Award'' from his Science Club. Victor has also participated in two of North Carolina's prestigious summer programs for academically gifted youth, the North Carolina Governor's School and Summer Ventures in Math and Science. He plans to attend North Carolina State University in my Congressional District in the fall.

As a former Scout leader myself and a recipient of the Boy Scouts' Silver Beaver Award, I know the difference that Scouting can make in young lives. Scouting instills important values in young men that leave a lasting imprint and the experience gained through Scouting will continue to serve Victor well.

I was honored to present Victor with his Eagle Scout Award on January 17, 1999. I congratulate him on this momentous achievement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, on opening day of the 106th Congress, I, along with my colleague Mr. STARK and a broad bipartisan group of our colleagues introduced the Structured Settlement Protection Act, H.R. 263.

This bill would address the serious public policy concerns that are raised by transactions in which so-called factoring companies purchase recoveries under structured settlements from injured victims.

Recently there has been dramatic growth in these transactions in which injured victims are induced by factoring companies to sell off future structured settlement payments intended to cover ongoing living and medical needs in exchange for a sharply-discounted lump sum that then may be dissipated, placing the injured victim in the very predicament the structured settlement was intended to avoid.

As long-time supporters of structured settlements and the congressional policy underlying such settlements, we have grave concerns that these factoring transactions directly undermine the policy of the structured settlement tax rules. The Treasury Department shares these concerns.

Because the purchase of structured settlement payments by factoring companies directly thwarts the congressional policy underlying the structured settlement tax rules and raises such serious concerns for structured settlements and injured victims, it is appropriate to deal with these concerns in the tax context.

Accordingly, H.R. 263 would impose a substantial excise tax on the factoring company that purchases the structured settlement payments from the injured victim. The excise tax would be subject to an exception for genuine court-approved hardship cases to protect the limited instances of true hardship.

Mr. Speaker, too many Americans have been taken advantage of through the purchase of structured settlements by factoring companies. I urge my colleagues to join me to end this abusive practice.

TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD PROGRAM (TAP) ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, when children leave their families to make it in the world, they often do so in stages. The first step for many is to go away to college while still depending on their parents for tuition and living expenses. Others attempt to work immediately, but they also might rely on their family for financial assistance, not to mention emotional support. However, there is one group of young Americans that are required to become completely self-sufficient on their 18th birthday—kids aging out of foster care. The cruel irony of course is that this population is perhaps the least capable of becoming fully independent at such a young age. These kids have to deal with all the traumas and difficulties associated with being removed from their family because of abuse, neglect or abandonment and then being placed in one, two, three or more foster homes. This is hardly the most solid foundation from which to build the rest of their lives.

Repeated studies have illustrated that a sink-or-swim policy for children aging out of foster care has resulted in many falling beneath the waves of poverty and despair. A national study by Westat, Inc. in 1992 found less than half of former foster children had graduated high school between 2.5 and 4 years after being discharged. The study also found only half of former foster kids were working; one-quarter had spent at least one night homeless; and 40% needed some kind of public aid. More recent studies by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Illinois also have illustrated the extreme difficulties faced by this population. The authors of these reports and many of the state officials responsible for overseeing our Nation's child welfare system have called for bold changes to help foster children make the transition to independence. For example, Peter Digre, Director of the Department of Children and Families in Los Angeles, and Nicholas Scoppetta, Commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services in New York City, released a joint statement in 1998 on youth aging out of foster care which declared, ''It becomes our responsibility as a society to provide these young people, who are proven to be at a heightened risk of homelessness or involvement in the criminal justice system, with the opportunity to succeed, (including) a safe and comfortable place to live—an opportunity to continue education—(and) access to health care.''

I am introducing legislation today, along with my Democratic colleagues on the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, to ensure that the end of foster care does not mean the beginning of poverty and hopelessness for thousands of young Americans every year. The Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) Act would provide States with the option of extending assistance to former foster youth up to the age of 21 as long as they are working or enrolled in educational activities and have a plan to become completely self-sufficient. This extension of foster care assistance would provide needed resources for housing, education, health care and employment. In addition, the legislation would: provide tax credits to employers who hire former foster children; allow children in foster care to save more resources for their eventual emancipation; require a collaboration among existing housing, educational and employment programs to help foster kids; and update the formula for the current Independent Living Program. In general, the legislation seeks to send foster children down a ramp to independent and productive lives, rather than off a cliff to destitution and welfare dependency.

Some of my colleagues have said in the past that government programs too often take the role and responsibility of families. However, I would remind them that government is the defacto parent for foster children and therefore has an obligation to do a better job of helping them become self-sufficient. How many other parents tell their children at the age of 18 that they are completely and utterly on their own? Of course, it is true that some foster children make a seamless transition to self-reliance at such a young age, but the statistics show that many ultimately do not.

Mr. Speaker, less than two years ago, Congress passed bipartisan legislation to help promote the adoption of children in foster care. However, adoption is not always possible for many older foster children, and we therefore see our TAP legislation as the next logical step in reforming our foster care system. We offer the bill not so much as the final work on helping foster children, but more as the first step towards building a consensus that Congress must act on this important issue. We stand ready to work with anyone who wants to help former foster youth achieve real independence.

HONORING COLORADO STATE SENATOR TILLMAN BISHOP UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to honor an individual who for so many years has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty and an individual we on the western slope of Colorado will be hard pressed to replace.

Senator Tillman Bishop has represented Colorado's 7th District in the Colorado Senate for 28 years and before that, in the Colorado General Assembly for 4 years. His years of service rank him 5th in the state's history for continuous years of service and he is the longest serving senator from Colorado's western slope.

Senator Bishop, or Tillie, as he is affectionately known, has for decades selflessly given of himself and has always placed the needs of his constituents before his own. I myself served with Tillie when I was a member of the Colorado General Assembly and I consider myself fortunate to have worked with a representative of his caliber.

The number of honors and distinctions that Tillie has earned during his years of outstanding service are too numerous to list, and too few to do justice to his contribution to the state of Colorado.

Senator Bishop will be sorely missed in the halls of the Colorado Capitol, both for his wisdom and knowledge of Colorado, but also for his kind and gentle demeanor which endeared him to all those with whom he came in contact.

1998 marked the end of Senator Bishop's tenure in elected office and the state of Colorado is worse-off because of his absence. There are too few people in elected office today who are prepared to serve in the selfless and diligent manner of Tillman Bishop. He is the embodiment of the citizen-legislator and a model for every official in elected office.

His constituents, of whom I was one, owe him a debt of gratitude and I wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JIM McCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce on behalf of myself, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts and several of my other colleagues from the Ways and Means Committee, legislation to permanently extend the exception from Subpart F for active financing income earned on overseas business. U.S.-based finance companies, insurance companies and brokers, banks, securities dealers, and other financial services firms should be permitted to act like other U.S. industries doing business abroad and defer U.S. tax on the earnings from the active operations of their foreign subsidiaries until such earnings are returned to the U.S. parent company. Without this legislation, the current law provision that keeps U.S. financial services industry on an equal footing with foreign-based competitors will expire at the end of this year. Moreover, this legislation will afford America's financial services industry parity with other segments of the U.S. economy.

Due to the international growth of American finance and credit companies, banks and securities firms, and insurance companies and brokers, this legislation is essential in securing the position of the U.S. financial services industry by making this provision a permanent part of the law and ending the potential impairment of these industries because of the ''on-again, off-again'' system of annual extensions that does not allow for fiscal certainty.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, we believe the permanent extension of this provision is particularly important today as the U.S. financial services industry is the global leader and plays a pivotal role in maintaining confidence in the international marketplace. Also, recently concluded trade negotiations have opened new foreign markets for this industry, and it is essential that our tax laws complement this trade effort.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, while this legislation merely provides for a permanent extension of current law, the highly competitive and global nature of many of the businesses that will benefit from this legislation must continually be reassessed to ensure that U.S. tax policy does not hamper their ability to compete in the international marketplace. One such area to which I hope the Congress and Treasury department will give further attention is the business of reinsurance. This industry is placing more business outside of their home countries, a trend which continues and is accelerating. Many of these decisions are motivated by a variety of business reasons and the highly competitive global nature of the business itself. While some of the changes made last year were included to close down perceived tax avoidance schemes, we, in turn, should not create or perpetuate a restrictive tax regime that penalizes those who are doing legitimate business transactions and have significant business operations in those countries.

In closing, we must not allow the tax code to revert to penalizing U.S.-based companies by allowing to occur the expiration of the temporary provision after this year and hope that this legislation can be given every possible consideration.

MINNESOTA CELEBRATES PEARSON CANDY'S SWEET TREATS FOR 85 YEARS

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 10, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following article from the Monday, January 18, 1999, edition of the St. Paul Star Tribune which recognizes the continued success of the Pearson Candy Co. I want to extend my congratulations to the owners and employees for continuing to produce quality candies for more than 85 years.

This recognition is well-deserved; not only for their production of delicious treats such as Nut Goodies and Salted Nut Rolls, but also for their commitment to the community of St. Paul, Minnesota. In such a competitive industry with the mega companies such as Hershey's, Nestle, and Mars, and a host of foreign imports, it is a superb accomplishment for the Pearson Candy Company of St. Paul, Minnesota to continue in the tradition of a great quality product.

Congratulations and best wishes to the Pearson Candy Co. and their good work force, that have provided the candy treats of my youth yesterday, for our grandchildren today, and hopefully will be doing so long into the new century tomorrow.

[From the St. Paul Star Tribune, Jan. 18, 1999]

AROUND ST. PAUL: PEARSON CANDY CO. CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

(By Joe Kimball)

Automation handles much of the candymaking these days at the Pearson Candy Co., but workers at the W. 7th Street plant watch every stage to pluck out broken or misshapen Nut Goodies, mints and Salted Nut Roll.

''If we learned anything from George Pearson, it's that our recipes are great, but the tradition of quality is what sets us apart,'' said company co-owner Larry Hassler.

The late George Pearson, who died in 1995, ran the company for 20 years, and is remembered as a great boss and great candymaker. The company founded by his father, P. Edward Pearson, turns 90 this year.

Pearson Candy competes in a field largely dominated by three giants—Hershey, Mars and Nestle—Hassler said.

After some rocky years in the 1980s, Pearson Candy now thrives under new management. The company recently added the Bun bar, which comes in maple, caramel and vanilla.

The company has been selling mints and Salted Nut Rolls through Wal-Mart and Target stores, and Hassler says he hopes to build on that national recognition of the Pearson brands.

But not all of the company's candy bar brands have survived over the years: Remember the Denver Sandwich?

It was something like a Twix bar, but a little ahead of its time.

Hassler takes the credit (or blame) for killing the famous Seven Up bar about 20 years ago. He said it took 10 workers to make the bar, which had seven creme and flavored fillings, and the company lost a dime on each bar it sold.

But the Seven Up bar had a special role in building the W. 7th Street plant.

''Pearson owned the name, 'Seven Up,' but so did the 7-Up soda company, so they'd come once a year to George Pearson and ask to buy the name so they could legally protect it, and then they'd lease the name back to us.

''Well, every year George would say no. I think he got a thrill out of telling this big company to just go away. But finally, in the 1950s, they came again and offered him a blank check. This time, he wrote in an amount, some very, very high figure, and they said: 'We've got a deal.'

''Those proceeds built this plant.''

COMPANY HISTORY

P. Edward Pearson and four brothers started the company in Minneapolis. With the Nut Goodie, invented in 1913, and the Salted Nut Roll, 1921, it grew to be one of the nation's top 20 candy manufacturers.

When P. Edward died in 1933, his son George quit college and became a partner with his uncles. In 1951, George bought the Trudeau Candy Co. in St. Paul, which made mints and the Seven Up bar.

George became president of the company in 1959 but sold it in 1969 to International Telephone and Telegraph's Continental Baking Co. Ten years later, a Chicago entrepreneur bought the company, and in 1981 Hassler was brought in as a financial officer. Hassler and Judy Johnston bought the company in 1985.

KEEPING THE NUT GOODIE

In the production area, which makes up most of the plant's 130,000 square feet, plant manager Roger Bruce supervises two shifts of workers who mix and blend sugar, corn syrup, chocolate and peanuts. About 175 people work for the company.

The peanuts come from North Carolina in 2,000-pound bags. The plant uses four to eight bags a day.

Hassler said his longtime employees saved him from making a big mistake in the 1980s—dropping the Nut Goodie.

''We were losing a nickel a bar and every time I saw an order for 100 cases, it killed me,'' he said. They had changed the bar's recipe and wrapper and weren't selling enough to make a profit.

''People in the plant said we've got to make the Nut Goodie the way they used to make it and go back to the old ugly, red-and-green wrapper. We did it and they were 100 percent right.'' Now, the company sells enough Nut Goodies to make a tidy profit.

Hassler said he has had sweet overtures from neighboring states asking him to move. But he's not chewing on those offers.

''St. Paul has been good for us. If you take St. Paul out of the equation, I'm afraid we'd lose it all,'' he said.

He's not entertaining buyout offers, either. ''If I sold out and made a fortune, I know I'd spend the rest of my life looking for another company just like Pearson Candy,'' he said.