

greed. The Indian wars may be over, but the looting continues.

JEROME GROSSMAN ON WHO BENEFITED FROM THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, while I was pleased to vote for the minimum wage increase, I regretted that in effect this minimal act of social justice had to be purchased by tax reductions, some of which were unjustified from the standpoint of the maximum efficiency of the tax code. In the accompanying article, Jerome Grossman, a prime example of a businessman who has been both successful in private enterprise while being an active crusader for social justice, notes that the corporate sector benefited significantly more than the working poor from this legislation. I think the central point is relevant whether one supported the legislation or not because it is an example of how efforts to aid poor people are often exaggerated in their impact, while far more valuable benefits conferred on wealthier members of our society are often ignored. Mr. Grossman's article from the *Wellesley Townsman* is very relevant in this regard.

[From the *Wellesley Townsman*, Jan. 23, 1997]

WHO WILL REALLY PAY FOR MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE?

(By Jerome Grossman)

Democrats claimed their biggest victory of 1996 with the passage of a 90-cents-an-hour increase in the minimum wage. President Clinton cited this accomplishment in virtually every speech he made during his campaign for reelection. So did almost every other Democrat running for federal office seeking to prove that even though the Democratic party is in the minority, it can force through legislation.

The raise, which affected about 10 million workers, was the first increase in five years. It attained a unique moral status. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy wrote, "Because of those increases, we can be thankful today that the wolf is now farther from the door for millions of deserving American families . . . to do."

Initially, there had been fierce Republican opposition to the measure. House Majority leader Dick Armey of Texas had called the raise "a folly" and said he would "fight the minimum wage increase with every fibre of my being." Representative Bill Goodling, R-Pa., chairman of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, said, "For two years, this minority (the Democrats) was in the majority and they had the White House and not one word was ever mentioned about the minimum wage." In fact, while the Clinton administration eventually backed the increase, it was virtually ignored from the time Clinton first moved into the White House in 1993 until the election year loomed in late 1995.

The AFL-CIO claims that their incessant advertising scared Republican members of Congress in working-class districts and indeed a large group of Republicans broke with the party leadership in the House on the issue. Majority Leader Robert Dole fought the measure vigorously until we left the Sen-

ate, but, surprisingly, his successor, Trent Lott of Mississippi, lifted the GOP siege and let the increase pass. Kennedy gives Lott full credit.

The key to passage was the transformation of the bill from being primarily a workers' bill to primarily a business tax-break bill. As Goodling said, "We knew that just raising the minimum wage would be devastating unless you did the other things in this package, the tax changes."

Most of the tax breaks, which were originally designed to help small business, had bipartisan support. I suppose it could be argued that small business needed special help. Moralists could just as compellingly point out that all businesses have a responsibility to pay their workers a living wage, for the health of the workers and for their greater efficiency.

But in the deep recesses of congressional committees, without public attention, tax cuts were added that will benefit some of the largest companies in the United States, including Hewlett-Packard Co., Johnson & Johnson, Microsoft Corp., and Domino's Pizza Inc.

As usual, the numbers clearly show who are the primary beneficiaries of the minimum wage bill. Ten million workers will gain 90 cents per hour; total increased wages for five years equals \$6.8 billion. The tax breaks for employers in this bill will total \$10.1 billion over five years. That makes a net profit to business of \$3.3 billion. As recently as Dec. 1 the *New York Times* described the minimum wage as a Republican "surrender." A rather profitable "surrender"; the business lobbyists crying all the way to the bank.

Business cannot even take the high road and say to their workers, "We gave you a raise, we are paying you more, we did the right thing." Only we taxpayers can say that—because it is our money.

IN HONOR OF A GREAT MAN OF THE BENCH: FRED BORCHARD

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great distinction from Saginaw, MI—the Honorable Fred J. Borchard, who is celebrating 50 years in the judicial profession. Saginaw is extremely lucky to have a man like Fred Borchard serve on its bench. He has a great judicial mind, believes in the values of hard work and education, runs a disciplined and efficient courtroom, and tempers his decisions with compassion and common sense.

Fred Borchard grew up in Saginaw and put himself through the University of Michigan Law School by working at boiler and iron metal companies. Upon graduation, his law practice was put on hold almost immediately by World War II. Fred signed up with the U.S. Naval Reserve as an ensign, and then became a forward observer, where he went ashore in search of enemy gun fire and then signaled naval guns for fire power. He participated in landings at Leyte and Luzon, and then Okinawa where he was wounded by sniper fire. Fred received the Purple Heart Medal for his courage and commitment to this country.

Upon returning to Saginaw 3 years later, Fred won the seat of municipal judge, which he held for 7 years until he ran and won the

position of probate judge. In 1958, 4 years later, then Gov. G. Mennen Williams appointed Fred to the Saginaw Circuit Bench, making Fred one of few to serve in all three judicial posts.

Fred's long and auspicious career ended on January 1, 1989, at which time he was the oldest judge in the State of Michigan, a distinction he still holds since he continues serving on assignment. Fred also has the honor of being considered the Lou Gehrig of the bench, as he has the longest term of service.

In addition to his professional involvement with the Saginaw County and Michigan Bar Associations, and the Michigan Judges Association, where he served as president, Fred makes it a priority to be involved in civic organizations. He served as president of the University of Michigan Club, and belonged to the Kiwanis Club of Saginaw and the Arthur Hill Letterman's Club. He has served on the board of directors of St. Luke's Hospital and on the board of directors for the Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce and the Alcohol Information Center. He also involves himself with Big Brothers of America, the Lutheran Children's Friend Society, and numerous veterans organizations.

Fred Borchard is a credit to the legal profession and to the community. I am extremely proud to know him and to say that we have both represented the people in Saginaw.

ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST THE ODDS AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to host in my office eight true American heroes. They are the recipients of the Achievement Against the Odds Award and were recognized at a dinner in their honor this March 10. The awards program, developed by Robert Woodson's National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, seeks to identify everyday citizens who have overcome significant personal, physical, and/or economic challenges to improve their lives and the communities in which they reside. Among this year's winners are a former youth gang leader now dedicated to stopping violence and a man and wife who have overcome long-time substance addiction and gone on to revitalize their crime-ridden neighborhood.

It is vitally important that we recognize the everyday heroes all around us and shine the light on them for all to see. What a benefit to all of society to see how individuals can truly transform their own lives and that of their communities.

I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the inspiring life stories of these courageous individuals.

ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST THE ODDS RECIPIENTS
(Perry Brawley, Chicago, IL)

At the age of six, living in the notorious Cabrini Green public housing project of Chicago, Perry Brawley had been accustomed to an environment permeated with violence, drug trafficking and gang shoot-outs. But he had been excited about the prospects of joining the Jesse White Tumblers, an athletic performing group founded by a committed

legislator to help at-risk youths resist the lures of gangs and drugs. Hope of one day becoming a Tumbler helped Perry to resist the temptations that surrounded him. He followed that dream and was one of the many young children in Cabrini who spent their days practicing flips and jumps off discarded mattresses that littered the project's yard.

Perry's dream came true and Perry became a tumbler, channeling his youthful energy into constructive activity. 34 and a responsible husband, father, and community leader, he traces his success to his membership in the Tumblers, his coach and relatives who provided consistent examples and firm guidelines.

Today, Perry recounts that saying "no" to gang membership was not a simple decision but a continual process that demanded personal strength and external support. He explains, "The gangs attack a community or a kid like a cancer attacks a physical body, at any point of weakness. You have to be 100% strong in your commitment to stay out of the gang. If you waver or have a moment of weakness, they'll swallow you up."

The father of a ten-year-old son, Perry continues to live and work in the Cabrini neighborhood, reaching out of youth in the community and providing the opportunities, counseling, and mentorship they need if they are to make responsible life choices. Perry's service includes countless volunteer hours in the church, school and the Tumblers which has proved itself to be a life-salvaging oasis in the housing development. Perry now serves as the assistant coach and his son, Dejon, is also a Tumbler.

The young athletes have performed during half-time for numerous NBA and CBA games and recently appeared in the presidential inaugural parade. Yet, in spite of the celebrity the group has achieved, Perry continually reminds his young proteges that "Tumbling is a phase, but education is the key to your future." All of the youths are required to present their report cards to the coaches, and all Tumblers are required to maintain passing grades, and to stay out of gangs and away from drugs and alcohol. Perry explains, "For many of these kids, this is the first incentive they have ever had to follow the rules and to accomplish goals. Before the Tumblers, many of the kids felt that they had nothing to lose so they would try anything. But now there was something they wanted. They wanted to travel and be with their friends, to feel that they are valuable. The Tumblers fill a desire to belong and to have a 'family.' And the kids are willing to toe the line to have that."

LUCY ESQUIBEL, LOS ANGELES, CA

Lucy Esquibel grew up in the William Mead public housing development and was influenced by the drug trafficking, gang activity and crime she saw everyday. As a teenager she became heavily involved with a gang and rose quickly as a leader.

But as Lucy grew older, she came to understand that gang activity would ultimately be a destructive force in her life. Eventually, she became the mother of eight children and, more than ever, she felt a sense of responsibility and a desire to provide her children a stable, secure environment and prospects for the future. Rather than planning an escape from the housing development, Lucy committed herself to transforming William Mead to the kind of environment she wanted for her children and her neighbor's children.

For more than twenty years, Lucy's leadership skills, which were once used to promulgate gang activity, have been used to stimulate revitalization and development in her community. From personal experience, Lucy knows that it is not enough to tell young people to say no to gangs and drugs,

and that it is necessary to show them that opportunity and positive alternatives exist for them and their families.

Lucy has worked through William Mead's Resident Advisory Council to establish links with outside resources to provide services ranging from job training and placement, to youth activities, to medical care. Largely due to her efforts, the Boys & Girls Club and 4-H club now have offices in the neighborhood, and a computer lab offers its youth new realms of knowledge and information.

Through a parent-support initiative, Lucy also provides counsel and advice to single moms who are facing the challenges of raising young children and teenagers. Living within the community she serves, Lucy has firsthand experience of the challenges that its residents face, but she is also firmly convinced that resources exist so that everyone who has the vision and desire to succeed can pursue their dreams. Constantly seeking new avenues of opportunity, Lucy has developed plans for several community businesses, including a laundromat, a food co-op, and baby sitting that residents entering the workforce will need. A humble achiever, Lucy, explains, "I think everyone deserves a chance. I am what I am because someone gave me a chance and I want to offer that opportunity to others."

PETE JACKSON

Pete is the Deputy Warden of Programs for the D.C. Department of Corrections. His duties include supervising case managers, religious programs, recreation, academic and vocational training. He began his career at the D.C. Dept. of Corrections in 1988 as a Correctional Treatment Specialist. He also acted in various positions thus demonstrating exemplary ideas.

Pete's first introduction to the criminal justice system was as an inmate in the Lorton Youth Facility charged with Armed Robbery. Pete attained a barber license while there. He was well known and liked by his peers and clientele.

Upon release, he attended Clinton Jr. College and Federal City College where he attained his Bachelor's degree in sociology, minoring in psychology.

Pete has always been a community worker and humanitarian. Pete is the President and a founder for The Alliance of Concerned Men an organization that has obtained nationwide attention with community based program, this program has been featured in The Washington Post, The Washington Times, The Washington Afro and Fox News. The Alliance Concerned Men were also the official representative for the District of Columbia at the Gang Conference in Kansas City, April 24, 1993.

Pete has implemented and maintained great programs such as the Beliefs, Value, Image and Fear (BVIF) Programs, which teaches youth health attitudes and socially accepted value systems, this program works with hundreds of kids within the DC community, shelter and group homes. Another program is the Lorton Abridging Program, which teaches incarcerated fathers that their parental responsibility is not relinquished because they are imprisoned they are taught to stay in contact, be a father and part of their community in a positive light.

A new program which is being implemented is the "Prison Adopt-A-Block Program" in the District of Columbia. AMC's goal is to adopt high crime blocks throughout Washington, D.C., by "matching" a high crime neighborhood with respected elements of the inmate population who have earned the recognition of the prison population, received the allegiance from the residents in the community and of those criminals controlling high crime areas and who are able to call a "truce".

OMAR JAHWAR, DALLAS, TEXAS

Through the consistent example and committed outreach of Omar Jahwar, hundreds of young men have turned away from lives of violence, crime, and substance abuse and are now living productive lives with prospects for successful and fulfilling futures. Omar's outreach, entitled "Our Vision/Regeneration, Inc." combines spiritual awareness, internal transformation, and practical opportunities and includes the following projects:

Operation Hope, which provides food, fills immediate critical needs, and functions as a resource network for low-income residents of South Dallas.

The Bond Program, for youths aged 6-12, which links young people to mentors who expand their horizons and their sense of self through various cultural and educational activities, and,

"Regeneration" a 12-week gang-intervention program for youths aged 13 to 17, in which OGs (Old Gangsters) who have won respect and trust of the younger members serve as counselors.

Perhaps the most powerful portrait of Omar and the impact of his dedicated outreach is given in a firsthand account by one youth whose life he transformed, Eric Reavis, who nominated him for a 1997 Achievement Against the Odds Award. In Eric's words:

"Omar had always been a leader, but before he changed, that leadership was charged with hatred—hatred for other gangs or another race. After he met a mentor who helped him turn his life around, Omar's leadership skills and intelligence were used towards positive goals, helping other youths to make the change. Omar is incredibly powerful in reaching young people—because he is young himself (only 23), because he has personal charisma, and because he has remarkable strength of spirit. He is honest and sincerely committed and we recognize that right away.

"Omar helped us to understand how we could go beyond boundaries of racial hatred, and he always urged us to 'surpass our normal abilities' and to 'refuse to be mediocre.' He introduced us to all sorts of reading and philosophies and taught us that we could learn from everyone.

"Omar was continually there, believing in me, recognizing the skills and talents I had, and he never gave up, even when I slid back to old ways. Because of his commitment, I was able to undergo my own transformation."

JAMIE KELLY, TAMPA, FLORIDA

The daughter of a drug-addicted mother, Jamie grew up in an environment plagued with violence and substance abuse. At the age of 14, she left home for life in the streets where she too fell into a lifestyle of drug addiction and the crime that was necessary to feed that addiction. While in her teens, Jamie became the mother of two children and when she became pregnant with a third while addicted to cocaine, the state authorities intervened and put her older children in the custody of relatives. A family member adopted the new baby. Believing she had nothing to lose, Jamie fell further into a devastating downward spiral and was sent to prison for dealing in stolen merchandise. While she was incarcerated, Jamie underwent a transformation of heart and determined that her children would have a better future. Upon her release, Jamie enrolled in a technical school and graduated with a 4.0 average. She quickly found employment and, pregnant with her fourth child, doubled her efforts to provide a decent life for her family.

In 1995, Jamie met and married Lee Earl Kelly, Jr., and took a new job with the Corporation to Develop Communities (CDC) of

Tampa, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bettering the lives of East Tampa residents. She also began 500 hours of sweat equity service with Habitat for Humanity, helping with construction on various homes every Saturday for a year as a "down payment" on a new four-bedroom home for her family.

Jamie is now enrolled as half-time student at a local community college and works full-time at the CDC as a Data Specialist in the organization's Job & Education Placement Center. Many of the individuals served through this center have been referred by the local drug rehab facility, the Department of Corrections and public housing, and with a firsthand knowledge of the challenges they face, Jamie has been exceptionally successful in inspiring them to pursue the path to self sufficiency and employment.

FLORENCE PONZIANO, AUSTIN, TX

When Florence Ponziano first moved to the Montopolis area three years ago, she decided to help beautify the community and began single-handedly cleaning the local graveyard. Her loving personality began attracting children who would help her and come visit her house after school and on weekends, where they would read together, she would cook them meals, and give them guidance. One day she and the children decided to name her home the Comfort House, as it served as a safe "home away from home." Many of the children who frequent the Com-

fort House come from crack houses, families with a parent who is not involved or at home due to drugs or alcohol abuse, single parent families where a parent has to work numerous jobs to make ends meet, and families where a parent has AIDS and is physically unable to handle constant care of the children. Florence cooks for the children after school and on weekends—a time when many of them would otherwise not eat. She washes their clothes so they are not traumatized by going to school dirty, reads with them, helps them with their homework, and serves as a positive role model. She uses a large portion of the \$430 a month she receives on food and laundry detergent for the children's needs. Due to her financial situation, Florence does not have a washer and dryer in her home and does not own a car, so she puts all their clothes in the back of a little red wagon and off they go to the laundromat.

One thing about Florence's work with the children which especially touched me, besides her unconditional love for them, is her goal to teach them to give back to the community and instill in them a sense of responsibility for bettering themselves and improving the lives of others in the community. She and the children help paint houses, clean yards, and even cook for the elderly and disabled in the area, all free of charge. Many times she takes them on an outing to pick up trash on the neighborhood lots. This

spreads her volunteerism and impacts and improves the entire Montopolis community.

Florence also allows children to stay at her home anytime they need to. She often watches children for teen mothers who are attending school or work and will not ask them for or accept money from them. Florence's goal is to give the children, youth and teen mothers a chance at a better life. She emphasizes the importance of education, telling the children "reading and school are a joy." She also dedicates her time and works with students at Allison Elementary School.

In the three short years she has lived in the community, Florence through her determination and dedication has developed a network of businesses who often donate items to help her. She touches the lives of those she meets so much, they are inspired to act. They can visibly see how she is making a positive difference in the lives of the children, youth, elderly, and the community in general. Within the last year, many private individuals and businesses have donated playground equipment, toys, food and money to help her with the Comfort House.

In addition to businesses and individuals, Florence also works with the city and county officials to help elderly and disabled community members get necessary repairs to their homes completed. She even works with them to get the paint donated which she and the children use to paint their homes.