

the School Site Council, Whittier Academy of Math and Science, Eisenhower Teams, Mexican-American Cultural Institute, National Education Association, California Teachers Association, Whittier Secondary Education Association, and the California Association for the Gifted. Also, he is the coordinator of the SAT Preparation Program and supervisor of the California Academic Partnership Program.

He was named 1996 California Teacher of the Year, in recognition of his leadership in the field of education and his unwavering dedication to our young people. He credits as his greatest contribution in education the creation of the Pioneer Math Academy. Established in 1991, each summer the Pioneer Math Academy serves over 500 students from grades 4 through 12. This program unites in a cooperative joint effort school board members, superintendents, administrators, teachers, parents, students, and college students, who serve as tutors, of three school districts, and provides service to over 40 schools. Everyone who participates in this truly worthwhile program comes away with a valuable and enriching experience.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to recognize California's esteemed 1996 Teacher of the Year, Javier Gonzalez, and ask my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his outstanding commitment to the education of our youth and to America's future.

TRIBUTE TO BILL GATES

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Bill Gates who was honored at the Allied Health Industry dinner.

Bill is the president of the Gates Co., in Clifton, NJ. The company is a manufacturer and distributor of United States and foreign flags as well as custom banners. They also sell and install flag poles. The Gates Co. is now 127 years old, having been established by Bill's grandfather in 1870 in New York and moving to New Jersey in 1904.

Bill served with the U.S. Navy in World War II in the South Pacific and is a member of the U.S. Navy League. After completing his service requirements and attending William Paterson College, he joined the family business and now carries forth a proud tradition and a sense of legacy.

Currently Bill is deeply involved with Wayne General Hospital, serving on the board of trustees for both the hospital and the foundation. Wayne General Hospital is the sponsor of an exploring program where over 30 young people get a first hand look at various medical careers.

Bill is a member of the Greater Paterson Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Regional Chamber of Commerce where he serves on the board of directors. He was an area code coordinator for the PolioPlus Campaign, and has been tremendously involved in the Paterson Rotary Club. He served as past president of the Rotary Club, governor's representative, St. governor's representative, chief governor's representative for three terms, and past district governor of District 7490 of the Rotary International. Additionally he is on

the board of the Action Theater Conservatory, a member of the Hawthorne Elks, the Genesis Masonic Lodge, a member of the Upper Montclair Country Club, and a former member of the Boy Scout Troop 20 in Paterson.

Bill and his wife, Joyce, reside in Wayne and are blessed with two daughters and three granddaughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Bill's family and friends, and the people of northern Jersey in recognizing Bill Gates' many outstanding and invaluable contributions made to the community.

REFORM THE IRS

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of congressional efforts to reign in and reform the Internal Revenue Service [IRS]. Many Americans believe that the IRS is an agency that is out of control. Far too often we hear reports that this agency terrorizes and threatens taxpayers. While many of the IRS's problems are admittedly linked to our far-too-complicated Tax Code, the agency's shameful mistreatment of taxpayers has other roots, as well. Instead of working on their behalf, the IRS treats too many taxpayers as criminals who are presumed guilty unless they can prove their own innocence. Unfortunately, because most Americans lack sufficient resources to fight the IRS in court, the agency's actions are often financially devastating to families and businesses.

That is why I have cosponsored the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1997, introduced by Congressman ROB PORTMAN, Republican, of Ohio. Our bill would implement the recommendations of the year-long National Commission on Restructuring the IRS, in order to provide taxpayers new protections and rights to assist in dealing with this overzealous agency. By improving customer service, expanding taxpayer rights, and overhauling the IRS's management structure, this legislation would provide badly needed long-term solutions to the problems that too many Americans experience with the IRS.

Most importantly, the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1997 would completely overhaul the Tax Code. Since the last major simplification of the Tax Code was passed in 1986, 4,000 amendments have been added to the Tax Code. A fairer, simpler, single-rate Tax Code offers the best hope for ending the IRS as we know it. But until tax simplification is in place, we need to take steps to correct these very real abuses and protect our constituents and taxpayers. That is why I strongly urge this Congress to take swift action to enact the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1997.

STATEMENT ON THE UNQUESTIONED INTEGRITY OF UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE STUART EIZENSTAT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in my decades of watching and working on Capitol Hill, I have never met a public servant of greater integrity and dedication than the Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, Stuart Eizenstat. Recent criticism involving him has prompted me to undertake an in depth review and analysis of his earlier private-sector work in the airline industry. My inquiry has only confirmed my unequivocal and carefully considered view of Mr. Eizenstat as a public servant of the highest integrity and impeccable action.

I profoundly deplore the absolutely unfounded accusations that have been made against him by special interests, who have a vested interest in an outcome contrary to the carefully considered and appropriate policy being pursued by the United States Government. It would appear that these interests are cynically using this totally unjustified and false criticism of this outstanding public servant in an effort to achieve their objectives through sleaze, innuendo, and falsehood.

I specifically wish to place in the public record the following information about Under Secretary Eizenstat in order to clarify this situation.

First, prior to his confirmation as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union, Ambassador Eizenstat listed over 30 clients with whom he would have no contact for a 1-year period. Ethics regulations require that an official recuse himself for 1 year from matters in which a former client is a party if the official believes that an appearance of a conflict would otherwise result. At the request of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Ambassador Eizenstat went even further. Because he had represented British Airways with respect to the USAir merger, he agreed not to participate in official matters involving this merger for the duration of his appointment as Ambassador and to consider carefully whether to participate in other issues involving British Airways, if any should arise. He fully honored this extensive commitment.

Second, after serving for over 2½ years as Ambassador to the European Union, he has twice been confirmed by the U.S. Senate, once in early 1996 as Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade and again in the spring of this year as Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs. In neither instance was he asked to limit further contact with British Airways or with any of his former clients. Indeed, he could not do his job in either position if he were required to recuse himself indefinitely from all matters involving his former clients.

Third, in his meeting with EU Commissioner Van Miert, he did not seek approval of the American Airlines-British Airways alliance. Rather, he presented a position of the State Department he himself had not participated in even developing. Instead he merely expressed concern that the European Union, in its consideration of the proposed alliance, not impose

anticompetitive conditions which would complicate an Open Skies agreement with the United Kingdom. He never talked with anyone from the Department of Transportation.

Fourth, more than 4 years after having any representation of British Airways, having had no financial interest in his former law firm's representation of British Airways, having had no contact with British Airways in any official capacity even to this day, and conforming to the letter and spirit of the ethics requirements, he has continued to act, as he has throughout his public career, with the highest ethical standards. Indeed, he continues meeting the highest standards and has now decided to go beyond anything required and recuse himself from further involvement on this issue until DOT makes its administrative finding.

Fifth, this is confirmed by the following statement which was approved by the highest ethics official in the State Department:

Under Secretary Eizenstat's recent discussions with EU officials regarding the British Airways-American Airlines alliance were fully consistent with Government ethical guidelines and regulations.

No law or regulation requires recusal in this case. Government ethics rules require that an official not participate in a matter only in two instances: when the official has a financial interest in the matter or when the matter involves in certain cases a former client whom the official represented within the last year. Neither instance applies here: Under Secretary Eizenstat does not have a financial interest in this matter; he last represented British Airways 4 year ago.

Under Secretary Eizenstat's 1993 statement of recusal on British Airways, referred to in the JOC [Journal of Commerce] article, resulted from his representation of the British Airways on a matter unrelated to the AA/BA [American Airlines/British Airways] alliance. The recusal was limited to the period when he served as U.S. Ambassador to the EU, a position that he no longer holds. Neither the law, the Congress, nor Government ethics officials required that he continue this recusal when he assumed his present position as Under Secretary.

His current recusal provides as follows: "Finally, I will recuse myself from participation on a case-by-case basis in any particular matter in which, in my judgment, it is desirable for me to do so in order to avoid the possible appearance of impropriety, despite the lack of any actual conflict." Both Under Secretary Eizenstat and Department ethics officials have believed that the Under Secretary need not recuse himself under this provision from discussions with the EU on the AA/BA alliance because 4 years have passed since he represented BA and because his representation of BA was on a different issue than the pending area.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor and privilege of representing California's 17th Congressional District and,

on behalf of all the residents of the central coast, I would like to commend to my colleagues' attention the 25th anniversary of Monterey-Salinas Transit.

The Monterey Peninsula Public Transit System Joint Powers Agency was formed by the cities of Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, and the County of Monterey on October 1, 1997. As the predecessor of Monterey-Salinas Transit, it served the Monterey Peninsula area, later expanded to provide service to the cities of Marina, Salinas, and Watsonville, now serving all of Northern Monterey County.

I am proud to claim that my district has been among the first in the country to promote community livability and sustainable development initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all its citizens. Monterey-Salinas Transit recognizes the benefit of sustainable development and the need to utilize clean technologies. One-quarter of the bus fleet is powered by clean natural gas [CNG] and future plans call for the total MST fleet and support vehicles to be fueled with CNG, a much more environmentally friendly source of fuel.

It is the foresight of the MST member jurisdictions that has enabled the transit service to be on the cutting edge of technology and service, with ridership of some 4 million passengers each year, including a paratransit van service for disabled customers, and a waterfront area visitor express service for tourists. As we stand on the threshold of the 21st century, I am pleased to commend Monterey-Salinas Transit for providing 25 years of exemplary public service to the central coast of California, and ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to wish them well on the next 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELO VOLPE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the most enthusiastic person I have ever met, Angelo Volpe, the president of Tennessee Technological University.

Angelo Volpe is a distinguished scholar and scientist that any university would be proud to have as a president. During Dr. Volpe's 10 years tenure as the president of Tennessee Tech, he has brought energy and a level of enthusiasm that is contagious to the entire community. As the founder of Sharing the Vision, a university-wide fundraising campaign, President Volpe has made the dream of college a reality for many students who could not afford tuition. He not only recognizes the value of a university education, but also acknowledges the need for a campus that meets a wide range of student needs. During his tenure, President Volpe has overseen the creation of a new library and a recreation and fitness center. These additions have greatly expanded student resources and added to the stature of the university.

Angelo Volpe's strong chemistry background is also an asset to the university. He came to Tennessee Tech from East Carolina University and I know they must still feel the loss of this talented and visionary man. His pursuit of scientific knowledge has made him a member in

good standing in such organizations as the American Chemical Society, the Tennessee Academy of Science, and a past president of the Tennessee College Association.

Although a Brooklyn native, Dr. Volpe has adjusted perfectly to southern life and has made Cookeville, TN his home. He is a tireless leader in the field of education and a prominent member of the Cookeville community and the Rotary Club. But no man is an island. Dr. Volpe has had the support and advice of his able wife, Jennette. Jennette has a Ph.D. in psychology and has been invaluable in assisting her husband with his duties as president of Tennessee Tech. They are active members of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and in the local community.

I am grateful that President Volpe will continue to lead Tennessee Tech into the 21st century. I know that with Dr. Volpe at the helm, this university will continue to prosper. He has given of his time, expertise, and energy to make Tennessee Tech an outstanding university and in turn, I would like for us to recognize his accomplishments today and wish him luck in the coming years.

REFORMING THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a series of letters between myself and the White House on the subject of reforming the Internal Revenue Service.

The correspondence sadly demonstrates how removed from the concerns of the American people the White House appears on this important topic. Last week, the entire country saw ordinary taxpayers as well as IRS agents and managers offer dramatic testimony on many of the outrageous practices of the agency. Apparently, the White House staff were the only people in the country not to be concerned about this abusive behavior.

I hope that the White House will join with millions of American citizens and commit to reforming the IRS immediately.

THE SPEAKER,

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 29, 1997.

President WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I was gravely disturbed to read the comments in the press today from your top economic advisor, Gene Sperling, on the subject of reforming the IRS.

Americans have watched with horror in recent weeks as hearings in the Senate and House have uncovered dozens of documented instances of gross incompetence, harassment, and abuse of authority by agents of the IRS. According to the testimony of past and current IRS employees—some of whom were forced to disguise their voices and hide their faces for fear of retaliation—it has been standard practice within the agency to target poor individuals who could not afford to fight and to measure agents' performance on the number and amount of seizures they make.