

have a part in the new history, the history mankind is now beginning to write.

I did not find his remarks presumptuous, as some did, because I believe we have a lot that we can learn from Chile. Chile was in a period of stagnation and suffered many of the budgetary perils that exist today in the United States. But Chile rose above it. Chile today has sustained 14 years of growth averaging 7 percent annually.

Real annual wages have risen over 4 percent. Per capita income has doubled in Chile in just the last decade. Chile's savings rate is close to 25 percent. All of this has been achieved not in spite of but as a direct result of 5 consecutive years of balanced budgets and fiscal surpluses.

Listening to President Frei, I was most impressed how he described the character of the Chilean people and its leaders. He said: We have learned to be patient. Chile does not begin anew with each election. Rather, we build on our creativity and on our work.

We are well aware that we have a unique historic opportunity to achieve full development in a free market of political freedom. We value our achievements but we give equal attention to the challenges that are ahead of us.

Mr. Speaker, I say that balancing the budget is about discipline, the discipline to do the right thing, the discipline to tell the American people the truth. With annual revenues of \$1.45 trillion, the Federal Government spends more than \$1.56 trillion each year. That means that the Government spends \$4.3 billion every day, \$178 million every hour and \$3 million every minute. That also comes out to be \$50,000 per second. But more important, it means that the President and Congress cannot do what American families do every single day, and that is to spend only what they have.

We have reached a historic accord with the President now, one that will balance the budget by the year 2002.

It came as a result of compromise and fair dealing. The Republicans in the House and the Senate have dealt with the administration in a direct and honest fashion, negotiating in good faith. Now it is up to the Democrats to meet us at this historic crossroads. This country has a great history of standing up to whatever challenges God sends our way. When we were oppressed, we fought for independence against overwhelming odds. When tyranny threatened our neighbors, we stood up against it and conquered it twice. When poverty sapped our Nation's energy, we rose from it to retain our place as the greatest Nation in the world.

Today we face similar challenges. One of the most important things President Frei said was that his countrymen did not need excessive government in their lives. He said: Our people want no more paternalism. They are ready to forge their own destiny.

Now we have come to an agreement on the budget. Americans should be calling on Members of Congress from both parties to sign on the dotted line and to pass this balanced budget.

With this balanced budget, we will provide \$85 billion in tax relief over 5 years. It is not as much as we conservative Republicans think the American people deserve, but it will mean a child tax credit, death tax relief, capital gains tax relief, expanded IRAs and relief for parents who send their kids to college. This balanced budget saves Medicare for 10 years, providing America's seniors more choice and enacts real reforms that slow the growth of spending by \$115 billion over 5 years.

In addition, it provides funding for domestic priorities, including transportation, housing and education.

I will fight for this balanced budget so that we can secure freedom for the future of all Americans and those Texans that live within the Fifth District. My constituents deserve leadership that tells them the truth, that can make tough decisions and that will make their life better.

Like Chile, our character is strong enough to withstand the path to a better future for our children.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a growing group of Americans who are at the heart and soul of America's thriving economy, America's small business owners. During this week, Small Business Week, I want to recognize small business owners for their contributions to our economy, our society and our communities. At the heart of every small business owner is the entrepreneurial spirit which our forefathers founded and build this country. It is this spirit and heart which has kept our business competitive for the past 200 years. In today's marketplace we can see large multinational corporations facing competition from small businesses making use of the Internet to expand their markets and competing with their counterparts from across the world. When we have small business owners striking out on their own trying to make a life and a living for themselves, we cannot afford to stifle the entrepreneurial spirit by overtaxing them.

Small businesses constitute 98 percent of all businesses in America. They employ nearly 60 percent of the work force. In addition, small businesses have created about two-thirds of the net new jobs in the American economy since the early 1970s. However, the government continues to impose policies like the burdensome death tax on small business people who wish to pass their business onto their children. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, we must recognize and assist those who make small busi-

ness work for America, those who show the drive, initiative and imagination to make themselves, their business and their communities a success so that our economy can continue to grow.

One of these individuals is a young woman from Rushville, Illinois, a small town in west central Illinois. Judy Robbins was a hopeful small business owner in Rushville who wanted to start a dance studio but really had no plan, knowledge on how to start one. Judy decided she would take the initiative herself, and she signed up for a 4-week course at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs under the Small Business Development Council.

During the 4 weeks of her small business course training, Judy learned how to formulate a business plan, pool her resources and start a business of her own. She spent the next 4 months attempting to convince a bank to finance her business plan, finally finding an institution which would finance her idea for a dance studio. Shortly after, Judy started the dance center, dance studio, and I am happy to say that hundreds of dance steps are being performed on a daily basis in downtown Rushville today.

Mr. Speaker, Judy Robbins is a shining example of a classic American dream coming true. The American entrepreneurial spirit can and will thrive without excessive paperwork and burdensome taxes. Small business is the epitome of what is right with America and what is right with the free market. The more regulated and burdened this market becomes, the more small business owners will be unable to do their jobs and create jobs for others.

We must stop overtaxing our small businesses and hurting our economy by retaining the death tax. When we see a small business owner from our districts this week, thank him or her for contributing to the growth of our communities and our economy.

ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BRADY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, today on Capitol Hill there were a number of representatives of the National Federation of Independent Business, the organization that represents more than 600,000 of our small and independent entrepreneurs in America, led capably by Jack Farris.

They were here today to talk about government and about the role it plays in stifling small business and the jobs they have the potential to create. It reminds us and helps remind us that small business is the engine of our economic growth in America. They are the quiet, very quiet heroes of our American economy.

We all know that most of the jobs in America are created by small businesses, but they are creating jobs at 8

times the rate at small businesses than are created in the larger companies with 500 or more employees. In fact in 1995, there were 800,000, 800,000 new businesses started in America, a 5 percent increase over the year before.

Not only do these small businesses help our economy, but they help stimulate the economy in our community as well. They have a ripple effect each time one is created. A business with up to 100 employees not only brings new families and school children to our communities, but they also spin off another retail establishment to help support it. They create over half a million dollars in retail sales within that community and over a million dollars of more personal income to be spent to generate the local economy.

Not only do small businesses stimulate the economy, they always give back to the community in which they live. Employees of small businesses, by research, are more charitable, give back to their communities, give more donations to the service providers that help our community run.

These quiet heroes are all around us. Recently in a local newspaper, the Family Image, which is run by an entrepreneurial company, Ron and Barbara Frazier, who like to reinforce the family values that are the foundation of our country, there is a profile of a small business, of a small businesswoman K.C. Choe. She is owner of Schlotzsky's Restaurant on 1960 West near the intersection with I-45 in north Houston.

K.C. was born in Seoul, South Korea, came to America after high school and in 1979 became a U.S. citizen. After working in the Houston hotel for three years, she caught the entrepreneurial spirit of this country and bought a restaurant in 1984 that her mother helped her buy. That restaurant became Schlotzsky's later in 1995. K.C. and her coworker Tammy Karpas work 70 hours or more a week. Her mom works there as well and helps take care of K.C.'s 12-year-old son Joey, who attends Twins Creek Middle School in Spring, TX, and K.C., Tammy and her mom work there day in and day out providing quality service to their customers.

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She and her family have faced a thousand challenges to keep that company alive and growing and prospering, and like a lot of businesses, it is hard to believe the type of regulation and the challenges they are up against that government helps create.

Recently Herman Cain, who is the chairman and CEO of Godfather's, jotted down in a local magazine, Success Magazine, some of the regulations that they face, just Federal regulations, that a typical restaurant in our communities will face, and it is amazing. Let me read just some of these organizations and agencies they have to comply with.

The Department of Justice, for accessibility to disabled customers; Bureau

of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, for the occupational tax for alcohol sellers; Occupational Safety and Health Administration, for blood-borne pathogen program for employees who give first aid; the EPA, for car pools for employers in high pollution areas and cooking emissions in high pollution areas; Department of Justice, for copyright law and restaurant music; Food and Drug Administration, to comply with egg refrigeration standards; Department of Labor, the Family and Medical Leave Act; the grease trap waste disposal regulations by EPA; health claims and restaurant food regulations by the Food and Drug Administration; health benefit plans and Americans with Disabilities Act by the EEOC; the Immigration Control Act regulates them as well.

Job application forms and the questions they can ask are regulated of their employees are regulated by the EEOC. Their lockout and tagout requirements are complied with through OSHA; minimum wage is determined and audited by the Department of Labor; the national origin discrimination is regulated by the EEOC; the FDA regulates the nutrient-content claims and restaurant food.

The IRS, of course, outlines overtime pay rules and the payroll tax deposits. The Department of Labor has the ban on the polygraph for employee testing. The Department of Labor has regulations on restaurant closings and advance notice to employees; the EEOC, sex discrimination; the IRS, tipping-income audits. The Department of Labor has uniforms and deposits; the National Labor Relations Board, the union contracts; the Department of Labor has the Veterans' employment rights; and earned income credit payment, the IRS regulates that on the W-5 form. And those are just the Federal regulations.

Restaurants also have to, even the smallest restaurants, also have to comply with State permits and regulations, city health inspections, and other registration requirements.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce this kind of burden on people like K.C. and other independent businesses, small businesses especially. Again, these are the quiet heroes, Mr. Speaker, that we honor this week.

CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey Mr. PAPPAS is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to small businesses in our country. As many people know, across our country this week we are celebrating small business week throughout the 50 States of our great country. Many of us earlier today participated in a ceremony on the steps of this building with members of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

Many people believe that small business is the engine that is driving our economy. In fact, more than 99 percent of the Nation's employers are employers that are considered small businesses. Most of the job growth that takes place in our economy in the United States is driven by small businesses.

I am very pleased to be a part of a Congress that has committed itself to fostering and moving forward legislation that would be supportive of small business. And when I say supportive of small business, I mean to really allow small business to function, to allow small business to operate unhindered and not to take the approach of throwing stumbling blocks, which, unfortunately in the past, was done. I do not believe intentionally, but that was the practical application of so much that emanated from this city, Washington, D.C.

Joining the 105th Congress was an honor for me and certainly is a privilege and continues to be so, but as someone that is a product of small business, I am very happy to be a part of a group of Members that is trying to be sensitive to the needs of small businessmen and women throughout our country.

I am a member of the Committee on Small Business. When I had the opportunity to submit to the leadership of my party which committee assignments I was interested in serving on, small business was one of my first choices. Some here do not necessarily view the Committee on Small Business as being the first tier, but I certainly believe that it is a first tier because of what it means to so many of our fellow American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I just want to thank the Speaker for the supportive approach he takes personally, and so many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to the functioning of small business. I am looking forward over the next several months to continuing to move forward pieces of legislation that will once again be supportive of the entrepreneurial spirit that has made this country the wonderful country that it is, that enables people to get ahead, to provide for greater opportunities for themselves, for their families and for future generations. That is what our focus should be and that is what one of my main focuses is.

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey Mr. PALLONE is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have been active in trying to provide health care coverage for uninsured children, and since the last Congress Democrats developed the Families First Agenda that basically puts families first and insists that there be, as