He served in the base legal office at Seymour-Johnson AFB, defense counsel at RAF Upper Heyford in the United Kingdom, and Utility Legislation Counsel at Tyndall AFB in Florida. He also served as the Staff Judge Advocate at Moody AFB. He continued his service overseas, being stationed, again, in the United Kingdom and in Saudi Arabia. While in Saudi Arabia Colonel Lawler was selected to serve as one of the legal advisors who investigated the shootdown of two U.S. Army helicopters in Northern Iraq. The Colonel finishes his distinguished career as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the Headquarter Fifteenth Air Force at Travis AFB.

Because of his outstanding achievements during his services with the U.S.

Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Lawler has been honored with the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. Bryan Lawler's military service reflects hard work, pride, and efficiency. The work done by Colonel Lawler in the service of his country is greatly appreciated. I know that all Iowans and all Americans join me in expressing their thanks for a job well done.

Mr. President, I would like to quote the words of one of Colonel Lawler's fellow officers. I believe that these words describe the Colonel well. "Colonel Lawler has been a leader, guiding hundreds of young people who have learned and themselves succeeded under his steady influence. Few members of the Department are as well respected, admired and liked by his superiors, peers and subordinates as is Colonel Lawler."

Mr. President, I sincerely congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Bryan T. Lawler on his service with the U.S. Air Force. He is the type of officer that our military needs. I wish him the best of luck in the years to come.●

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today the President of the Senate, the Vice President of the United States, AL GORE, Jr., issued a statement commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System. His statement is fitting, not only because of the unparalleled significance the Interstate Highway System holds for every American, but also because of the key role in the development of that system played by the Vice President's father, Al Gore, Sr. I ask unanimous consent that the Vice President's statement be printed in the RECORD and commend it to my colleagues' and the public's attention.

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

STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE
COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM, JUNE 26,
1996

This week marks the 40th anniversary of the historic legislation that created our nation's Interstate Highway System. Tonight, at the Zero Milestone Market on the Ellipse, there will be an event to honor the four visionary Americans who made it possible: President Dwight Eisenhower; Congressman Hale Boggs; former Federal Highway Administrator Frank Turner; and my hero, my mentor, one of Tennessee's finest sons and one of America's greatest Senators . . . my father, Senator Al Gore, Sr.

The Interstate Highway System has meant so much to our country. Its creation led to an unprecedented period of national growth and prosperity. It increased safety and dramatically reduced traffic fatalities. And it enhanced our national defense and security.

The Interstate Highway System has literally changed the way we work and even the way we live. But it has done something else, too—something that can't be measured by statistics or dollar signs.

The Interstate Highway System unified our great and diverse nation. As President Clinton has said, it "did more to bring Americans together than any other law this century." And by so doing, it gave our citizens—and still gives our citizens 40 years and about 44,000 miles later—the very freedom that defines America.

Inherent in our Bill of Rights—whether the freedom of religion or press—is the freedom of mobility . . . to go where we please, when we please. Families driving to our national parks on vacation, mothers coming home from work, fathers taking their children to baseball games . . . all depend on the Interstate Highway System—a system that has paved the way not only to the next destination, but to opportunity itself.

A highway to opportunity—that is America. And that is the freedom, I am proud to say, made possible in part by my father's dedication. I'm equally proud to continue that tradition—inspired by him—by working to connect all Americans to the 21st century's highway to opportunity, the information superhighway.

I was always amazed how the voice that called me to the dinner table or reminded me to do my homework could be the same voice that argued so eloquently in the Senate for what can only be described as the greatest public works project in the history of the United States of America. And on this, the 40th anniversary of that accomplishment, I would like to thank my father, Senator Al Gore, Sr.

On behalf of all Americans, I would like to thank him for the Interstate Highway System that, in his words, is truly an "object of national pride." And I would like to thank him, personally, for teaching me both what it means to be a dedicated public servant and a dedicated father.

SECURITY AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, yesterday's Washington Post contained a very interesting op-ed piece written by William T. Coleman, Jr., former Secretary of Transportation in the Ford administration, who is chairman of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. I have known, through the years, this distinguished public servant very, very well. He enjoys the confidence and respect of the broadest possible spectrum here in the Nation's Capital, certainly of this Senator.

Mr. President, he was addressing the serious problem with respect to security at the White House, and I point out that he is a Republican. He goes into considerable detail on the issue recently voted on in the Senate, the closing of Pennsylvania Avenue. I voted against that Sense of the Senate Resolution. I feel that matters relating to security, such as the closing of Pennsylvania Avenue, no matter the considerable inconvenience to many citizens and in particular citizens from my State of Virginia, contiguous to the Nation's capital, should best be left to those who are responsible for decisions relating to security.

Quite frankly, in my State, my vote was not popular because of the inconvenience to those utilizing Pennsylvania Avenue for transportation to and from their places of employment and the like. I cast a vote to table that resolution.

Today, in our newspapers and on television, we have seen the absolutely tragic news about the bombing in Saudi Arabia. Mr. President, the first thought in my mind is a great sense of compassion, of course, for the families, for the victims, those who have lost their lives, those who are injured. How many times I and others, including the presiding officer and the distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, have reminded the American public of the risk taken every day by men and women of the Armed Forces. They volunteer to go beyond our shores to provide that framework of security, together with our allies, such that we can enjoy what we are doing here today—freedom of speech and every other type of freedom guaranteed by our Constitution. We honor the great sense of obligation that these men and women have and the generations that have preceded them and worn the uniforms, knowing they take risks of varying levels once they depart the shores of our United States.

I think we should take a lesson from that tragedy as it relates to security and the type of weapon employed by those terrorists; namely, a truck, from outward appearances being a fuel truck. I consulted today with the intelligence staff of the Department of Defense. I think it can be said that a fuel truck was carefully reconfigured and the contents carefully put in by expert individuals. It was not some back-garage type of manufacturing job by persons in that region.

The article by Mr. Coleman is relevant to the tragedy within the last 24 hours in Saudi Arabia. Terrorism against our men and women of the Armed Forces abroad, in my judgment, is directly related to the issue regarding Pennsylvania Avenue and the house of the President of the United States, which is the public property of every citizen in this country. I ask unanimous consent this article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. EXON. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. WARNER. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. EXON. I would like to say a few things complimenting my friend from Virginia on the remarks he made.

Mr. WARNER. Take such time as the Senator desires.

Mr. EXON. While the Senator from Virginia and I have not always agreed on all subjects, we have agreed on more than we have disagreed on. I could not help but ask for a moment, if I might, to congratulate the Senator from Virginia for his very thoughtful remarks with regard to the security of the White House. I voted against the resolution when it came up because I thought it was ill-advised.

I believe it is safe to say that what happened, the tragedy that happened to our people serving the United States