

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TAX
RELIEF ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the Social Security Tax Relief Act (H.R. 4865). By repealing the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits, Congress will take a good first step toward eliminating one of the most unfair taxes imposed on seniors: the tax on Social Security benefits.

Eliminating the 1993 tax on Social Security benefits has long been one of my goals in Congress. In fact, I introduced legislation to repeal this tax increase in 1997, and I am pleased to see Congress acting on this issue. I would remind my colleagues that the justification for increasing this tax in 1993 was to reduce the budget deficit. Now, President Clinton, who first proposed the tax increase, and most members of Congress say the deficit is gone. So, by the President's own reasoning, there is no need to keep this tax hike in place.

Because Social Security benefits are financed with tax dollars, taxing these benefits is yet another incidence of "double taxation." Furthermore, "taxing" benefits paid by the government is merely an accounting trick, a "shell game" which allows members of Congress to reduce benefits by subterfuge. This allows Congress to continue using the Social Security trust fund as a means of financing other government programs and mask the true size of the federal deficit.

Mr. Speaker, the Social Security Tax Relief Act, combined with our action earlier this year to repeal the earnings limitation, goes a long way toward reducing the burden imposed by the Federal Government on senior citizens. However, I hope my colleagues will not stop at repealing the 1993 tax increase, but will work to repeal all taxes on Social Security benefits. I am cosponsoring legislation to achieve this goal, H.R. 761.

Congress should also act on my Social Security Preservation Act (H.R. 219), which ensures that all money in the Social Security Trust Fund is spent solely on Social Security. When the government takes money for the Social Security Trust Fund, it promises the American people that the money will be there for them when they retire. Congress has a moral obligation to keep that promise.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help free senior citizens from oppressive taxation by supporting the Social Security Benefits Tax Relief Act (H.R. 4865). I also urge my colleagues to join me in working to repeal all taxes on Social Security benefits and ensuring that moneys from the Social Security trust fund are used solely for Social Security and not wasted on frivolous government programs.

SAN BERNARDINO'S ROUTE 66
RENDEZVOUS CELEBRATES THE
OPEN ROAD**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is accurate to say that for Americans headed West to Southern California, all roads pass through San Bernardino County. And for one weekend this month, a half-million people from across the United States will head straight to San Bernardino to celebrate the most storied road of all: Route 66.

In its 11th year, the Route 66 Rendezvous in downtown San Bernardino has grown from 300 cars and 4,000 people to 2,448 vehicles viewed by 600,000 visitors last year, making it one of the nation's largest free-admission events. Through the strong support of local businesses—led by chief sponsor Stater Bros. Markets—and thousands of volunteers, the city of San Bernardino has created one of the top family-oriented events in California, according to the state's Division of Tourism.

Celebrating the car culture that has been such a part of modern American history, the Rendezvous invites the thousands of visitors to watch the classic vehicles parade, race their engines in a decibel-measured contest and burn out their tires at an abandoned raceway. Kids are given a chance to build and keep their own toys.

It is no surprise that renewed interest in the fabled Route 66 has led America to San Bernardino County. Over 200 miles of the Mother Road carry travelers from the forbidding Mojave Desert to the doorstep of Southern California's cities. Those who are rediscovering the first cross-country highway have a tremendous resource in Barstow, where the newest and most exciting Route 66 museum has opened in the historic Harvey House railroad depot. Further along the highway West is another fine museum in Victorville.

Children who grew up in San Bernardino knew Route 66 as the home of the Wigwam Motel—and eventually as the home of the nation's first McDonalds restaurant. It was the road that brought the nation to California, and helped create the most populous and vibrant state in the country.

This year's celebration will be highlighted by the induction of four new members of the Cruisin' Hall of Fame, which enshrines the people, machines and institutions that have contributed the most to our nation of car lovers. The inductees this year are the toy-maker Mattel, for the ubiquitous miniature Hot Wheels cars; the Beach Boys musical group; J.C. Agajanian, a legendary owner of the Ascot Speedway; and the Woody, the hand-built station wagon that was the sports utility vehicle of its day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing these new members of the Cruisin' Hall of Fame for their contributions to our nation's popular history and culture. And please join me in congratulating San Bernardino for hosting the Route 66 Rendezvous, a celebration of America's romance with the automobile.

SIXTH DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST
WINNERS**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, please permit me to share with my colleagues the tremendous work of a half-dozen young men and women who live in my District.

Each year, my office in cooperation with numerous junior and senior high schools in Northern Illinois sponsor an essay writing contest. A board, chaired by Vivian Turner, a former principal of Blackhawk Junior High School in Bensenville, IL, chooses a topic, and evaluates results of the submitted essays. Winners share more than \$1,000 in scholarship funds.

This year, Robert Arroyo, a student at Immanuel Lutheran School in Elmhurst, placed first in the Junior High Division with an essay entitled Just as American as Apple Pie, a text of which I include in the RECORD. Placing second in the Junior High Division is Bethany Bredehoff, a student at Immanuel Lutheran School in Elmhurst; and Liz Juranek, a student at Algonquin Middle School in Des Plaines, placed third.

In the Senior High Division, Kate Brenan, a student at Driscoll Catholic High School in Addison, placed first with her essay entitled Rule of Law, a text of which I include in the RECORD. Steven Pyter, a student at Lake Park High School in Roselle, placed second; and John Fennell, a student at Driscoll Catholic High School in Addison, placed third.

(By Robert Arroyo)

JUST AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE

Being a responsible citizen is just as American as apple pie. A good apple pie has a firm, moist, brown, crust surrounding a sweet filling of sliced apples with cinnamon, topped with a cool scoop of ice cream. A good citizen is surrounded by important freedoms called civil rights. They include freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and trial by jury. An American citizen has the right to vote for the President and members of Congress and to run for government office himself. A U.S. citizen has the right to own things, live where he wants, go to a good school, and travel throughout the United States.

Our government protects and supports its citizens like an apple pie is protected and supported by its crust. In return, we must be responsible citizens just as the apple pie has a sweet, spicy fruit inside it for us to enjoy.

A responsible citizen knows what his government is doing. He tries to find out what is happening. He reads newspapers. He watches and listens to the news on television and radio.

A responsible citizen knows the names of the president and vice president of the United States and their duties as well as the governor of his state and his duties. A responsible citizen also knows the head of the government for his city, town and county along with their duties. A responsible citizen must keep informed on what is going on around him. Then he must exercise his right to vote by making responsible choices when he elects government officials.

Every responsible citizen knows "The Star-Spangled Banner," our national anthem, as well as "The Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag. When a citizen pledges allegiance to his flag, he promises loyalty and devotion

to his nation. Each word has a deep meaning. If the United States is called to war, a responsible citizen may be called to serve in the armed forces or help out to the best of his ability on the home front.

A responsible citizen must obey the laws of the land as well as the laws of the state, city and county. Every responsible citizen must drive safely and never drive drunk. He respects the rights of others and the property of others. He does not do drugs, and he helps the police by reporting any suspicious persons hanging around the neighborhood. The police and other law enforcement agencies need help. They cannot fight crime unless everyone works together to help them.

Another way to be a responsible citizen is by paying one's taxes. Our tax money provides us with teachers, firemen, policemen, and the armed forces. Better roads, schools, libraries, and parks are built from tax money. Some of our tax money also goes to help those less fortunate than we are. That is why a responsible citizen must always pay his fair share of taxes.

Being a responsible citizen means other things, too. A responsible citizen helps to conserve America's natural resources and to keep America beautiful. Every citizen can take part in cleaning up the community, planting trees, and saving water and energy at home.

Now we are ready for that cool scoop of ice cream on our apple pie. Being kind and understanding toward our fellow citizens is just like the topping on an apple pie because it adds that final caring touch. Therefore, a responsible citizen will volunteer to help other people whenever possible in his family, school, and community.

RULE OF LAW (By Kate Brennan)

The rule of law is the basis of the American government, it is embedded in the structure of our constitution. It inspired our founding fathers and all subsequent government leaders; it is the foundation of our democracy and it allows judicial decisions to be as important as legislation. The rule of law is a philosophical concept that promotes a government of laws—not a government of men. By human nature, humans can be fickle or subjective despite the need for objectivity in important decisions. Laws, however, are unchanging, theoretically unbiased and provide a foundation for further development of government regulations and policies. Therefore, laws also provide a solid point of reference for making important government decisions. The rule of law also states that government and court decisions are based on previously passed laws or court decisions. This prevents arbitrary rulings of judges due to personal biases and ensures a consistency within the law.

The rule of law emphasizes the permanent influence of judicial decisions on future rulings. The innate power of a government based on rule of law therefore lies in the court system. Monumental judicial decisions have influenced countless other similar cases. Cases regarding the desegregation of American schools, for example, greatly influenced the public's overall acceptance of racial harmony.

The rule of law is vital to democracy because of its authority in regard to continuous government decisions. Applications of known laws or previous court decisions allow for more objective reasoning in future decisions. It therefore allows for a fluid and changing model of standard American law, which encourages the changing face of America to challenge court decisions, legislation and leaders. This results in a more involved community and a more true democracy.

Judges are able to correct previous decisions by ruling them unconstitutional. These decisions subsequently influence countless other court cases across the nation. Our democracy is based on equal representation and voting rights. If we had a rule of man, our inalienable rights might be manipulated on a case by case situation. The rule of law makes judges and legislators realize the reverence of their decisions, ensuring more just and responsible decisions.

These decisions that enforce the power of the law in the United States are not found everywhere. Other countries have suffered from malicious dictators in the past, Hitler being the most notorious in recent history. Some democratic governments place too much executive power in the hands of too few people. The United States' revolutionary and progressive history has been an example to many countries, however, and our success with the rule of law is being emulated across the globe. The way in which our government is set up with three branches, supported by the rule of law and a strong republic, ensures a balance so the people's concerns are addressed and their opinions are taken to heart at all times. Ideally this results in a more true democracy, where the public's sentiments are revered. Since previous court cases are applicable to each following case, the public can keep the government in check.

The rule of law not only sets precedence in regard to government decisions, but affects society as well. We are more likely to recall past decisions of bosses, teachers or other authority figures and apply them to decisions concerning our own future, reflecting the emphasis of rule of law in our lives. Without the protection and assurance that laws will be the basis for decisions and arbitrary rulings are unconstitutional, our government loses its power. Laws are meaningless without structure and people to enforce them and that structure is fallible without the protection of an absolute rule of law.

SEPTEMBER SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have named H. Frank Carey High School in Franklin Square School of the Month in the Fourth Congressional District for September 2000. Recently, Carey High received the prestigious Blue Ribbon School Award for 1999–2000 from the U.S. Department of Education.

In addition, Carey High School is one of five high schools in the Sewanhaka Central High School District which was one of only three school districts to win the prestigious New York State Excelsior Award.

I want to congratulate Carey High School not only on the Blue Ribbon Award, but also for the personal educational approach provided to Long Island's young adults.

Thomas Dolan is the Principal of Carey, and Dr. George Goldstein is the Superintendent of Schools for the Sewanhaka Central School District. The school has 1,528 students, 137 staff members.

The Blue Ribbon Award is bestowed on schools that excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development and school curriculum. In addition, schools must exhibit exceptional levels of community

and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and rigorous safety and discipline programs. Schools selected for recognition have conducted a thorough self-evaluation, involving administrators, teachers, students, parents and community representatives, including developing a strategic plan for the future.

Carey teaches students to learn, and also instills a sense of community responsibility. As a result, students excel academically and fully participate in the school community, whether in the fine arts or athletics.

Carey High School approaches education as a never-ending way of life. Carey has an exemplary academic record, a dedicated staff, and is a great asset to Long Island education.

IN MEMORY OF ALFRED HENSON WARD

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding citizen of the Eleventh District of Virginia, a patriotic and loyal staff member of both the House and the Senate, a devoted father, and my loyal friend, Fred Ward, who passed away Tuesday, September 12th at the age of 59.

Fred served his community in many ways, most recently as an elected member of the Fairfax County School Board. His interest in education and in children was reflected in his devotion to his own children, Jesse Lee and Emily Lou, his stepson Joe McAlear and the hundreds of other kids he helped and mentored as a volunteer Little League, soccer and swimming coach.

He had a long and distinguished professional career here in the House and the Senate, where he was the court reporter for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. In fact he was the first court reporter for both the House and the Senate Intelligence Committees when they were established in 1976. In that capacity, Fred held the highest security clearance a member or a staffer can have, and he was a key participant in our great nation's struggle with and victory over communism. Prior to his career in the Congress, Fred served in the Army and remained a true friend to those who served in the military all of his life.

But it was in his own home and his community that Fred really devoted his talents and energies, and that is where I had the privilege of getting to know and to work with him long before I came to serve in the Congress. He loved deeply and was very proud of his two children, Jesse and Emily. He was a full participant in their school and extracurricular activities, and his face would light up at the mere mention of their names and accomplishments. He was a friend and mentor to his stepson Joe. Even though they were divorced, he and his wife Sandra remained friends, and it was together that they managed his healthcare and comfort.

In memorials to Fred Ward, history will record November 20, 1940–September 12, 2000. Those almost 60 years were filled with many great moments and spawned many great memories, and I join all of his friends in