

sons were looking at college with some apprehension, he again attended classes at Temple University just to show them that they had nothing to fear. Both went on to college.

In September 1952, Joseph Swanick married Catherine M. McCall with whom he has shared his life since. Together they raised their two children and taught them the lessons, morals, and ideals which would stay with them throughout their lives.

After working as a salesman for Colonial Beef Co., Mr. Swanick founded his own wholesale meat business, Joseph Swanick Inc., in 1960 and remained in business until his retirement in 1984. Because he was a man who believed in doing what was right, Joe Swanick refused to sell to country clubs and places he knew discriminated against blacks or Jewish people. Also, during financial recessions, he would take meat and other items from his own business and deliver it secretly to members of his church who had nothing to eat. As a father and teacher, he brought his children with him to learn the importance of performing charitable works while avoiding the spotlight.

"He taught me tolerance," Tony Swanick said, "that it is okay if you disagree with people or don't even understand them. But, it is not okay to hate them or persecute them for it. From him, I learned to open my mind to new experiences and people who were different and close my heart to bigotry and intolerance."

Joseph Swanick also helped his children discover the beauty of our Earth by taking them on trips to locations throughout the world. But he also taught them to find the beauty within themselves and to trust in their own abilities. Mr. Speaker, we here in Congress often discuss the fact that too many children in America are neglected or abused. Here was a man who taught his children the importance of self worth every day.

Mr. Swanick and his family lived in the Elkins Park section of Abington Township, Montgomery County, for more than 20 years before moving to the Penllyn section of Lower Gynedd Township. Throughout his life, Mr. Swanick remained active in his church parish beginning with St. Stephens in North Philadelphia and including St. Dennis in Havertown, Delaware County. Much of his life with his family was spent at the Montgomery County parishes of St. Jame's Roman Catholic Church in Elkins Park and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Ambler.

Following his retirement from the wholesale meat business, Mr. Swanick worked as a courier for the Montgomery Publishing Co., publisher of numerous weekly newspapers. Ironically, at the same time, his son, Tony, was an award-winning reporter for the newspapers. Mr. Swanick also believed in giving back to the community in much the way his wife and two sons did.

He was active as a volunteer for Wissahickon Hospice, based at Chestnut Hill Hospital, for more than 5 years, serving as a companion for numerous terminally ill patients in Philadelphia as well as Norristown and various other Montgomery County communities. His role was to ease the burden and emotional distress for both the patient and the family during the patients final months of life. He dedicated much of his free time to helping others—a Swanick family trait. His wife, Catherine, organized and ran a group called Birth-

right which promoted adoptions. Pat was involved in numerous charities he organized at St. Joseph's University. And Tony worked with me to co-found the Montgomery County AIDS Task Force and to create a public health department for Montgomery County. He still serves on the board of trustees of Norristown State Hospital.

Joe Swanick loved to bring comfort to the ill through Wissahickon Hospice and, perhaps he knew he would need the services of hospice himself as his life came to a close. For the last 6 months, he received outstanding homecare from the Montgomery Homecare/Hospice based at Montgomery Hospital.

But, the real care came from his family, Pat and his wife Diana, Tony and particularly Joseph's wife, Catherine, who was by his side every minute providing him with the best medicine he could have, a warm hand on his, a smile, a prayer. "Dad always said 'I got me a good one,'" Pat said. "And he was right." Catherine and Joe Swanick took vows to care for each other for better or for worse, in sickness and in health and they did just that until in death they did part.

Mr. Speaker, when Joe Swanick died, hundreds came to bid him farewell. There were people from his grade school and his high school. The brave men who flew with him in B-24 Liberators in World War II were also represented as were those who worked for him. Members of Wissahickon Hospice who worked with him to care for others were joined by those from Montgomery Hospice who, ultimately, cared for him until his death.

Joe Swanick's death was not an easy one. In the end, he could barely draw a breath and his heart was weak, perhaps because he gave so much of it to others. Still, despite his pain and discomfort, his family was foremost in his mind. Catherine, Pat, Diana, and Tony gathered around him on his last day on Earth and prayed for him, cried for their loss, sang to him, held his hand, and made certain he left this world feeling loved. But to the end, Joe Swanick was selfless.

"In one of my last conversations with my Father before he became too ill to speak," Tony Swanick said. "He pulled me close and told me he wished there had been more he could have done for me during his life. Can you believe that? This man who gave me everything I value was lying there * * * staring at death * * * barely able to draw a breath * * * and when he did, he didn't use that breath to ask me to help him or to make him more comfortable. He used that breath to tell me that he wanted to do more for me! To do more for me * * *." Mr. Speaker, even at the threshold of death, Joe Swanick put his family first.

Joe Swanick had an incredible wit, loved to tell a good story, was quick with a laugh, and a smile and was for his family the embodiment of humanity, kindness, compassion, understanding, and love. But the consensus at his death was that Joe Swanick wasn't really gone forever. Before he died, Catherine reminded him, "You know Joe, up in Heaven, you'll have a whole new audiences for your World War II stories." Pat said he could see a glimmer in his father's eyes when he imagined the possibilities.

Joe Swanick was proud of his family and would be quick to tell anyone about them—whether or not they wanted to hear it.

"In fact," Pat said, "I've envisioned the scene in Heaven this week over and over again. I can see Dad saying:

'Saint Peter, wait 'til you meet my wife, Cass. She's the best!' or

'Saint Peter, did I tell you about my trip to Cleveland last summer to visit Pat and Diana?' or

'Saint Peter, have you ever been to Washington for Christmas? We visited Tony there last year during the holidays * * *.'

I can just see those conversations going on up there. I just hope Saint Peter doesn't get too tired of hearing about us and he still lets us in when our time comes."

Pat noted that his father was a Christian, faithful in his duties to God and his church. He was a patriot, flying nearly 30 wartime missions in World War II. He was an entrepreneur, "he always like this word—he said it was a fancy word even if he didn't know how to spell it." He was a volunteer, dedicating his time to others in need.

"Dad was a good friend and neighbor and a devoted husband," Pat said. "His best role, and perhaps I'm a bit biased, was simply being a dad. He was real good at it * * * the best. He made a difference and we're all better off for having known him."

Pat is right, Mr. Speaker. I know this family well and I know they were all devastated by this great loss. It was a loss to Montgomery County and the entire Delaware Valley as well as to everyone whose lives Joe Swanick touched. Joseph Swanick practiced family values before someone turned the phrase into a weapon to attack those who were different.

Tony Swanick summed it up when he noted that many of us, in our youth, try so hard to be different from our parents. "Now," he said, "I've spent much of my adult life wishing I was more like them. To my dad * * * my friend * * * I can say only this. Yours is the most elegant soul I've ever known. Yours is the biggest heart I've ever seen. Yours is the most loving and gentle spirit I have ever encountered. You are the finest man I have ever known and we will miss you more than words could ever say. But now, it is time for you to be at peace with God. And so, I must say 'farewell' my Father, my friend. Farewell."

"BEST TAX-CUT PROPOSAL APPEARS TO FACE ROADBLOCK IN CONGRESS"

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial supporting the proposed capital gains tax cut which appeared in the Omaha World Herald on June 18, 1997.

[From the Omaha World Herald, June 18, 1997]

BEST TAX-CUT PROPOSAL APPEARS TO FACE ROADBLOCK IN CONGRESS

Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill are negotiating the specifics of legislation to reduce taxes by a net \$85 billion over the next five years. Unfortunately, the best proposal in the tax-cut package—reducing the capital-gains tax—is the hardest one to sell politically.

When stocks, homes, farms or small businesses are sold by an individual, an estate or a trust for more than what the seller paid for them, the seller pays a 28 percent tax on the difference in price—the long-term capital gain. While this is less than the current maximum tax rate on ordinary income, 39.6 percent, the 28 percent capital-gains tax rate still causes some holders of capital assets to refrain from investment transactions that could stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Republicans once talked of reducing the capital-gains tax rate to as low as 15 percent as a way to encourage reinvestment. Now they seem resigned to the idea that a reduction of 8 percentage points may be the best they can do.

A capital-gains tax cut is difficult to accomplish because Democrats keep pounding on the idea that only rich people receive income from selling property—a claim that never seems to die no matter how many times it is proven false. House Democrats have said they are willing to consider reducing the tax on the gains from the sale of a small business or family farm but not the tax on the gains from the sale of other capital assets.

Many Americans have legitimate concerns about the excessive compensation going to some large-corporation chief executives—people who receive millions of dollars annually, sometimes even when their company's performance is flat. Republicans are still smarting from the campaign by Democrats who said Republicans were going to "gut health care for the elderly to fund a tax cut for the rich," a campaign that was based on a lie.

For these reasons, some Republicans are skittish about taking a hard line on a capital-gains tax cut.

Bipartisan support exists for a \$500-per-child annual tax credit for families, though there is disagreement over the level of annual income at which to cut off the credit. Democrats want to draw the line at \$75,000. Republicans favor a ceiling of \$100,000. Republicans are challenging the Democratic contention that poor families who do not pay income taxes ought to get the per-child credit anyway, in the form of a government check. There also is disagreement about the age of children for whom the credit could be claimed, with the White House and various factions in Congress proposing top ages from 12 to 18.

President Clinton's proposal for tax breaks tied to college expenses also is difficult for politicians to resist. Democrats want \$35 billion in tax credits and deductions for families sending children to college. Families would receive a tax credit of \$1,500 for each college student or deduct from their taxable income up to \$10,000 a year in college expenses. Republicans offer a more modest plan, with credits for 50 percent of tuition costs up to \$3,000 a year.

The final version of the tax legislation is likely to include the popular per-child and college-tuition credits in some form, even though the credits are not large enough for individuals to have much stimulus effect on the economy. Moreover, they probably will have to be modified to fit within the target number of \$135 billion in tax cuts. (A proposed \$50 billion in tax increases would leave \$85 billion in net tax relief over five years.)

Prospects for cutting the capital-gains tax rate to 20 percent are dim. A cut in the inheritance tax rate and an increase in the amount (currently \$600,000) that can be passed to heirs free of federal estate tax also are generally opposed by Democrats.

That is disappointing. Republicans are right about the job-creating potential of a significant capital-gains tax cut and the fun-

damental fairness of reducing the effective inheritance tax rate. Instead, taxpayers with children are likely to get a modest credit of limited value as an incentive to new investment.

The overall tax-cut package could be a similarly bland compromise—a far cry from the bold \$200 billion tax cut originally advocated by the GOP.

CAN PEOPLE OF FAITH DIFFER ON MFN FOR CHINA?

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

MR. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, political and religious persecution continues in China. These human rights violations, spotlighted as Congress considers extending its trade status with China, are appalling to everyone. But the question of whether we should keep the trade door open or isolate China in trying to bring an end to these abuses is far from unanimous, especially among the faith community.

First, it is important to recognize that the most-favored-nation trade status—up for a vote in Congress in late June—is a misnomer that gives no special treatment to China. In fact, MFN is the normal, unprivileged trade status held by every other nation in the world except six.

But some within the religious community believe even normal trading practices with China are unconscionable. Family psychologist James Dobson and his Washington-based Family Research Council, led by Gary Bauer, former domestic policy adviser to President Ronald Reagan, believe that cutting off trade with China will send a message that will convince the Chinese Government to halt the persecutions of Christians and other people of faith.

Others, however, insist a public Christian stance against MFN is not in the interest of the church in China and will seriously hamper the efforts of Christians from outside China who have spent years seeking to establish a Christian witness among the Chinese people. In fact, they fear the human rights violations will be exacerbated if we cut our ties with China, thereby removing our Western influences from this emerging democracy. Those who share this belief include Joseph M. Stowell, president of the Moody Bible Institute; Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals; and the China Service Coordinating Office, an umbrella group representing more than 100 missionary groups, many in China, including the Institute for Chinese Studies at Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center.

The United States Catholic Bishops Association issued a statement opposing renewing MFN trade status for China, though not all the bishops agree with the statement. Ironically, Hong Kong's official Catholic newspaper, the Sunday Examiner, reported new contacts between Beijing and Hong Kong's Catholic hierarchy, which could be a major step toward an official recognition of the Catholic Church inside China.

And then there is Father Robert Sirico, president of the Action Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty, and a signatory to previous advertisements by the Family Research

Council protesting religious persecution in China. "Just as religious freedom offers the best hope for Christian social influence, economic freedom is the best hope for spreading that influence around the world," said Sirico, who supports MFN.

Others, such as Ned Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham and president of the missionary organization East Gates, believe the religious leaders opposing MFN should temper their language in speaking on the situation because it has the effect of bringing more persecution upon the church in China.

As a believer in the freedom of worship and as a United States Congressman, I have written numerous letters and protested religious persecution in Russia, Kuwait, Romania, China, and other parts of the world. I wrote to Secretary of State Albright to ask her to raise the issue of religious persecution during her visit to Russia and China. I cosponsored and voted for legislation that condemned human rights abuses against religious believers around the world. That resolution urged the President to create a special advisory committee for religious liberty abroad or to appoint a White House special advisor on religious persecution. This battle does not just involve Christians around the world. The persecution of one faith is persecution of all faiths. And wherever and whatever religious beliefs are persecuted, public officials must speak out.

I believe we must engage in trade with China and still publicly condemn their human rights abuses. It is important to remember where China has been and where it is today. Thirty years ago, millions of people were executed following political sham trials in the cultural revolution. Now, thanks to the influence of foreign companies, more Chinese people have the opportunity to work without the shackles of state control. The American presence in China is a force for good, where the vast majority of firms pay their workers higher than average wages and offer a host of benefits, such as health care, housing, recreation, education, and travel. I spoke with the granddaughter of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, who overthrew the feudal Manchu Dynasty in 1911 and was the first provisional president of the Republic of China. She told me of the many positive changes in China, from the disappearance of neighborhood spies to the destruction of the internal passport system, which prevented people from moving from one job to another or from one town to another. Missionaries with whom I speak say while persecution continues, the churches continue to grow. It is important not to isolate China.

While MFN does not grant China a special trade status, it also does not grant China any special trade rules. While trading with China, we must use our enforcement tools to stop improper trade practices. We did this recently to help Brake Parts in McHenry County, IL, when some Chinese companies were selling brake rotors at below market prices. I advised Brake Parts to file a complaint with the International Trade Commission, which issued a punitive order against those Chinese companies. If goods are found to be made in prison labor camps, then we should enforce our own laws to prohibit their sale in the United States. If the Chinese throw up trade barriers against United States sales in China, then we should impose trade sanctions and retaliate against the Chinese by imposing stiff tariffs.

The debate over China is good. Democracy is at its best when well-meaning people of