

IN HONOR OF WMZQ

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to one of the top rated radio stations in the Washington area, WMZQ. June 22 marks their 20th anniversary on air as a country music station, serving the musical and community needs of our region.

On June 22, 1977, WMZQ 98.7 FM signed on the air with the song "Are You Ready for the Country?" Since that time, the Washington Metropolitan area has benefited from the talent and commitment of their staff. The Country Music Association [CMA] has honored WMZQ's contribution to country music by naming WMZQ the CMA Station of the Year in 1989. The radio industry has also recognized WMZQ's programming excellence with several Achievement in Radio [AIR] Awards.

WMZQ's staff is intertwined with the greater Washington community. WMZQ has supported many charitable organizations like the American Heart Association, the March of Dimes, Children's Hospital, the American Red Cross, and Toys for Tots through event participation and public affairs programming. WMZQ's loyal listeners' generous response to the Annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Radiothon has raised over \$2 million in just 5 years. Listener's contributions during the Coats for Kids campaigns has kept thousands of children warm during the winter months. WMZQ's Christmas in April home renovation projects has provided many elderly, low-income, and handicapped neighbors with safer living conditions.

On June 22, the WMZQ staff and 15,000 of their most loyal fans celebrated the radio station's 20th anniversary at the Bull Run Country Jamboree. This year they were proud to host Paul Brantly, LeAnne Rimes, Neil McCoy, and Wynonna. Over the last 7 years this annual event has raised over \$600,000 for the Northern Virginia Park Authority. This year, WMZQ general manager, Charlie Ochs, rededicated the efforts of the WMZQ staff to better serve the country music listener and to continue to work to make the Washington area a better place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in celebrating the special anniversary of WMZQ. Not only do they provide the region with good country music, but they have supported our community through many volunteer programs. They have enriched the lives of their listeners, have enhanced the quality of life in our region and have grown to be one of the top rated country stations in the Nation.

TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections

(b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998:

Ms. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose H.R. 2014, the Republican tax bill, which shifts the burden of achieving a balanced budget by 2002 to those least able to pay.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2014 directs 70 percent of the tax cuts to the top 20 percent of the Nation's taxpayers. H.R. 2014 further limits the new \$500-per-child tax credit so that the working poor would not be eligible. H.R. 2014 also allows investors to reduce the taxable value of their capital assets by the rate of inflation, beginning in 2001. H.R. 2014 disproportionately benefits the very wealthy since 62 percent of all capital gains are realized by people with incomes of \$200,000.

With respect to education, H.R. 2014 provides \$31 billion in tax cuts to pay for higher education costs over the first 5 years, although the GOP congressional leadership and the White House had agreed earlier on a \$35 billion cut. In addition to reducing the allocation for education tax cuts, H.R. 2014 changes how these tax cuts would be applied.

For example, under H.R. 2014, a tuition tax credit replaces the HOPE tax credit. The new tuition credit provides for 50 percent of the first \$3,000 of tuition paid, and not a full tuition credit of up to \$1,500. Accordingly, those students who attend community colleges and other low-tuition schools where costs total, say, \$2,000 will receive only \$1,000—that is, 50 percent of \$2,000—and not the full credit of up to \$1,500 proposed by President Clinton. And, by applying the Pell grant offset to the new tuition tax credit, H.R. 2014 further reduces the credit that will be available to low-income students attending low-tuition community colleges.

H.R. 2014 provides for education saving accounts as a way to minimize taxes. But these accounts are also skewed against low-income families. Why? Because the tax education is taken when tuition is paid rather when deposits are made to the accounts. Only high-income families will be able to save enough to take advantage of this tax deduction.

H.R. 2014 provides for a child tax credit which will, however, be effectively denied to lower-income working families who have the greatest need for it. While H.R. 2014 phases out the child tax credit at \$75,000—single returns—and \$110,000—joint returns—the tax bill provides that any earned income tax credit received by lower-income working families will be used to offset the child tax credit, thereby ensuring that the child tax credit will be denied to lower-income working families.

Single parents who need child care, and use the dependent care tax credit will also be effectively denied the new child tax credit. Why? Because the tax bill provides that any dependent care tax credit claimed by single parents will be used to offset the new child tax credit.

The capital gains provisions in H.R. 2014 disproportionately benefits the richest Americans. Aside from the fact that 62 percent of capital gains are realized by people with incomes over \$200,000, investors will be able to index their capital gains for inflation—that is, reduce the taxable value of their capital assets by the rate of inflation—beginning in 2001. The longer an asset is held, the greater the inflation indexing will be. This will result in very large tax cuts for the very rich.

In addition, the indexing of capital gains for inflation, beginning in 2001, means that the projected \$3 billion in capital gains-related revenue gains of the first 5 years will be offset by huge revenue losses in the second 5 years. Indeed, the capital gains provisions of the tax bill are expected to contribute about \$33 billion to the deficit over 10 years.

H.R. 2014 is fundamentally unfair. This bill, like last year's egregious welfare legislation, punishes the most vulnerable of our citizens: the working poor. The tax bill offers the working poor no relief, and ensures that the gap between the working poor and the rich will widen even more.

I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 2014.

**HONORING LAWRENCE COUNTY
CANCER SOCIETY****HON. RON KLINK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Lawrence County Cancer Society and their efforts to combat breast cancer. On July 12, 1997 they will be holding their First Pink Ribbon Golf Classic to raise money for cancer research and increase the public's awareness about this deadly disease.

Sadly, breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women today. The American Cancer Society predicts that this year 180,200 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed, and nearly 46,000 women will die of this deadly disease. Research shows that breast cancer will affect 1 out of every 9 women in America. Today, according to the American Cancer Society, two-thirds of all women over the age of 65 are not receiving mammograms, even though doctors recommend that they get one every other year. Early detection of this disease is vital. By doing so, we can save lives.

The Lawrence County Cancer Society is doing all they can to change these terrible statistics by encouraging women to get checked for this disease as early and as often as possible. Research shows that if breast cancer is detected early, a woman has a 40-percent greater chance to survive this disease. By spreading the word about the benefits of early detection, the Lawrence County Cancer Society is helping to save the lives of the women of America.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to applaud the Lawrence County Cancer Society for their courageous efforts. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing their efforts to combat this lethal killer.

**IN HONOR OF GOLDEN AGERS OF
SS. CYRIL AND METHODIOUS
CHURCH****HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Golden Agers of SS. Cyril and Methodious

Church in Lakewood, OH on the 25th anniversary of their senior group on July 13, 1997.

The Golden Agers were formed in July 1972 by Father Humensky and Abbott Theodore Kojis for seniors of the parish. Approximately 59 members of the church attended the first meeting at which Lucy Misencik was appointed the first president of the Golden Agers by Father Humensky. Lucy served as president for 2 years until her death in 1974. At this time Helen and John Kolesar were appointed copresidents. By 1975 there were 270 members of the Golden Agers.

Marie Vaxman was appointed president of the organization in 1980 by Father Onderjka, the current priest of the parish. Marie presided over the organization until 1990. During this time card parties were instituted to defray expenses for pilgrimages and other trips taken by members.

After Vaxman's term, Mary Jacko served as president until 1992, at which time Lenore Steve filled the position. Clara Zbin took over the duties of head of the organization until February 1996. Irene Tomcik is the current president of the Golden Agers. Members of this nonprofit organization enjoy social get-togethers on the third Wednesday of each month.

My fellow colleagues, please assist me in extending congratulations to the Golden Agers of SS. Cyril and Methodious Church on the 25th anniversary of their valuable organization.

BAN ON SMOKING IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to prohibit smoking in any indoor portion of a Federal building. The Ban on Smoking in Federal Buildings Act covers all federally-owned and leased buildings, including those used by the Federal judiciary and the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. The bill defines the term "Federal building" as any building or other structure owned and leased for use by a Federal agency. The bill exempts U.S. military installations and health care facilities run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as any area of a Federal building used primarily as living quarters.

As chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds in the 103d Congress, I introduced similar legislation in 1993. That legislation would have limited smoking in Federal buildings to separately ventilated smoking areas. The bill was approved by the House in 1993 but was not considered in the other body.

Smoking in buildings used by executive branch agencies is limited to designated areas that are separately ventilated, although many Federal agencies have already imposed total bans. Smoking is also prohibited in Federal courtrooms. Smoking is permitted in some rooms of the U.S. Capitol, and Members of Congress can set their own smoking policies for their offices. In my view, there should be a uniform smoking policy for the entire Federal Government—one that protects the health and

safety of nonsmokers. In light of what is being done in the private sector, a total ban on smoking in Federal buildings makes good sense.

In studies conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, indoor air pollution was identified as one of the top five environmental risks to public health. Environmental tobacco smoke [ETS] has been determined to be a major indoor air pollutant. Although there are other harmful pollutants in the air of most workplaces, very few of those pollutants are capable of being isolated and removed from the workplace environment. ETS is a known health hazard that can easily be removed from the Federal workplace.

In addition to the known health hazards posed by ETS, in 1993, officials from the U.S. Department of Labor testified before the Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds that the Federal Government has paid out hundreds of thousands of dollars in workers' compensation claims to nonsmoking Federal employees who have been disabled or impaired due to workplace exposure to ETS. Unless a uniform ban on smoking in Federal buildings is imposed, the U.S. taxpayer will continue to pay workers' compensation claims to Federal employees disabled or impaired by ETS.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that a number of States have imposed a total ban on smoking in State buildings. In addition, numerous localities have passed ordinances banning smoking in restaurants and other facilities. Many privately owned and operated facilities—from sports arenas to shopping malls to movie theaters—have banned smoking. My legislation is a logical and commonsense measure that will protect the public health of all those who work in, use or visit Federal buildings. The bill will also save taxpayer dollars by eliminating the cause of costly workers' compensation payments to Federal employees impaired or disabled by workplace exposure to ETS. Finally, the Ban on Smoking in Federal Buildings Act will, for the first time, put in place a uniform smoking policy for all three branches of the Federal Government. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Ban on Smoking in Federal Buildings Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) environmental tobacco smoke is a cause of lung cancer in healthy nonsmokers and is responsible for acute and chronic respiratory problems and other health impacts among sensitive populations;

(2) environmental tobacco smoke comes from secondhand smoke exhaled by smokers and sidestream smoke emitted from the burning of cigarettes, cigars, and pipes;

(3) citizens of the United States spend up to 90 percent of a day indoors and, consequently, there is a significant potential for exposure to environmental tobacco smoke from indoor air;

(4) exposure to environmental tobacco smoke occurs in public buildings and other indoor facilities; and

(5) the health risks posed by environmental tobacco smoke exceed the risks posed by many environmental pollutants regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 3. SMOKING PROHIBITION IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS.

(a) SMOKE PROHIBITION.—On and after the 180th day after the date of the enactment of this Act, smoking shall be prohibited in any indoor portion of a Federal building.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) EXECUTIVE BRANCH BUILDINGS.—The Administrator of General Services shall issue regulations, and take such other actions as may be necessary, to institute and enforce the prohibition contained in subsection (a) as such prohibitions applies to Federal buildings owned or leased for use by an Executive Agency.

(2) JUDICIAL BRANCH BUILDINGS.—The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall take such actions as may be necessary to institute and enforce the prohibition contained in subsection (a) as such prohibition applies to Federal buildings owned or leased for use by an establishment in the judicial branch of the Government.

(3) LEGISLATIVE BRANCH BUILDINGS.—

(A) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The House Office Building Commission shall take such actions as may be necessary to institute and enforce the prohibition contained in subsection (a) as such prohibition applies to Federal buildings owned or leased for use by the House of Representatives.

(B) SENATE.—The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall take such actions as may be necessary to institute and enforce the prohibition contained in subsection (a) as such prohibition applies to Federal buildings owned or leased for use by the Senate.

(C) OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS.—The Architect of the Capitol shall take such actions as may be necessary to institute and enforce the prohibition contained in subsection (a) as such prohibition applies to Federal buildings owned or leased for use by an establishment in the legislative branch of the Government (other than the House of Representatives and the Senate).

SEC. 4. PREEMPTION.

Nothing in this Act is intended to preempt any provision of law of a State or political subdivision of a State that is more restrictive than a provision of this Act.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term "Executive agency" has the same meaning such term has under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term "Federal agency" means any Executive agency and any establishment in the legislative or judicial branches of the Government.

(3) FEDERAL BUILDING.—The term "Federal building" means any building or other structure (or portion thereof) owned or leased for use by a Federal agency; except that such term does not include any building or other structure on a military installation, any health care facility under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or any area of a building that is used primarily as living quarters.

(4) MILITARY INSTALLATION.—The term "military installation" means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other facility under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility. Such term does not include any facility used primarily for civil works (including any rivers and harbors project or flood control project).