

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN M. TAXIN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late John M. Taxin, an outstanding Pennsylvanian and contributor to the unique character of the city of Philadelphia. On August 10, 1997, Mr. Taxin passed on at the age of 90 in his beloved city of Philadelphia. Born in 1906 as Morris Martin Taxin, he took the name John after the workers whom he sold produce to began calling him "St. John" for the kindness and charity he showed them when they were down on their luck. The name John has stuck with him ever since. Selling fruit from the back of a horse-drawn cart, Mr. Taxin became an entrepreneur at an early age. He soon had a booming wholesale business as one of the city's most successful purveyors of produce. During this time, he occasionally ate at Old Original Bookbinder's and thought that it could really be something special—if only it were run properly.

In 1940, with two partners, John Taxin bought Old Original Bookbinder's and within 5 years he owned the restaurant outright. During John Taxin's first year as the sole proprietor, it has been reported that Bookbinder's served 650,000 individual meals and generated close to \$10 million in revenue. John Taxin's hard work, shrewd business sense, and genius for public relations made Old Original Bookbinder's by the Delaware River, a favorite destination for visitors to Philadelphia and it continues to attract a who's who of the rich and famous. On any given day in the early years of John Taxin's ownership, diners at Bookbinder's might bump into Joe DiMaggio, Frank Sinatra or Danny Kaye.

In addition to his business success, John Taxin was famous for his philanthropy, his civic-mindedness, and his kind demeanor. Mr. Taxin was a major supporter of numerous charities including: the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Willow Crest-Bamberger Home for Convalescents, Israel Bonds, and St. Joseph's Hospital, where he purchased television sets for patient rooms, underwrote development of several wings and annually provided Christmas decorations. Quietly, John Taxin offered some Philadelphians a second change by providing them with employment after a period of incarceration. Of these employees he often told friends, "None of my guys ever let me down."

Mr. Speaker, in light of his kind and generous spirit, his many successful business ventures and his contributions to the city of Philadelphia, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to the late John M. Taxin.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CHACEY

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Michael

Chacey, an outstanding student from my district in Kansas. Recently, Michael won the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for the State of Kansas. The program is now in its 50th year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. "Democracy—Above and Beyond" is this year's theme and over 109,000 students participated in the competition nationwide.

Michael is a recent graduate of Derby High School in Derby, KS. For his participation in the 1997 Voice of Democracy Program, Michael won the \$1,500 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship Award. Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Chacey and he plans a career in biology or law. He was sponsored by VFW Post 7253 and its ladies auxiliary in Derby, KS.

Following is Michael's award winning contest entry.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: KANSAS WINNER MICHAEL CHACEY

"When people speak of government forms, they tend to speak of them in a hypothetical manner." "In a Perfect World, Anarchy would be the ideal form of government" or "On paper communism looks very good, it just isn't established correctly." Unfortunately these people leave democracy out of their hypothetical discussions. This is terribly disheartening, because whether in the real world, or in some imaginary, perfect one, the freedom, the liberty, and the decision making principles entrenched in a democratic society make democracy a form of government above and beyond all others. The best way to prove this is to compare democracy to other forms of government in both hypothetical and real situations.

For instance, in my English class the other day, we were talking about communism. My teacher said "Communism is probably the most ideal form of government, because it is the most universally fair for the people involved. The only reason it hasn't worked well is that no one has been able to set it up properly." Well, that in itself should show that maybe it's not such a good idea, but say, for the purpose of argument that it could be set up properly. Would it be so great? Decisions would still have to be made. How should we distribute our wealth? What taxes should be paid? Should we go to war with an aggressive nation? These are all questions that have to be answered by a government, and only one equitable way to do it comes to mind. Let the people affected by the decisions make the decisions, either directly, or through representation. Do you believe that the self appointed or military government form of communism or totalitarianism should make these decisions with little or no input from the citizens. Or, should a government, of the people, by the people, and representing the people's wishes make the choice that the majority of the people want? I personally believe the latter is the best. The only way to make sure that the people's wishes are carried out is to allow the people to choose the government. Moreover, they can replace any representative who fails to serve the people. Anarchy could not meet the citizens' needs due to lack of order, and due to lack of representation, no authoritarian government would be able to meet the people's wishes either, as time has proven. Only allowing the citizens to choose preserves their liberty.

Hypothetical situations aside, it is important to realize that it is not a perfect world, and these governments would not be set up

ideally. Winston Churchill once said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others. This is true because nothing is perfect. Unworthy men could always come to power. The government could always make poor decisions. But in a democracy, these problems can be solved. It is a self correcting government, which is the true power of democracy. The people have the power in democracy to replace the government officials. If representatives make poor choices, then the citizens in a democracy have the unique privilege to select new officials. Now, there is no guarantee that the people will make the correct decisions, but at least the government consists of individuals who at least the majority of the voters want, making it not only superior to other forms, but more fair.

I am proud to have a young man like Michael Chacey from my district. His remarks on democracy should be a reminder to us all that we are privileged servants in the best system of government in the world.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Istook amendment.

What we have is another attempt to do away with the title X program, which provides funding for family planning services. Services provided under title X reach out to many of America's teenagers who are already at risk in their everyday lives.

Family planning services are one way that these teenagers can receive guidance and education about issues confronting them about sex, reproductive health, contraception, and prevention of disease. By requiring teens to obtain parental consent in order to receive family planning services, and by mandating clinics to notify parents that their children are seeking such services, the Istook amendment will have the effect of decimating the entire family planning system in our country.

The teens we need to be most concerned about—the teens we are trying to prevent from having unwanted pregnancies or contracting a sexually transmitted disease—would become even more endangered if this parental mandate were to take effect.

Perhaps many people are forgetting what it means to be an at risk teen. At risk teens are not the children of many of us in this room today. At risk teens are not the children of parents they can talk to freely about many important issues and values that are affecting their everyday lives. At risk teens are more often trying to escape sexual or physical abuse within their own homes—even from their own parents.

I encourage every teenager to talk with their parents about these very important issues and parents to talk responsibly with their children. That is why I am in support of a substitute amendment offered by my colleagues, Mr. CASTLE and Mr. PORTER. The Porter substitute will require that title X programs encourage the involvement of parents when teens seek family planning services.

Encouraging parental involvement is important, and in an ideal world, all teens would have parents they could feel comfortable talking to and be able to sort out what kind of activity is appropriate. But in the real world, we cannot take away an opportunity for at risk teens to receive essential services, by forcing a mandate upon them that will not work in the real world.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the Istook amendment and support the Porter amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 9, I was necessarily absent from the House and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. I ask permission that the following explanation for each vote be placed in the appropriate place in the official RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "Nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 371, 372, 373, 374, and 377; and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 376, 378, and 379.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS E. WALDROP

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives my colleagues, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. WOLF, and me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to Mr. Thomas E. Waldrop, an outstanding member of the northern Virginia community. Tom is this year's Founder's Award winner from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation. The Founder's Award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated civic and humanitarian responsibility, and personal participation and leadership in northern Virginia community civic bodies. In addition, the award is presented to an individual who is contributing to improve the quality of life in northern Virginia through leadership in one or more of the following five areas: The arts, education, health, youth, and civic improvement.

Tom is an individual who has made a very strong positive impact on northern Virginia as well as the entire State of Virginia. He is a Virginia native who was born in Montpelier, VA on April 8, 1937. He received his higher education from Virginia schools. Tom received a bachelor's degree in economics from Randolph-Macon College and a master's degree in business from Virginia Commonwealth Uni-

versity. Tom also served his country, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958 to 1960.

Tom is currently the president and chief executive officer for Media General Cable which is headquartered in northern Virginia. He has served in that position since 1984. Since that time, Tom has directed the development of one of the Nation's largest and most sophisticated cable television systems. Tom's career with Media General Corp. began in 1967 when he started with Richmond Newspapers. He was quickly promoted and appointed the operations manager of Media General Financial Services at the beginning of 1968. Tom went on to serve as their vice president and as assistant general manager. After his success with the Financial Services division, Tom moved to Media General's Piedmont Publishing Co. where he worked as their business manager, and eventually became the general manager. He left Piedmont when he moved to Media General Cable in northern Virginia.

Tom has shown boundless energy and has made it a priority to work in his community to improve the quality of life for all of us. He works with a wide range of organizations that have made northern Virginia the dynamic, vibrant area it is. Northern Virginia's diverse community has grown dramatically since the early 1980's. It has been successful in maintaining a community atmosphere with the work of people like Tom.

Tom works closely with both the northern Virginia arts and business communities. He is in his fourth term as chairman of the board of directors of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. He also remains on the board of directors for the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax County Public School's Business Advisory, the Fairfax Symphony, the Northern Virginia Community College Education Fund, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Tower Club, and the Wolf Trap Foundation. In addition to all of these associations, Tom has previously served as the director of the American Heart Association's Fairfax Board and has chaired the development committee for "Spotlight on the Arts" in the city of Fairfax. He continues to demonstrate his willingness to lead the northern Virginia community in a wide range of areas.

Tom is also associated with a number of other activities where he volunteers his time and services to further enhance our community. He continues to work with the Northern Virginia Business Roundtable, the Virginia Opera's Northern Virginia advisory committee, and the corporate advisory committee for the Women's Center of Northern Virginia. Tom also works with national organizations to improve the quality of our cable television nationwide including serving on the board of directors for the National Cable Television Association and C-SPAN, the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network.

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in honoring and thanking Tom Waldrop for his achievements in working to improve northern Virginia for all of its residents. We appreciate all of his work in making northern Virginia one of the finest places to live and work. For those of us that know of Tom's commitment to northern Virginia, it is no surprise that the Northern Virginia Community Foundation has decided to award him their prestigious Founder's Award at a gala on October 24, 1997. It is a well deserved award.

THE 1997 BUDGET AGREEMENT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 6, 1997 into the Congressional Record.

THE 1997 BUDGET AGREEMENT

Congress and the President recently enacted a major budget agreement to reform Medicare, balance the budget, and provide tax relief to many Americans. I supported this agreement.

The budget plan is a major political achievement. For many years, the test of governance has been measured by the ability to cut budget deficits. Both sides gave ground, and both sides won major priorities. Most of the credit, however, should go to the booming economy. Historic growth and low unemployment have boosted revenues and reduced spending. The 1993 budget agreement helped reduce the deficit from almost \$300 billion to about \$40 billion today. In the final negotiations, new economic estimates gave negotiators just enough money to brush aside the last disagreements.

The tax bill appears to offer something for practically every powerful constituency—the middle class, older persons, parents, farmers, small businesses, college students, and investors. It would not offer much relief to single working adults or persons without children. It also includes about 80 narrowly-focused provisions, that benefit just a few individuals or businesses. These limited tax provisions could be subject to a Presidential line-item veto.

The five-year agreement will have only a modest impact on the economy. The tax cuts amount to less than 2-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of the country's economic output. They were designed to be small enough to have little impact on the economy, and they are affordable because of the economy's current strength. The spending cutbacks are equally modest from an economic perspective. But balancing the budget will show that the federal government can get its fiscal house in order, and it will lower interest rates and boost savings and long-term investment.

EDUCATION

The plan includes approximately \$40 billion in education incentives over five years, including the President's \$1,500 tax credit for each of the first two years of college, and up to \$1,000 for each of the next two years. Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will allow taxpayers to save \$500 per year for a child's education, with tax-free investment earnings. Finally, up to \$2,500 of student loan interest expense will be tax-free. While I am not convinced these changes will dramatically increase the number of children going to college, they will certainly ease the burden on families paying for higher education.

HEALTH CARE

The agreement helps curb rising health costs and the growing number of uninsured Americans. Medicare changes should ensure solvency through 2010, in part through more competition and choice in health care coverage. Provisions in the senate bill to raise the eligibility age to 67, increase co-payments, and means test benefits were not included in the bill. The budget provides health care to about 7 million children who currently have no health insurance. The health insurance deduction for the self-employed will rise to 100%.