

Electronic Filing: The IRS should develop a plan to make it convenient for virtually all taxpayers to file electronically. We should not be spending taxpayer dollars on antiquated processing.

Restructuring: The IRS should be realigned by types of taxpayers: individuals, small businesses, large corporations, and excise taxes. Now, the IRS is separated into collection, processing, service, and auditing—divisions that don't work well together.

Amnesty: Taxpayers should not be liable for IRS mistakes. When the IRS gives taxpayers bad advice, they should not be penalized for following it.

CONCLUSION

The IRS is facing serious management problems and needs a comprehensive overhaul. Taxpayers have a right to demand more from the IRS. Talk of eliminating the IRS is largely political: as long as the federal government requires revenue, we need a way to collect it. But the IRS should be fair and efficient, and Congress must move forward on major IRS reform.

HONORING DR. MINA BISSELL

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Mina Bissell of Berkeley, CA, who will be honored this month by the Department of Energy. On April 18, 1997, Dr. Bissell will receive the Ernest Orlando Lawrence Award for her pioneering contributions to our understanding of the extracellular matrix and microenvironment in differentiation, programmed cell death, and cancer.

Dr. Bissell's outstanding dedication as the director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Life Sciences Division has resulted in tremendous scientific discoveries. Among these was identifying the extracellular matrix, a network of proteins that surrounds and supports breast cancer cells as a crucial regulator of normal and malignant breast cancer cells.

Dr. Bissell was born in Iran, where she was the top high school graduate in the country and received a scholarship to study abroad. She came to the United States and studied chemistry at Bryn Mawr College, before transferring to Radcliffe College.

After earning her Ph.D. in microbiology and molecular genetics at Harvard University, she came to the University of California at Berkeley to conduct post-doctoral research. Since joining the Berkeley Lab in 1972, Dr. Bissell has worked tirelessly to increase our knowledge of cancer in the hope of someday finding a cure.

Dr. Bissell's tremendous success is largely due to the unorthodox approach she used in her research. Rather than searching for new cancerous genes, as most cancer researchers were doing, she focused on studying the changes cells go through as they develop, aiming to precisely define normal cell behavior.

This research led to many important conclusions about malignant cells that were considered heretical at the time but have since been shown to be correct. Today, thanks to Dr. Bissell's persistence and initiative, it is widely accepted that the extracellular matrix plays an

important role in the spread of cancer and other abnormalities.

A driven researcher, Dr. Bissell motivates her collaborators and students with her passion for science. These traits have made her an effective leader as well as an accomplished scientist. Through her decades of dedication, Dr. Bissell has earned the respect and admiration of the cancer-research community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me today in honoring the invaluable achievements of Dr. Mina Bissell and in wishing her continued success in her research.

IN RECOGNITION OF AUDIO CRAFT CO., INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the achievement of Audio Craft Co., Inc., a specialty retailer of home entertainment and mobile electronics which recently was a finalist for the National Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics from the Better Business Bureau.

Audio Craft Co., Inc. employs 75 people in Cleveland, OH. The company was established in 1954 and has set a standard for customer service ever since. Audio Craft regularly exceeds its customer's expectations through rigorous training its staff and by standing behind its guarantees. Audio Craft offers a 30-day, no questions asked return policy. It empowers its employees to make decisions regarding repair and replacement. Audio Craft has an excellent repair shop. Audio Craft's advertising is factual and well designed.

For the past 12 years, Audio Craft has been the recipient of the coveted Audio/Video Best Retailer Award and the Better Business Bureau of Cleveland, OH honored the company with a top place award for customer commitment in 1995.

Audio Craft is actively involved in the support of the Northeast Ohio Alzheimer's Association through the Albums for Alzheimer's Program, which was created by Audio Craft and has grown to become a national and international program.

To become a finalist for the Torch Award, a company must have demonstrated a commitment to ethical practices in the marketplace; high standards of behavior toward customers, employees, suppliers, shareholders, and their communities; truthfulness and accuracy of advertising and sales practices; and training and communications programs designed to assist employees in carrying out established ethics policies.

AMERICAN FAMILIES DESERVE TAX RELIEF

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, Americans should keep more of their own money. They should keep more so that they can invest in their children's future, or purchase a home, or start a small business.

Yesterday, the Tax Foundation—as it has done for the past 25 years—announced that the average American will have to work 128 days for the Federal Government before he or she can begin to work for themselves and their families; 128 days, Mr. Speaker. That means that they still have 3½ weeks to go before May 9—the day they stop working for the Government.

A lot of folks talk about the different ways to achieve tax reform or tax simplification—many of which I support. But it seems to me that the best thing for the American people is to just give it back. Instead of new programs and new bureaucracies, give back to the American people some of their hard earned dollars.

This is not a new idea at all. John Kennedy did it in 1962, and so did Ronald Reagan in 1981. It is not a difficult concept. When you give back to the American people what already belongs to them, they reward the economy by investing and spending more.

This is easy, Mr. Speaker. American families deserve tax relief. Support House Resolution 109.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID E. ORTMAN FOR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to one of my constituents, David E. Ortman, who stepped down in February as director of the Northwest Office of Friends of the Earth to become director of the Seattle-based Wise Use Movement. On this first day of Earth Week, it is most appropriate to recognize his career dedicated to the protection, restoration, and rational use of our planet's natural ecosystems and precious resources.

Mr. Ortman began working for Friends of the Earth in 1975 through the Mennonite Voluntary Service program. His endeavors for Friends of the Earth encompassed a broad array of environmental and humanitarian issues. During the late 1970's, he worked with the Alaska Coalition in urging Congress to designate Federal land in Alaska as national parks and wildlife refuges. He participated in the United Nations Habitat Conference in Vancouver B.C., as well as the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in New York.

In the 1980's David's work on wetlands and coastal issues culminated in the establishment of the Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Washington.

In the 1990's, David organized the Seattle Citizen Host Committee for the 1993 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation conference, working with labor unions, environmental organizations, and human rights groups to develop and publicize new approaches to international trade policy.

Mr. Ortman has testified before congressional committees many times during the past 21 years addressing such diverse matters as trade, forest habitat, wetland and coastal ecosystems protection, oil spill prevention, and the Panama Sea Level Canal. He authored a number of position papers for Coastal Zone Management conferences, served on the Department of the Interior's Outer Continental

Shelf Policy Advisory Committee, and on the Aquaculture Assessment panel for the Office of Technology Assessment. In addition, Mr. Ortman is a founding board member of the Puget Sound Alliance and of Earth Share of Washington.

David's work has earned him awards from the Seattle and Black Hills Audubon Societies. The Young Alumnus Award from Bethel College, Kansas, and the national Chervon Conservation Award are among other acknowledgments of his commitment to the environment.

Mr. Ortman plans to continue this work as director of Wise Use Movement. He will lead this organization's campaign to preserve and protect wise use of public lands and resources, to educate the public, and to promote environmentally sound regulation of private lands and activities.

Mr. Speaker, our natural habitat is healthier and the diversity of our ecosystems more sustainable thanks to the work of David E. Ortman, a true world citizen. I thank him for his many years of hard work, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES AND MARGO BITTNER

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James and Margo Bittner, of Barker, NY, for being chosen as Outstanding Young Farmers for the years 1997–98 by the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

James Bittner is president of Niagara County Farm Bureau and managing partner of Singer Farms. Jim and his wife, Margo, operate a 450 acre farm that produces apples, sweet and tart cherries, peaches and pears. The Bittners are long-time residents of western New York and have made significant contributions on behalf of farmers in Niagara County and the entire community.

I would like to share with my colleagues a resolution passed by the Niagara County Legislature commending the Bittners for their hard work and congratulating them for their achievement:

Whereas, agriculture and farming are the County of Niagara's leading industry, and

Whereas, the Niagara County Legislature knows the importance that agriculture plays in the economy of Niagara County, and

Whereas, each year the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce awards excellence to individuals who display outstanding achievement in farming, and

Whereas, James and Margo Bittner of Barker, New York, operate a farm which totals over 450 acres of land, with 250 acres of apples, 50 acres of sweet cherries, 30 acres of tart cherries and 20 acres of peaches and pears, and

Whereas, the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce named the Bittner's Outstanding Young Farmers 1997–1998 for New York State on November 16, 1996, now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Niagara County Legislature does hereby commend James and Margo Bittner on a "job well done" and offer sincere congratulations on being awarded such a prestigious title.

I am pleased to join the Niagara County Legislature in commending and congratulating

James and Margo Bittner for this well-deserved recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE GAMBRELL DRAYTON

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joyce Gambrell Drayton in honor of her lifelong dedication to the art of sacred choral music. Ms. Drayton has lived in Philadelphia all her life, and has enriched our community with her musical talents since her early days playing organ for the Nazarene Baptist Church School Choir.

Ms. Drayton has served over 37 years in the Nazarene Baptist Church, where she is the organist for the senior choir, the Davis Gospel Chorus, and the women's chorus. In addition, Ms. Drayton is the organist and director of the Hardeman Gospel Chorus of the Hickman Temple AME Church. In 1987, Ms. Drayton added to her accomplishments when she was appointed director of the City Wide Revival Choir.

Ms. Drayton's latest project is the publishing of "Distinguished Church Musicians in the United States," a book she hopes will bring recognition to her craft and attract more young people into the field of church music.

Ms. Drayton was recently honored at a dinner reception at the Nazarene Baptist Church in Nicetown, Philadelphia. I would like to take this opportunity, and I hope my colleagues will join me, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing Ms. Drayton for her contributions to Philadelphia's musical tradition and commend her for her dedication to her craft.

HON. TED WEDEMEYER, JR., NAMED AS 1997 PAL JOEY RECIPIENT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Ted Wedemeyer on being named the 1997 Pal Joey Award recipient by the St. Joseph's Foundation, Inc., of Milwaukee, WI.

In honoring Ted, the St. Joseph's Foundation is recognizing a man who has done so much for the community he loves. His commitment to justice is evident in his distinguished career on the circuit court and currently as presiding judge of the First District Court of Appeals, and in his volunteerism with several community organizations, including the St. Joseph's Foundation.

Ted Wedemeyer has shown his dedication to the Milwaukee area throughout his entire life. Over the years he has been committed to improving the lives of many of Milwaukee's citizens through his involvement with organizations including the Wisconsin Children's Service Society, Wisconsin Easter Seals, and the American Legion, just to name a few. His many years of loyal service to the St. Joseph's Foundation demonstrate his desire to make

Milwaukee an even better place for all of its citizens. For this reason, the St. Joseph's Foundation wishes to honor Ted by awarding him with the 1997 Pal Joey Award.

Ted Wedemeyer has clearly set an example for all of us to follow. Congratulations, Ted, this is an honor that is well deserved.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BIPARTISAN LINE-ITEM VETO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by my colleague from California, Representative GARY CONDIT, in proudly introducing a bipartisan resolution to amend the Constitution to provide the President of the United States with line-item veto authority.

On April 10, the U.S. District Court ruled unconstitutional the Line Item Veto Act of 1996 which was a statutory version of this much needed authority to rein-in Federal spending. On the eve of the deadline for hard-working folks to file their Federal income taxes, this court's ruling denied American taxpayers an important protection against wasteful spending. It is time to put to rest the constitutional questions surrounding the line-item veto by passing the constitutional amendment we are introducing today to give the President the explicit authority to zero-out special interest goodies tucked away in the fine print of large spending bills.

Forty-three of our Nation's governors have a line-item veto at their disposal, and it works. Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson used the line-item veto hundreds of times to save the taxpayers of Wisconsin close to \$3 billion. In Massachusetts, Governor William Weld used the line-item veto to help eliminate an \$850 million deficit in his first month in office and resolve a \$1.8 billion structural deficit within the first 6 months of his term. While Governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton repeatedly balanced his State's budget, and an important tool that helped him do so was the line-item veto. The evidence is clear and convincing that the line-item veto saves taxpayers money, and the Congress should answer the 14-year-old call issued by President Reagan to pass the line-item veto amendment.

Mr. Speaker, we tried the legal approach and a Federal court said it will not work. We have yet to hear from the Supreme Court, but the prospects look bleak. So, here we are at the end of tax season and the American public is denied line-item veto protection by a Federal court. We must put an end to the constitutional debate by providing the President the explicit authority of the line-item veto. What would have been good for Presidents Reagan and Bush would be good for President Clinton and every future American President. The line-item veto amendment we are introducing today will guarantee the validity of Harry Truman's adage that "the Buck Stops Here"—right at the President's desk. I urge my colleagues to adopt this most important fiscal tool to ensure that taxpayers never again witness the day when wasteful special interest spending can sneak its way into law.