

and operational concepts which provide suitable alternatives to landmines. I believe that alternatives exist that are more effective and less costly than mixed mine systems and that also match more closely our country's doctrine of mobility warfare. This view is shared by many active and retired military officers.

It also calls on our nation to end its use of mines, and to join the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines as soon as possible. In addition, it also codifies the Leahy-Evans U.S. moratorium on mine exports, which has been in effect since 1992 and is official United States policy.

Finally, it establishes an inter-agency working group, involving the Departments of State, Defense, Health and Human Services, Education and the VA, to develop a comprehensive plan for expanded mine action programs, including programs to assist mine victims.

The bill is the latest chapter in the work of many members of Congress to address the tragedy surrounding the proliferation of landmines. The carnage caused by landmines is well-known. Too many poor and developing countries have suffered tens of thousands of civilian casualties. The crisis that has afflicted much of the third world led to an outcry that forced the world to act.

The resulting international treaty, the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines has gained international acceptance more quickly than any other arms control treaty in history. The treaty, which came into force in 1998, has been signed by 139 countries and ratified by 110. However, our nation has not signed the treaty. It is a glaring absence considering our role as the world's remaining superpower.

President Bush has not indicated how he wants to proceed on the landmine issue. However, I hope that he sees that he has a tremendous opportunity in front of him. First he has the chance to reclaim US leadership and achieve the distinction of blazing the way to a truly landmine free world. It is a role that could help achieve universalization of the treaty which in turn would not only limit the threat of these weapons to civilians but also to our own soldiers who too often face landmines in peacekeeping duties around the world.

Second, he can eliminate a weapon which actually hinders our forces instead of helps them. Our current military doctrine emphasizes mobility on the battlefield. This will become even more of a focus as we move towards the more mobile forces that the Army has envisioned in its efforts at "Transformation". However, deploying "mixed" mine systems comprised of anti-tank mines deployed with anti-personnel mines actually restricts the movement of US forces on the battlefield. Even with self destructing mines that destroy themselves within hours, our forces may need to move through an area that was just mined minutes before. That is the essence of mobility warfare—being able to move at a moments notice as the battlefield changes. It is why former Marine Corps Commandant Al Gray once stated "What the hell is the use of sowing all this if you're going to move through it . . . We have many examples of our own young warriors trapped by their own minefields . . . We even had examples in Desert Storm."

However, this does not mean we have to give away military capability. We also have "smart" weapons currently in the inventory that can more effectively deal with armored

threats and that do not have the "side" effects of landmines on our mobility doctrine and the safety of our fighting men and women. The US has been developing alternatives with the support of myself and Senator LEAHY. While these technologies show great promise, we must remember that we do have the ability today to have a landmine free military that is more capable and effective.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that moving towards a landmine free military is a win-win for our nation and the world. We can help eliminate the scourge that has cost tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children their lives and limbs while better protecting our own military and achieving a more effective fighting force. However, it will take leadership.

We will fight hard to move this legislation. It will help demonstrate the will of Congress to show leadership on this issue, make permanent the export moratorium and establish an interagency working group that will more effectively provide the expertise of our own government in dealing with the staggering human costs that mine have already inflicted and will continue to inflict. Above all, I hope it is seen by the President as an invitation to strengthen US policy so we may see the day of a landmine free world sooner rather than later. I look forward to working with the President and his Administration.

RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CONDEMNING RACIAL SLANDER BY SENATOR ROBERT BYRD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus:

RESOLUTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS CONDEMNING RACIAL SLANDER BY SENATOR ROBERT BYRD OF WEST VIRGINIA

Whereas, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus regret the many years, in the not so distant past, when certain members of the House and Senate freely used racial slurs on the floor and in other public places; and,

Whereas, our great nation has made great strides in both de jure and de facto race relations and has established a new moral standard in public discourse; and,

Whereas, the administration of William Jefferson Clinton greatly advanced progress in race relations through his policies of inclusion and the President's demonstration of great personal comfort among all racial, religious, and ethnic groups; and,

Whereas, the current political environment is such that negative and derogatory sentiments, attitudes, and practices of the past are being resurrected as new, caring, and compassionate versions of sanctioned segregation; and,

Whereas, the sentiments, attitudes and behaviors of the Ku Klux Klan have long ago been condemned by the majority of Americans and outlawed by the U.S. Constitution; and,

Whereas, United States Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia recently made a statement using a racial slur regurgitated from the painful past Ku Klux Klan era, that was hurtful, incendiary, and counterproductive; and,

Whereas, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus consider it one of our priority duties to offer moral leadership on behalf of our constituents and to the American people in general, and to resist any attempt to move our great nation back in time to our ugly legacy of racial injustice, insensitivity and intolerance, now therefor be it

Resolved That the members of the Congressional Black Caucus hereby, without rancor or malice, condemn Senator Byrd's racist statement and the sentiment of lingering intolerance it reflects. We respectfully request all members of the House and Senate to publicly and privately convey a similar condemnation; be it further

Resolved That this proclamation of Condemnation be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD; and be it further

Resolved, That United States Senator Robert Byrd make his statements of apology from the floor of the U.S. Senate.

THE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RATE REDUCTION ACT OF 2001

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Individual Income Tax Rate Reduction Act. This legislation will provide immediate, across the board marginal income tax rate reductions for all wage earners in this country, while reducing the marriage tax penalty.

A new day has arrived in Washington. The new President is leading the effort to focus national attention on the issues that Americans support. This week, Congress has taken the first step to implement tax code changes that will benefit all wage earners. The marginal income tax rate reductions proposed by the President, reported by the Committee on Ways and Means, on which I serve, and recently passed by the House of Representatives, will have a tremendous impact on providing individuals and families with greater financial security. At a time when the federal coffers have billions of dollars in excess revenues, coupled with the slowing growth of the economy, is more appropriate than ever to provide a refund to taxpayers who have overpaid the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the legislation that has been passed by the House of Representatives. But frankly I believe we can do more. Today I introduce legislation that will reduce the marginal income tax rates. However, at the center of this legislation is my belief that we must reduce the amount of taxes taken out of paychecks today. My legislation makes effective immediately a reduction in all of the marginal rates. In addition, over the next few years, the number of rates will be reduced from 5 to 4.

| Current law | Collins bill | Effective |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 15 percent | 12 percent | Jan. 1, 2001. |
| 28 percent | 25 percent | Jan. 1, 2001. |
| 31 percent | 28 percent | Jan. 1, 2001. |
| 36 percent to 39.6 percent | 33 percent | Phased down Jan. 1, 2001 to Jan. 1, 2006. |

My legislation will also reduce the marriage tax penalty by increasing the standard deduction for all taxpayers, and making the married

deduction twice that of the single taxpayer's deduction.

| Current law | Collins bill | Effective date |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| \$7,600 | \$12,000 | Jan. 1, 2001. |
| \$4,500 | \$6,000 | Jan. 1, 2001. |
| \$6,650 | \$8,500 | Jan. 1, 2001. |

This legislation will provide taxpayers with over \$30 billion in tax relief this year alone. Over the next ten years, wage earners will see their income tax bills reduced by over \$1.5 trillion. It is anticipated that the Congressional Budget Office will soon update their projected budgetary estimates and report that there will be billions more available in unanticipated non-Social Security excess revenues. That is more reason than ever to provide taxpayers with meaningful tax reductions. Please join me in cosponsoring the Individual Income Tax Rate Reduction Act of 2001, so that we can provide tax relief as soon as possible.

DISAPPROVING DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RULE RELATING TO ERGONOMICS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this harmful resolution which will prevent America's workers from safer working conditions.

Over two years ago, Congress mandated that the National Academy of Sciences conduct a study to review the impact of repetitive workplace motions. Now that the results are back, the Republican majority is disappointed. They don't like the results. So, they are trying to kill the rule entirely.

This Disapproval Resolution is simply another attempt to delay and ultimately block implementation of critical ergonomic workplace guidelines. These reasonable standards, already issued by the Department of Labor, will ensure that workplace safety guidelines are in place to prevent increasingly common workplace injuries.

More than 647,000 Americans suffer serious injuries and illness due to musculo-skeletal disorders each year. These injuries are currently costing businesses \$15 to \$20 billion annually in workers' compensation costs. Yet, it has been estimated that the ergonomics standards will prevent 4.6 million injuries over the next decade, and will actually save employers and workers \$9 billion each year.

Tragically, these injuries disproportionately affect women workers. Although women make up 46 percent of the workforce and 33 percent of those injured, 63 percent of repetitive motion injuries happen to women.

Women experience 70 percent of carpal tunnel syndrome injuries that result in lost work time. This is unacceptable and we must act now to prevent these injuries.

Americans who are willing to work hard each day to support themselves and their families deserve reasonable standards to prevent workplace injuries.

Many of the workers who will be covered by these common sense guidelines often work more than one job just to make ends meet. They work long hours loading trucks, moving

boxes, and delivering packages. Their jobs aren't easy, but they are willing to show up every day and do their best.

The last thing these hard-working Americans want is to get hurt. These sensible standards will keep them on the job and prevent costly workplace injuries.

Opponents of these common-sense guidelines claim that they will "regulate every ache and pain in the workplace." This is simply not true. These standards will only ensure that companies make someone responsible for ergonomics standards and that employees are not afraid to report these injuries. This is hardly an overwhelming request.

We must keep the Ergonomics standards in place. These standards protect hard-working Americans who deserve to work without the threat of injury.

I urge all of my colleagues to stand with hard-working Americans and to oppose this harmful legislation.

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY MARCH 17, 2001

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 17th, again we approach another glorious, joyous Saint Patrick's Day. The Irish people around the globe, along with the millions here in our nation linked to the Emerald Isle by heritage, as well as their friends worldwide, join in celebrating this glorious day honoring the patron saint of that beautiful country of so many warm and generous people.

The American experience is linked closely with the Irish people. Ireland has given us numerous Presidents with links to both the north and south. Its diaspora fought for our nation as early as with General George Washington as we gained our own independence from Great Britain. Today, more than 44 million Americans claim Irish heritage.

It is only fitting that our nation assist the Irish people in finding lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland and in ending the bitter, divisive, and tragic conflict, that the Irish call the "Troubles." For the past eight years the U.S. Congress in a bipartisan way fully supported President Clinton in all of his Irish peace process initiatives which eventually helped produce the Good Friday Accord of April 1998, under the guidance and steady hand of former U.S. Senator George Mitchell.

The Good Friday Accord is the road map for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland, which we and all the parties to that accord, as well as both governments in the region should honor, abide by, and use for the new shared governance created so that both traditions can live in harmony, peace, and equality in the north under the concept of mutual consent. The Irish people north and south approved the accord in referendum. They want peace!

Now, with a new Administration coming to power in Washington, many wonder if the Irish peace process will be given the same priority by the Administration of George W. Bush. We in the Congress stand ready to provide the same kind of across the board bi-partisanship support for the new Administration in the con-

tinuing search for a lasting peace and justice in Ireland. We owe that to the new Administration, as well as to the Irish people, who have given so much to this nation of ours from its very founding until today.

Candidate George W. Bush supported the GOP platform in Philadelphia in 2000 which said: "The next President will use the prestige and influence of the United States to help the parties achieve a lasting peace." Candidate Bush himself went on to set out his own approach in a letter to the Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern on September 8, 2000, stating ". . . the entire island of Ireland have a friend in George W. Bush. America should remain engaged in the Irish peace process, and I will work hard and pray always for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland."

For those of us who have observed President George W. Bush in his first weeks of office abiding by and living up to his 2000 campaign promises and pledges, no one doubts that Ireland will be high on his foreign policy agenda, and that the Congress will support him.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the letter from George W. Bush to the Irish Prime Minister at this point in the RECORD and I invite my colleagues to join in wishing our Irish-American friends and all of Ireland a Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

GOVERNOR OF TEXAS,
Austin, TX, September 8, 2000.
Hon. BERTIE AHERN, T.D.,
Taoiseach, Republic of Ireland.
Dublin, Ireland.

DEAR BERTIE: I want to extend my personal greetings to you, and to express my admiration for your commitment to peace in Northern Ireland. The road has been long, and it has not been easy, but you have succeeded in furthering reconciliation and bringing an elected representative Assembly to Northern Ireland.

You may be assured of my personal interest and full commitment to helping move the peace process forward. I believe that the support of the United States was an important element in helping the parties achieve the Good Friday Agreement, and that America should be ready, if necessary, to appoint a special envoy to further facilitate the search for lasting peace, justice, and reconciliation.

I am encouraged by the very real economic growth that has come to the entire island of Ireland. At least part of this growth can be credited to the strengthening of business ties between the United States and Ireland, and I strongly support continued and increased private American investment in both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

I am also encouraged by the work of Chris Patten and his Commission in reviewing and recommending reforms of the police authorities in Northern Ireland. I appreciate the importance of tradition and symbols, and the sensitivities of the communities in Northern Ireland on this issue, and support the full implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

Please know that you and the people of the entire island of Ireland have a friend in George W. Bush. America should remain engaged in the Irish peace process, and I will work hard and pray always for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.