

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L. LESHER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues.

Dr. Richard L. Leshar, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has announced that he will retire after 21 years of faithful service to the chamber and business communities across the country.

Dr. Leshar began his career by receiving his doctorate in Business Administration from Indiana University. Then, he worked as an assistant professor at the Ohio State University. From 1964 to 1969, Dr. Leshar was an assistant administrator at NASA during a period marked by exceptional achievement in space exploration.

Dr. Richard L. Leshar assumed the presidency of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1975. Since then, he has been devoted to advancing the interests of the U.S. business community. He played an instrumental role in developing Grassroots Action Information Network [GAIN], a service through which influential legislation was passed due to its membership. Dr. Leshar then steered the chamber's launching of the American Business Network, or BizNet. This network featured two award-winning television programs: "First Business" and "It's Your Business". Leshar is also a decorated newspaper columnist in the Voice of Business, which is distributed in over 600 newspapers across the Nation.

Dr. Leshar's accomplishments and contributions to business development were rewarded when he received the Associated Trends Executive of the Year Award. His hard work, dedication, and determination lead to this monumental award.

Dr. Richard L. Leshar's service and commitment to the business world are commendable, and Dr. Leshar's work is deserving of thanks and praise of the people of his industry. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Dr. Leshar, and wishing him luck and success in the future.

CONGRATULATING MS. JENNIFER GOODMAN, WINNER OF THE 1997 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ms. Jennifer Goodman of Clarksville, AR, for her winning entry in the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1997 Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. A senior at Clarksville High School, Ms. Moore is already an active participant in our Nation's democratic process—serving as senior class president, attending Girls' State, and serving as the district president of Future Business Leaders of America.

The Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program, which began 50 years ago, provides financial awards to students whose writing expresses the spirit of democratic principles. Ms.

Goodman's entry exemplifies the patriotism and self-sacrifice of those who gave their lives for freedom's sake.

I congratulate Ms. Goodman on her thoughtful and moving essay. Mr. Speaker, I just might borrow it sometime!

I would also like to thank VFW Post 8532 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Coal Hill, AR, for sponsoring Ms. Goodman. This Nation owes a debt of gratitude it can never repay to our veterans—those who served our country in times of crisis and who continue to serve our communities through programs such as this.

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

(By Arkansas Winner Jennifer Goodman)

Democracy, a form of government above and beyond. Democracy stood by our first president in the blood and snow of Valley Forge. It was there, when our nation was born with the wilderness at her back, stormy seas at her sides and not one friendly neighbor to call on for help, the democracy earned the right to be recognized. It's existence has been paid for with a price that few today can truly comprehend.

We see in our nation's distant memory those who gave their lives for it's existence. They died in places like Pork Chop Hill, Normandy, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Pearl Harbor and the Asian Jungles, half a world away. More than a million of our finest troops died for democracy's right to speak. They are buried in Flanders Field in France, the Punch Bowl in Hawaii, some in the mud or sand where they fell. They are gone, but they are not forgotten. Even though their lives were short, their fight for the right to democracy remains. Because of their sacrifice democracy has the right to speak, so we need to listen.

Democracy speaks to the heart of every nation, to all men, women and children of every race, creed and color. Listen to her message. No other nation with any other form of government is swifter to unselfishly spend billions of dollars, sail strange seas, fly unfamiliar skies to rescue a defeated besieged people with facial features, religions and ways of living that my seem odd by my standards, but democracy never noticed. For democracy only sees them as depressed hurting people crying for help. So democracy's defenders marched on leaving a trail of their own blood behind, as they liberated people they had never seen before and would never see again. When peace came from their efforts they simply went home to mom, asking no thanks, expecting no monuments, and surely not expecting to build a world empire, because that is not what democracy is all about. Democracy does not enslave other nations, it extends to them their own freedom. A chance for them to experience the way of life that only democracy, a form of government above and beyond all others, could share with them.

As Americans we need to be proud of democracy for no other form of government guarantees you the freedom that it does. Freedom to be whatever you want to be, a street sweeper or an astronaut. Freedom to travel from state to state, freedom to speak and to write. Freedom to praise or to criticize. Freedom to save and build a fortune that at the end of your life you may simply give away. Freedom to worship as our hearts and minds dictate. Freedom to vote, knowing that one vote can and does make a difference. Freedom not only to choose those who lead you, but to be a part of that body which does the leading. Whether it be a local school board member, a state representative or even the President of the United States, every citizen of a democracy can dream that dream if they so desire.

This summer I was privileged to visit our nation's capitol. There my heart was filled with pride as I viewed the great buildings that represent our democracy, the White House, the Capitol, the House of Congress, the Supreme Court. It brought to my mind what a great nation we have. But then I returned to my home town, Maine Street USA, just an average American city, yet very special to me. As I looked around I found that same sense of pride filling my heart once again, my city hall, my court house and yes, even my school. The question came to my mind, "Don't these buildings represent democracy also?" As I looked at the eternal flame on the court house square, which burns in memory of our honored veterans, I was reminded once again of those who gave so much to purchase the rights and privileges that I now have. May I never forget what they have given me, Democracy, a form of government above and beyond all others.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, in case you or any other Members missed it during the recent district work period, I gladly bring to your attention one of the most significant newspaper columns to appear this year.

It was written by James Glassman of the American Enterprise Institute and published August 12 in the Washington Post, which, Mr. Speaker, is never confused with a house organ of the Republican Party. It should humble us all in this body to read Mr. Glassman claim that as Members of Congress we have had little to do with the economic recovery and do well when we, and I quote, "get out of the way." Truer words were rarely spoken, but I can hardly resist adding that "getting out of the way" is exactly the thrust of many Republican policies and exactly the opposite of the party which controlled this House for 40 years.

But the most welcome truth in Glassman's column is credit national business leaders give, not to President Clinton, but the President Reagan for today's economic recovery.

Some might say, Mr. Speaker, that Ronald Reagan has been out of office for 8 years, which is true. But the column makes clear that we are now reaping the harvest for policies that took root during the Reagan years, so much so, in fact, that Ronald Reagan is the first politician listed by business leaders surveyed on the recovery. His policies are credited by 26 percent of those surveyed, compared to 14 percent for President Bush. Down near the bottom, at 8 percent, are the policies of President Clinton.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that any survey could find even 8 percent of business leaders who would credit the biggest tax increase in American history for anything positive. But the point remains. We owe Ronald Reagan a huge debt.

I gladly place the Glassman column in today's RECORD and urge all Members to read it.

THE REAGAN BOOM

(James K. Glassman)

Whose economy is this anyway?

Both President Clinton and Congress are eager to take credit for our 3 percent GDP

growth, 4.8 percent unemployment and 2.3 percent inflation—amazing figures, all.

But government doesn't make things or sell them. People and the companies they create do. What has happened in the past 15 years is that businesses are making things (and providing services) better and cheaper. Through risk-taking, hard work, good management and the exercise of sheer talent, the economy is booming.

What have Washington politicians done to effect this success? Practically nothing, except to have the sense, occasionally, to get out of the way. President Clinton and Hill leaders are little more than supernumeraries, bit players in this great economic opera, but they still can't resist shoving to the front of the stage for the curtain calls.

For instance, last week, it was particularly annoying to see both Republicans and Democrats reveling in the balanced budget deal—as though this fictive creation were revitalizing the economy.

The truth is precisely the opposite: It's the economy that is balancing the budget, not the budget that is boosting the economy. The reason the deficit has fallen from \$290 billion in 1992 to \$34 billion this year is that a tidal wave of tax revenues, generated by the private sector, has washed into the U.S. Treasury.

The figures are astounding. In fiscal 1992, the government collected \$1,090 billion in taxes. This year, which ends Sept. 30, it will collect \$1,578 billion, according to new estimates by the Congressional Budget Office.

Tax receipts are up 45 percent in five years, while inflation has risen only 14 percent.

In other words, the government is taking in \$488 billion more in 1997 than it did five years ago. Unfortunately, it is also spending \$231 billion more. If that rise in spending had only been kept down to the rise in inflation, we'd be running a surplus of about \$50 billion this year.

This flood of cash is not the result of higher tax rates. Yes, Bill Clinton imposed some increases in 1993, but they were paltry compared with Ronald Reagan's cuts in 1981 and 1986. The top rate, pre-Reagan, was 70 percent on "unearned" (meaning investment) income, 50 percent on earned income and 35 percent on capital gains. Those rates have fallen to a maximum of 39.6 percent for income and 28 percent (now 20 percent) for capital gains.

And what's happened? Revenues poured in, just as the supply-side economists predicted they would. In 1980, government tax receipts were only \$517 billion. Since then, they've risen 205 percent, while consumer prices are up just 85 percent.

If not higher tax rates, then what's the reason for the increase in revenues? Businesses are generating more profits, hiring more workers and compensating them better. And government gets a lower percentage of a much higher take.

But why are businesses doing so well? The best answers may come from the people who run them. Last month, Investor's Business Daily commissioned a survey of 200 CEOs and chief financial officers from the nation's largest publicly traded firms. They were asked "What triggered recent economic growth?"

Leading the list: productivity (making more with less). Second: Federal Reserve policies, which have helped keep inflation low. Next, in order: information technology, restructuring the globalization.

The first politician to appear on the list was Ronald Reagan, in sixth place. His policies were credited by 26 percent of the CEOs and CFOs as triggering the surge in growth. Farther down the list, at 24 percent, were "Bush policies." And near the bottom, at 8 percent, were "Clinton policies."

Now, I'll admit these captains of industry have GOP leanings, and their answers may be self-serving. But their answers have the force of logic.

Consider Silicon Valley, subject of a cover story in *Business Week*. How did it "reach its zenith?" the magazine asks.

"What we found was a huge brain trust, companies galore to service the tech machine, and a daredevil, risk-taking culture." No mention of an increasingly irrelevant Washington.

In fact, the CEOs and CFOs have it right. Reagan is the only politician who deserves credit for the rebirth of the American economy. But at his Aug. 6 press conference, Clinton could not resist taking a swipe at him. "In 1993," he said, "we abandoned supply-side, trickle-down economics." Nonsense.

Supply-side economics is still with us, and it's performed as advertised. In fact, the past 15 years, the longest stretch in U.S. history with just one shallow recession, should be called the Reagan Boom.

The incentives of lower tax rates and deregulation have encouraged more risk-taking, less diversion of valuable resources into tax shelters, more sensible investment and work.

Revisionism dominates the press today, but the facts were clear nearly a decade ago. "Measured in 1982-84 dollars, the income tax revenue collected from the top 10 percent of earners rose from \$150.6 billion in 1981 to \$199.8 billion in 1988, an increase of 32.7 percent," wrote James D. Gwartney of Florida State University in the "Fortune Encyclopedia of Economics." "In effect, lower rates soaked the rich."

The current flood of revenues is merely one result of what is literally a supply-side boom. For all this, politicians shouldn't be congratulating themselves. They should be thanking the robust private sector, plus, of course, Ronald Wilson Reagan.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND CHINA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, former President Jimmy Carter recently made a compelling case in the *New York Times* that good relations with China are not incompatible with an American foreign policy that places human rights at the forefront of our diplomatic agenda.

President Carter cogently argued that only through sustained dialog and interaction with the Chinese can we, over time, resolve the differences that separate our two nations and encourage the Chinese leadership to give the people of China the freedoms they so richly deserve.

I commend the article by President Carter and ask that it be placed in the *RECORD* so that colleagues who might have missed it can have an opportunity to study it.

IT'S WRONG TO DEMONIZE CHINA

(By Jimmy Carter)

ATLANTA.—I spent the spring of 1949 in the seaports of China as a young naval officer on my first submarine cruise. Nearly 30 years later, Deng Xiaoping and I normalized diplomatic relations between our countries. We knew that even with this opening, decades of patience and persistence would be required before the bonds between our greatly different countries would be firm and predictable.

I consider sound Sino-American relations, along with the importance of maintaining human rights as a foundation of American foreign policy, to be legacies of my Administration. These two goals are not incompatible, but can be reached only if we try to understand each other.

Americans have benefited from the unprecedented stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region made possible by close ties among the United States, China and Japan. But the greatest beneficiaries have been the Chinese people, whose quality of life and human rights have improved enormously during the last two decades.

Both China and the United States continue to share many interests: maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, controlling weapons of mass destruction, preventing conflict on the Korean peninsula and fostering open trade. Unfortunately, many Americans and Chinese have lost sight of the original vision that brought us together. Ill-informed commentators in both countries have cast the other side as a villain and have even forecast inevitable confrontation between the two nations. The accomplishments of a quarter century are at risk.

Since my Presidency, I have been to China periodically to discuss world and domestic affairs and to visit rural areas. On my latest trip last month, I met with President Jiang Zemin, Prime Minister Li Peng, the chairman of the National People's Congress, Qiao Shi, and other leaders. They expressed concern that our leaders are encouraging Japanese rearmament and extending Japan's defense perimeter to include Taiwan. They also deeply resent American sales of F-16 jet fighters and other weaponry to Taiwan, saying that these deals seem to violate pledges made to them by Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan and me.

We also discussed America's concerns, including the mounting trade deficit, human rights and particularly the treatment of the Tibetan people.

Mutual criticisms are proper and necessary, but should not be offered in an arrogant or self-righteous way, and each of us should acknowledge improvements made by the other.

Significant changes are taking place throughout China. There is no longer a single unquestioned government policy. Instead, China's top leaders have a wide range of opinions on such issues as the role of parliaments, expansion of the election process and privatization. Since normalization, an increasingly free economic system has transformed the lives of Chinese people. Farmers now retain profits on practically all crops planted on their land, and many villagers own their own businesses. Incomes and educational opportunities have also risen sharply.

Although congregations must still register with the Government, membership in Christian churches is booming. The pastor of the church we attended in Shandong Province knew of only 200 believers in his rural county after the Cultural Revolution, and they had no churches or Bibles. There are now 15 congregations in 11 churches, 3,000 members have been baptized, and Bibles are distributed freely.

A 1987 law mandates elections in nearly a million villages. Citizens can choose among multiple candidates, including those who are not members of the Communist Party, in a secret ballot, and many nonparty members have been chosen as village leaders. The Carter Center has observed some of these contests. Arbitrary power is still exerted by some political leaders, but progress is being made in promoting the rule of law. Some citizens are even bringing lawsuits against government agencies that violate their rights.