

technology. In fact, since the inception of the Fund, the computer-to-student ratio has been reduced from 27 to 1 down to 14 to 1.

Nevertheless, we are at a point where most teachers report that they do not feel sufficiently trained on the use of technology in the classroom, and they do not have enough knowledge about what is available to them for teaching with technology. According to recent studies, only 20 percent of teachers report feeling very well prepared to use technology education as part of their teaching method. That is just way too low.

Students, in many instances, are more comfortable with the use of technology than their teachers and parents, but they do not always have access to technology resources at school which will actually capture their attention and enhance their learning. According to a recent survey conducted by the National School Boards Foundation and Children's Television Workshop, 53 percent of parents in households connected to the Internet report their children primarily use their home Net connection for school work. Forty-three percent of kids between the ages of 9 and 17 say their outlook about school has improved with access to the Internet.

This is important because education experts and children alike tell us that we must continue to find ways to challenge our children, to engage their creativity, to expand their interests, and, frankly, to simply fight off boredom in the classroom. The use of technology helps do that.

Our bill, EdTEC, will continue the important Federal investment in education technology. It provides States and schools with important funds and guidance in formulating technology education plans while focusing on the integration of technology and curriculum and closing the digital divide. This new century and our new economy demands our children are experienced and equipped to use the technology that is all around us. EdTEC will help our schools continue to move in that direction and ensure that our children can learn at the speed of change in the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, I want to call upon my colleagues to take a close and serious look at this legislation as we move forward with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in this session of Congress.

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, several weeks ago the House debated, and passed, a bill to increase the minimum wage. Unfortunately, I was unable to get to the floor to participate in the debate. But I want to revisit the issue today, so that I can

share with you a constituent letter I received from a small business owner in Kinston, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, Ken Moore is an example of an entrepreneur who, without interference from the government, started a business with a single restaurant in 1991, and now has 39 locations throughout Eastern North Carolina. And along the way, he has shared his success by extending opportunities to his employees.

When Mr. Moore learned that the House would be debating a minimum wage increase, he sent me a letter to share how the mandate would affect his small business and communities throughout Eastern North Carolina. I wanted to share part of his letter with the Congress.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Moore wrote, and I quote:

Congressman Jones:

I started Andy's in March of 1991 in Goldsboro, North Carolina. As of today, we have grown to 39 locations throughout Eastern North Carolina and have another six locations under construction.

The reason for our success has always been because we give our hourly associates the opportunity to own an Andy's restaurant. We have never looked for outside investors, preferring to train our people and give them the opportunity to operate and eventually own their business. We call this "starting at the minimum and earning the maximum." We now have many success stories throughout our company achieved through this philosophy.

The unfunded mandate of minimum wage put in place by Washington will hurt our business, associates, and neighbors in Eastern North Carolina.

We conducted a survey of nearly 700 employees and found only two earning minimum wage that were the primary wage earners for their family. These happen to be single moms who already receive some government assistance.

Two out of the 700 makes a mockery out of the political line that families can't exist on minimum wage. The much-touted family of four making minimum wage and trying to subsist doesn't exist, at least not within Andy's.

We don't believe that America is about handouts, but is based on hard work and persistence. These are the values we strive to teach our associates.

An increase in the minimum wage will mean an increase in prices, something which I don't want to do. Minimum wage increases invariably cause us to lay some people off and delay hiring new folks. This is sad, but simply the truth.

I would like all politicians in favor of increasing the minimum wage to simply tell the truth. Increasing the minimum wage is a tax increase, period.

Madam Speaker, I will include the entire text of the letter in the RECORD.

Madam Speaker, Ken Moore is just one of thousands of small business owners across this country, who recognize the effects an increase in the minimum wage will have on their businesses, and their communities. I appreciate the opportunity to share Mr. Moore's story. Because I believe that his concerns are shared by many small business owners across the country.

THE LITTLE MINT, INC.,
Kinston, NC, March 7, 2000.

Re Minimum wage increase.

To: Walter B. Jones, Jr.
From: Kenneth K. Moore

I started Andy's in March of 1991 in Goldsboro, NC. As of today we have grown to 39 lo-

cations throughout Eastern NC and have another 6 locations under construction. The reason for our success has always been because we give our hourly associates the opportunity to own an Andy's restaurant. We have never looked for outside investors, preferring to train our people and give them the opportunity to operate and eventually own their business. We call this "starting at the minimum and earning the maximum." We now have many success stories throughout our company achieved through this philosophy.

Eastern NC is a rural area that has been through much during the past year. We have been rocked by hurricanes and floods during their aftermath. Our home is not a wealthy area. However, our people are the salt of the earth and work very hard to pay taxes and raise good children.

Eastern NC economy is predominately agriculturally based and with tobacco taking a beating in the press and in Washington many farmers have turned to pork production. Our state government has now placed a moratorium on that. At Andy's, we understand our neighbor's plight and have only raised prices in our stores twice in 9 years. Both times have been due to minimum wage increases. As you can tell, we are trying to do our part.

The unfunded mandate of minimum wage put in place by Washington will hurt our businesses, associates, and neighbors in Eastern NC. We conducted a survey of nearly our 700 employees and found only 2 earning minimum wage that were the primary wage earners for their family. These happen to be single moms who already receive some government assistance. Two out of the 700 makes a mockery out of the political line that families can't exist on minimum wage. The much-touted family of four making minimum wage and trying to subsist doesn't exist, at least not within Andy's.

Andy's has had very little employee turnover because we give people the opportunity to grow. Even the teenagers who comprise the vast amount of our minimum wage earners don't leave us. We have a yearly banquet at which we strive to inspire and motivate them to grow into solid citizens. We give scholarships and awards. We also continued to pay our minimum wage earners after the restaurants were flooded in the wake of Hurricane Floyd. All we asked them to do was to volunteer to help out in their local shelters. We teach our young people that there is already an increase in the minimum wage. It is called doing a good job!

We don't believe that America is about handouts but is based on hard work and persistence. These are the values we strive to teach our associates. An increase in the minimum wage will mean an increase in prices, something which I don't want to do. Minimum wage increases invariably cause us to lay some people off and delay hiring new folks. This is sad, but simply the truth.

I would like all politicians in favor of increasing the minimum wage to simply tell the truth. Increasing the minimum wage is a tax increase, period. The increase is simply another way for the government to make 15.6 cents on every dollar. If you truly want to help teenagers make more money, then waive the playoff taxes on the increase. If the truth be told the increase makes for great reelection material, doesn't it?

I remember a young lady who worked for me when I first started my business some years ago. She is now an elementary school teacher and a wonderful person. I saw her not long ago and we reminisced about a Christmas Party we had in my original location in 1993. I didn't have the money for Christmas gifts for my small crew, so I gave each one a card with a personal note. As I was reminding her of this she stopped me

and reached for her purse, opening her wallet and produced the note from that night (6 years later). I wonder if she would have saved a pay stub with a minimum wage increase?

Folks, there is more to running a business than a lot of you may think. With an increase in wages, hiring will cease, and perhaps we will not be able to touch the life of some young person as I did years ago. I live and work in Eastern NC and I am proud to do business here. Please let me do it my way. Our friends, neighbors, and associates live in towns with names such as Beulaville, Kenansville, Mt. Olive, Kinston and Grifton, not Camelot.

Thanks,

KENNETH K. MOORE,
President/Founder.

THE CENSUS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, tonight is a very important evening because the University of Florida Gators will become the national champions in basketball. It is very exciting for someone who graduated from the University of Florida many years ago to see an exciting young team of freshmen and sophomores that are going to be successful against the supposedly more experienced team from Michigan State. So it will be an exciting evening, and I am looking forward to it.

But I am actually rising tonight, Madam Speaker, to speak about the census. We are in the middle of the Census 2000. Officially, this past Saturday, April 1, was Census Day, and that was the day we wanted to have everyone counted where they are. It is a chance to get a snapshot of America that is taken every 10 years going back to 1790, when Thomas Jefferson conducted the first one. This is a chance to not only count people, and that is the constitutional purpose, to count people where they are so we can do apportionment and redistricting in this country, but it is also important to get that snapshot because the Federal government has grown so large over the past decades that it is in need of information to help fund those programs.

Today, over \$180 billion a year of Federal dollars will flow out of Washington to States and local communities based on census information. In addition, we have the money that flows out of State capitals, whether it is in Tallahassee or wherever in the United States. The money will flow to the communities based on census data. So it is so critical to our own communities to get the most accurate count and not get undercounted, because the money will flow; and it is not right if a community gets underfunded.

There is money for education, there is money for health care, there is money for highways. And if we have people there using those services, communities want to get their fair share of the money. So that is why this is so

critical, so I encourage everybody to complete the forms if they have not. If a census worker comes knocking on the door over the next few months, please cooperate and get those forms completed.

The projected goal is a 61 percent response rate in the mail. Hopefully, we will do better. I am confident that we will do better than 61 percent. Somewhere between 65, 66 percent, I think, would be a great accomplishment. I would be very pleased if we can get that high. Because the higher the percentage we get in response, the fewer people we have to send out knocking on doors to get that information. So if the forms do not get completed, what will happen is that community runs the risk of not getting an accurate count, and second of all, the Federal Government just has to spend money going out and knocking on the door to collect that information. And that is a waste of actual tax dollars.

The Census Bureau this year has done a good job in a number of areas. Paid advertising. For the first time in history, they have used paid advertising. And the advertising does more than just make people aware of the census. It is designed to help motivate people to complete the census forms. It shows this is important. It shows classrooms being affected, or emergency, or fire protection that is needed, and that is all related to it.

The outreach efforts have been very successful. Census in the Schools. I have been going into schools to promote the census, and I think that is very useful. A lot of Members have gone to public service announcements. I know many of my colleagues have developed them. I know I have in my area, and they have played often on the cable television. I know my ratings in Sarasota County is above the area in the State of Florida because of the response rate. So I am excited about the response rate so far, and we will know more by the end of this week.

There has been a lot of controversy about this long form. And I know there is a lot of concern about privacy. We are always debating privacy concerning medical issues and for financial institutions, so the privacy issue will continue to be a problem faced by the Federal Government. But first of all, the questions, beyond the first core questions, which on the short form are the first six questions, are really needed for the constitutional purposes of redistricting and reapportionment. They really are important questions and they really will be kept confidential. There are very strict laws within the Census Bureau to not let any of that information out.

Last week the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and myself were out actually helping with the homeless count the other night. Before we went out with census workers, we had them raise our right hands and take an oath that we would not disclose that information. As Members of

Congress we get all these other clearances for confidential information, but not with the Census Bureau. But there are very strict laws that have been enforced and will be enforced for anyone in the Census Bureau that discloses any information. So I feel confident this information will be kept confidential.

Now, I know this area of distrust. I know a lot of people do not trust this administration because of many things, but there are a lot of things contributing to it. My neighbor across the street was complaining because she had the long form, and my wife was helping her fill it out last week. One question she refused to fill out was her telephone number. Well, the State of Florida sold drivers licenses with photographs a couple of years ago, and so there is that suspicion that government will disclose that information. It will not happen here.

This information is not shared with the IRS; it is not shared with the FBI, the Secret Service. They cannot get the information. INS, Immigration and Naturalization, cannot get the information. So it will be kept confidential. So I ask everyone to please complete their forms.

THE MICROSOFT CASE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I am compelled to address the House tonight about the decision by the Federal District Court in the Microsoft case, and I rise today on behalf of two groups of people that I think deserve a voice in this debate. The first group is the American consumers and the second group are the people who work and dedicate their lives to the products they create for American consumers at Microsoft.

I would like to address the beliefs of the American consumers first, because I will warrant that if we go out and we ask our constituents, Should the Federal Government break up Microsoft?, the answer will be a resounding no. From the State of Maine to the State of Washington, people do not believe that the Federal Government will help their lives, will advance the Internet, will advance software one inch by breaking up this engine of creative growth.

And the Americans are right when it comes to this belief. American consumers are right in having the belief that this industry is healthy. This is not a sick industry that demands the physician of the Federal Government to come rescue it. And the evidence is clear: American consumers know that they are getting better products, faster products, less expensive products every day with Microsoft as it is currently configured.

Look at the evidence. This industry has grown from 290,000 workers in 1990