

\$20 a month for earned income and \$20 to \$40 a month for unearned income. These limits have not been changed since 1981.

5. The bill delays SSI eligibility redeterminations for disabled children from 18 years old until one of two things occur first: either the person becomes 21 years old or finishes secondary school.

6. SSI would exclude the entire amount of educational grants, scholarships from SSI income determinations and exclude it for up to 9 months for SSI resource determinations.

This is a small incremental bill that makes some long overdue technical improvements to SSI. I look forward to working with my colleagues to quickly enact this legislation to improve the lives of the most economically vulnerable Americans who depend on SSI.

TRIBUTE TO JOURNALIST
BERNARD SHAW

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is a sad day for the news junkies of the world. Bernard Shaw, one of the industry's most respected journalists, is stepping down from the CNN anchor desk after 20 years on the job.

Shaw was there when the fledgling cable network first turned on the lights and rolled tape in 1980. And he has remained with CNN, reporting some of the century's most exciting national and international events.

How many of us recall the Persian Gulf War and Shaw's reports of bombs falling over Baghdad. And who can forget his pointed questioning of politicians, who often found it difficult to be as pointed in their response.

For many of us, the really difficult part begins as Bernard Shaw takes his leave and "stands down," as he says, from CNN. But how do we say goodbye to someone who, after so many years, has become a fixture in our homes and offices?

Bernie Shaw will be missed because of his special brand of professionalism and nononsense reporting. He will be missed because we have enjoyed sharing his love of politics and world events.

And, for many of us, Bernard Shaw will be missed because over the years, he has been the lone African American, who has anchored national broadcasts and major events. He has moderated presidential debates, anchored coverage of primaries and national elections, and traveled the world reporting breaking international news. It is unlikely that Bernard Shaw's job description included the term, "role model," but it is certain that his skill and tenacity have inspired many and engendered considerable respect and pride among us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 16, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution H.

Con. Res. 39. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE
INTRODUCTION OF THE ENERGY
EFFICIENT BUILDINGS INCEN-
TIVES ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act. I am joined in this effort by a substantial and diverse coalition of my colleagues including Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, as well as Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire in the Senate, and many others. This bill is supported by a strong coalition of industries and organizations. I have submitted a list of supporters below.

My constituents in San Diego have been suffering from outrageously high-energy prices for nearly a year. Our citizens and city have been forced into a crisis by the State legislature's deregulation of the electricity market. While I and my colleagues from San Diego are seeking solutions to this terrible crisis, I am introducing this bill in an effort to formulate a long-term energy plan.

The Energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act will provide tax incentives for the construction of energy efficient buildings. Structures of this nature could potentially cut energy usage by as much as 50 percent. This would result in a nearly 6 percent reduction in air emissions over the next 10 years—equivalent to taking 40 percent of the automobiles off the road.

The bill will offer tax incentives to encourage the production and sale of technologically advanced, energy-efficient buildings and equipment. The legislation is structured to promote the creation of competitive markets for new technologies and designs that are not widely available today, but have the possibility of being cost effective to the consumer in the future. The incentives will apply to:

Efficient new residential buildings that save 30 percent to 50 percent in energy costs compared to national model codes, including a higher incentive for higher savings.

Efficient heating, cooling, and water heating equipment that reduce emissions and peak electric loads by about 20 percent (lower incentives) and 30 percent–50 percent (higher incentives) compared to national standards.

Efficient commercial buildings with 50 percent energy and power cost savings.

Residential-scale solar hot water and photovoltaic equipment.

The design and administration for these energy efficient structures is based on the track record of successful state programs over the past decade. Buildings account for some 35 percent of air pollution emissions nationwide, and cost their owners over \$250 billion a year in energy costs. They also contribute to well over half of peak electric power demand. If enacted promptly the incentives in this bill will begin to mitigate electric peak reliability problems by the summer of 2001.

This bill will help both families and businesses reduce annual energy costs, saving over \$80 billion in present value over the next

decade. Energy costs of businesses are tax deductible under current law, so reductions in energy costs means billion of dollars in saving to the Federal government.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting the energy Efficient Buildings Incentives Act. Together we can provide for a cleaner environment and help reduce energy needs, thus postponing the need for building new power plants as well as helping to save our environment.

THE ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS INCENTIVES
ACT

Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense, Consumer's Choice Council, U.S. PIRG, World Wildlife Federation, Defenders of Wildlife, American Oceans Campaign, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation, Inc., Michigan Environmental Council, Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy, American Rivers, and World Wildlife Fund.

ENRON, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, PacificCorp, Northern California Power Agency, CA Municipal Utilities Association, and Northeastern Public Power Association.

American Portland Cement Alliance, Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Foamed Polystyrene Alliance, North American Insulation Manufacturers Association, Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association, American Energy Technologies, American Solar Energy, and Energy Conservation Services of North Florida.

National Association of State Energy Officials, Home Builders Association of Central Vermont, Inc., Insulation Contractors Association of America, California Building Industry Association, California Association of Building Energy Consultants, National Council of the Housing Industry, National Association of State Energy Officials, and Florida Solar Energy Industries Association.

Union of Concerned Scientists, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, National Environmental Trust, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Global Green USA, Friends of the Earth, Alliance to Save Energy, League of Conservation Voters, American Oceans Campaign, Consumer's Choice Council, National Environmental Trust, and Izaak Walton League of America.

Massachusetts Electric, Southern California Edison, Montana Power, California ISO, Sempra Energy, City of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Water & Power.

Siemens Solar Industries, TRANE, Climatic-Solar Corp., Energy Partners, Solar Systems of Florida, AllSolar Service Company Inc., Solar-Fit, and Solar Source.

National Insulation Association, California Energy Commission, Florida Solar Energy Center, Solar Energy Industries Association, California Air Resources Board, and Manufactured Housing Assoc.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN N.
CHAMBERLAIN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I reflect on the outstanding accomplishments of Ms. Jean Chamberlain, as she is honored by the Oak Park Business & Education Alliance of Oak Park, Michigan.

The Oak Park Business & Education Alliance is dedicated to the empowerment of urban schools. Their decision to honor Jean is a reflection of her long-time dedication to the communities of South Oakland County.

For over 40 years, Jean has been a resident of Royal Oak, Michigan. She began her public career after raising a family. Her valuable leadership has helped bring together the cities, the county government and local businesses of southern Oakland County.

Since March of 1993, Jean Chamberlain has served as the first and only South Oakland Governmental Liaison. She previously acted as the Executive Manager of the Greater Royal Oak and Oak Park Chambers of Commerce. She continues to work with a variety of organizations including the Woodward Dream Cruise Board of Directors; the Eight Mile Boulevard Association; and the Salvation Army Advisory Council, among others.

Her tireless work resulted in the Michigan Women's Commission naming her, in 1998, as one of the 20 most outstanding women in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my salute to an exceptional leader, Jean Chamberlain. I wish her continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during Rollcall vote No. 16, on February 27, 2001 on H. Con. Res. 39 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES ROCKY L. PETERSON FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I speak to recognize Rocky Peterson for his dedication to the cause of social justice for Central New Jersey. I join with the Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce in recognizing the achievements Rocky has made fighting prejudice as an active member of his community and a positive contributor to our society.

Mr. Peterson is a Partner at the Princeton law firm of Hill Wallack, where he serves as the partner-in-charge of the School and Municipal Law practice group. Mr. Peterson concentrates his practice in general litigation, municipal law and labor and employment issues on behalf of both public entities and educational organizations.

Throughout his distinguished career a lawyer Rocky Peterson has been a tireless advocate for central New Jersey's diverse communities. Mr. Peterson is an active member in many local professional and community organizations. He takes special interest in the arts as a founder and organizer of the Trenton Jazz Festival.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of Rocky Peterson and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his steadfast commitment to serving our community.

IN SUPPORT OF THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER INCENTIVE ACT

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation entitled the "IRA Charitable Rollover Incentive Act of 2001". This is one of three bills I am introducing today to correct certain peculiarities in the tax code that discourage charitable giving. I introduced a similar bill in the 106th Congress, which garnered 125 co-sponsors. The essence of this bill was included in the tax bill vetoed by President Clinton in 1999 and was included again in the pension reform bill that passed last year.

This legislation would allow individuals age 59½ or older to contribute amounts currently held in Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) directly to qualified charities without having to first recognize the income for tax purposes and then take a charitable deduction. This legislation will give individuals more freedom to allocate their resources as they see fit while providing badly needed resources to churches, colleges and universities, and other social organizations.

All IRA withdrawals are generally taxed as ordinary income. Currently, individuals may withdraw funds from an IRA without incurring an early withdrawal penalty once they reach age 59½. Under so-called minimum distribution rules, an individual must begin making withdrawals by April 1st following the year he or she reaches age 70½. The IRA was intended to encourage individuals to save for retirement, but due to the strong economy in recent years and the general increase in asset values, many individuals have more than sufficient funds to retire comfortably. Thus it is a common practice for retirees to transfer some of their wealth to charities and, in some cases, that wealth is held in an IRA.

If our tax code were not so laden with peculiarities and oddities, this legislation would not be needed. A taxpayer could readily recognize the income for tax purposes and take a charitable deduction. Unfortunately, in many cases under current law such a simple arrangement results in a loss of some portion of the charitable deduction. For example, charitable contributions are subject to the itemized deduction "haircut" under which certain taxpayers lose a portion of their charitable deduction. I have introduced separate legislation to address this problem.

Another problem results when a donation exceeds 50 percent of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income—30 percent if the gift is to a private foundation. In this case the taxpayer cannot take the full deduction immediately; it must be spread over a period of years. Given the time value of money, delaying the timing of the deduction means the taxpayer can only effectively deduct a fraction of the value of the total gift.

It is impossible to know how much capital is trapped by the current rollover rules and thus

unavailable to our nation's charities. According to one report, there is over \$1 trillion held in IRA accounts. If only 1 percent of this would be donated to charity but for the tax problems associated with charitable rollovers, this represents a \$10 billion loss of resources to these organizations that do so much good.

This is sound legislation that has consistently received strong bi-partisan support. I hope we can finally see its enactment in 2001.

Charity benefits both the giver and the receiver in like proportions. The act of giving elevates the heart of the giver. The act of receiving elevates the condition of the recipient. Charity is thus a blessed act that should suffer no discouragement from something so mean as the tax code.

RECOGNIZING THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN THE GULF WAR

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 10th Anniversary of the cease-fire that ended the Gulf War, to recognize those who served in our country's military during this conflict. Across this nation families and friends will honor the many who served and sacrificed for our nation. I'm deeply honored to observe this day and I salute all those who served in our nation's military during this time of war, of containment, and of peace-making, and peace-keeping.

I believe that we must take every opportunity possible to honor our service members, veterans, and their families. We must honor them for giving their time and energies and, too often, their lives in the service of our nation. In addition to honoring them through words, we must also honor them through action. Too many Gulf War service members and their families have been forgotten in the years that have followed the War. They have been left on their own to discover why their lives have changed forever because of fatigue and sickness that cannot be explained. Today, I ask that we all commit ourselves to honoring those who served in the Gulf War by doing everything within our power to solve this ongoing mystery. We must do everything within our power to assure that the men and women who have served our nation in its time of need are being served in their time of need.

To all who served in our nation's military and their loved ones who waited and worried at home, we honor your service and your sacrifices. Not just today, but every day.

H.R. 775: IMPROVING OUR ELECTION LAWS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with our colleague, Mr. HOYER, and others in introducing the Voting Improvement Act of 2001. As we all know, the past election