

We have worked to help promote sound Federal bicycle policies and encourage the construction of thousands of miles of bicycle paths. Our rides have served to raise the awareness of the cycling climate here in Washington, D.C. and to work with groups in the community to improve the cycling conditions in the District.

At the end of the month of March, there will be hundreds of cycling advocates from around the United States here on Capitol Hill to deal with the first annual Bicycle Summit. It will be a time to concentrate on those areas where the Federal Government can be a better partner in providing greater transportation choices so that our communities can be safer and our families can be healthier and economically secure.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S TAX RELIEF PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, this body last week passed President's Bush's tax relief plan, the first step towards a broad tax reduction for our generation. The timing, Mr. Speaker, could not be better for all of us. We have to tighten our belts and prepare for a possible change in our economy.

In fact, the NASDAQ stock exchange closed below 2000 points yesterday, the first time the index closed so low since December, 1998.

President Bush's tax relief plan is a vital means of ensuring the economic engine that we have today continues to move forward, continues running; and of course, we do not want the economy to stall. By returning Americans' hard-earned dollars back to their wallets through tax relief, we will be saving Americans their checking accounts and, of course, and this is my point this afternoon, from Congress spending their money. For, if we fail to return money back to all those hard-working Americans, men and women, the Federal Government will just keep writing checks to spend their money. It is important we give it back to them, with the economy starting to slow.

How much money would Congress spend? Well, due to previous threats of a government shutdown by former President Clinton, and now a practically evenly divided Congress, the Federal Government has been on a spending spree of record proportions since the budgets emerged in 1998.

I believe President Bush has proposed holding spending at roughly 4 percent, a 4 percent increase. He has also offered to pay down the debt while reducing the record tax burden shouldered by all Americans, furthermore removing from Congress the temptation to spend the tax overpayment Americans are presently paying to the U.S. Treasury.

Even Chairman Alan Greenspan agrees with this plan. When the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, came out with its most recent budget estimates, one number, Mr. Speaker, stood out: \$5.6 trillion. That is the size of the projected surplus over the next 10 years. It is enough, of course, to pay down the debt, reduce the tax burden through broad tax relief, and target spending at some of the important programs that President Bush just talked about: health care, defense, and education.

But within that budget analysis, there was another number that garnered less attention. That number was \$561 billion. That is the amount of new spending Congress added during last fall's spending spree, discretionary, mandatory, and additional interest expense, \$561 billion. That amount represents fully one-third the size of the proposed Bush tax relief plan.

It also represents the iceberg's proverbial tip. Since the surplus emerged in 1998, Congress has accelerated spending increases three-fold. In the 3 years prior to 1998, discretionary budget authority grew at a reasonable approximately 2 percent a year. Since 1998, discretionary budget authority has grown at a galloping 6 percent a year.

How much has this increase in discretionary spending reduced the projected surplus? It is \$1.4 trillion. Again, that is just the discretionary spending. According to the CBO, the mandatory spending adopted by Congress last fall reduced the available surplus by \$70 billion.

Mr. Speaker, in 3 years we have already reduced the projected surplus by almost the equivalent of President Bush's tax relief plan. Moreover, the Office of Management and Budget estimates that if discretionary spending continues to grow at its current rate, the 10-year surplus would be \$1.4 trillion less over the next 10 years; again, almost equal to the Bush tax relief. So if we do not give it back to the people today, Congress will spend this money beyond inflation's cost of living.

An analysis of spending since the budget surpluses first emerged showed that if Congress had avoided this simple temptation to increase spending above the budget baseline caps, today we could offer American families a tax relief program equivalent to the Bush plan, and still we would be able to have a \$5.6 trillion surplus left over to pay down the debt, increase funding for education, health care, and defense, and still cut taxes even further.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by urging the other body, the Chamber in the Senate, and other Americans to support the President's broad-based tax relief for American families, and of course, hold spending to 4 percent.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will be reminded to refrain from

urging the other body to take certain action.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, the United States is currently faced with great challenges and at the same time great opportunities. The balanced Federal budget and projected surplus provide economic alternatives that some years ago were not available. However, the indications of an economic slowdown have helped generate calls from the President and Congress to create economic stimulus through a variety of proposals.

Last week the House voted in favor of generous individual income tax reductions. Debate continues on the size and scope of tax cuts and what should be done to spur real economic growth. As the Representative of Puerto Rico before Congress, I will work hard and in a bipartisan fashion to develop and pass the necessary and deserved economic stimulus package that will benefit the 4 million U.S. citizens living in Puerto Rico.

We have before us a unique opportunity to use current budgetary circumstances as a tool for economic development through the creation of jobs and investment in businesses in Puerto Rico.

During the period of 1993 to 1996, Congress took the necessary steps to balance the budget and eliminate the deficit. Many Members may already appreciate how Puerto Rico paid substantially during this process. In 1993, Congress passed the Omnibus Reconciliation Act, which included a provision that substantially curtailed the tax incentives provided by section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code to U.S. companies doing business in Puerto Rico.

In 1996, Congress enacted another set of amendments that eliminated all incentives for new or expanded business operation and investment in Puerto Rico. As of today, Puerto Rico has no Federal incentive to create new jobs, and those that apply to companies already doing business on the island are set to expire in the year 2005.

The negative consequences of the decisions taken in 1993 and 1996 are clear. The phase-out of these incentives is having disastrous effects on Puerto Rico's economy. In the last 4 years, more than 18,000 jobs have been lost in the manufacturing sector as a direct result of the phase-out, and Puerto Rico has not been able to attract significant new economic investment.

The vast majority of these jobs are moving out of the U.S. jurisdiction to countries like Malaysia and Singapore. Employment and wages from American companies are a critical part of Puerto

Rico's manufacturing sector, the most important sector of Puerto Rico's economy.

The results of the phase-out are clear. Today we enjoy a balanced budget and a rather large surplus, but my people in Puerto Rico do not have the jobs. While the taxpayers in the U.S. have earned tax relief, so, too, have Puerto Ricans, who sacrificed during efforts to balance the budget and grow the Federal budget surplus. It is time to provide my constituents with tax relief through incentives for further investment and job creation in the Tax Code.

The challenge is to develop a sustainable stimulus for employment-generating investment in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican economy operates under U.S. standards that are far above those of our main competitors in the global marketplace. Our workers are well trained and educated, are very productive; but we need new tools to continue to grow our economy and be competitive again. Well-designed, sustainable tax incentives will level the playing field and permit us to compete.

Congress has been there for Puerto Rico in the past. In 1976, Congress enacted the special tax exemption under section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code. This was part of an effort to attract U.S. companies to Puerto Rico to create jobs for island residents.

I am here today to ask my colleagues to support a new economic stimulus package for Puerto Rico. Since the phase-out of the 936, economic growth in Puerto Rico has averaged 20 percent less than that of the United States. There has been an unprecedented loss of high-paying manufacturing jobs. No other U.S. jurisdiction has lost manufacturing jobs at such an alarming rate.

Recently layoffs are hurting workers and families in Puerto Rico. During the first 2 months of this year, leading U.S. companies like Intel, Coach, Sara Lee, and Phillips Petroleum have cut production and in some cases closed plants in Puerto Rico. These reductions alone will cost over 5,000 jobs, in addition to the 18,000 we have already lost. Today over 10 percent of the labor force in Puerto Rico is unemployed.

Some cities in Puerto Rico have been particularly hard hit by lost jobs. The average annual pay in Puerto Rican cities ranges from \$16,000 to \$19,000, while the national average is over \$34,000 per year. More than half of the population of Puerto Rico falls below the U.S. poverty threshold.

As I stated earlier, one of the reasons Congress eliminated the tax incentives for the U.S. companies in Puerto Rico was to balance the budget. Now we are faced with a surplus. I ask for your support in efforts to provide necessary and deserved relief for Puerto Rican workers and families.

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF A GREAT AMERICAN, TRUETT CATHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on March 14 we will celebrate the 80th birthday of a great American, Mr. Truett Cathy, founder and chairman of the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain.

In his book, *It is Easier to Succeed Than to Fail*, Mr. Cathy says and I quote, "The longest journey begins with the first step. Ahead of each person is a pilgrimage to success, a journey characterized by challenge and adventure. So here's to the winners, for they give each task their effort and find in the end it's easier to succeed than fail."

Mr. Cathy has lived out his own words. He started his business in 1946 when he and his brother, Ben, opened an Atlanta diner known as the Dwarf Grill, later renamed the Dwarf House. That restaurant prospered over the years.

In 1967, Mr. Cathy founded and opened the first Chick-fil-A restaurant in Atlanta's Greenbriar Shopping Center. Today Chick-fil-A is the third largest quick-service chicken restaurant company in sales in the United States. Today there are more than 963 restaurants in 34 States and South Africa.

Remarkably, Mr. Cathy has led Chick-fil-A on an unparalleled record of 33 consecutive years of sales increases. Most recently, in 1996, he has led the company into international expansion into South Africa.

Mr. Cathy's approach is largely driven by personal satisfaction and his sense of obligation to the community and its young people. His WinShape Centre Foundation, founded in 1984, grew from his desire to shape winners by helping young people succeed in life through scholarships and other youth programs.

The foundation annually awards 20 to 30 students wishing to attend Berry College with \$24,000 scholarships that are jointly funded by the Rome, Georgia, institution. In addition, through its Leadership Scholarship Program the Chick-fil-A chain has given over \$15.6 million in \$1,000 scholarships to Chick-fil-A restaurant employees since 1973.

As part of his WinShape Homes Program, there is a long-term care program for foster children. Eleven foster-care homes have been started in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Brazil that are operated by Mr. Cathy and the WinShape Foundation. These homes, accommodating up to 12 children with two full-time foster parents, provide long-term care for foster children with a positive family environment.

To add benefits to his WinShape Homes program, Mr. Cathy committed to Chick-fil-A's first major sports sponsorship, the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, hosted by Nancy Lopez. In

1995, the LPGA-sanctioned tournament at Eagles Landing Country Club in Stockbridge, Georgia, raised \$170,000 for WinShape homes. Having completed its 6th year, the Chick-fil-A championship hosted by Nancy Lopez has contributed more than \$2.1 million to WinShape homes.

In 1996, Chick-fil-A became the title sponsor of the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, the annual college football match-up between the top teams for the Atlantic Coast Conference team and the South-eastern Conference. As with the LPGA tournament, a portion of the proceeds from the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl is donated to WinShape. To date, the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl has raised more than \$400,000 for the WinShape cause.

The third core component distinguishing WinShape programs is Camp WinShape. It was founded in 1985 as a series of 2-week summer camps at Berry College to help boys and girls build self-esteem through physical and spiritual activities. More than 1,500 campers from 20 States attend WinShape sessions annually.

Mr. Cathy is a devoutly religious man who built his life and business on hard work, humanity, and Biblical principles. Based on these principles, Mr. Speaker, all of Chick-fil-A restaurants, both domestically and internationally, operate with a closed-on-Sunday policy without exception.

When not managing his company, Mr. Cathy performs community service and teaches a Sunday school class of 13-year-old boys, as he has done for the past 45 years.

In addition to presiding over one of the fastest-growing restaurant chains in America, Mr. Cathy is a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. His two sons, Dan and Don, known as Bubba, have both followed their father's footsteps in learning the business from the ground up.

Dan is executive vice president of Chick-fil-A and president of Chick-fil-A International, and Bubba is senior vice president and president of Chick-fil-A Dwarf House Division.

Mr. Cathy's daughter, Trudy, is the youngest of three children. She and her husband, John, have returned to the United States from Brazil, where they served as missionaries. Mr. Cathy and his wife, Jeannette, have 12 grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. Truett Cathy, for all you have done for our country, our community, and for your fellow man. Happy birthday, Mr. Truett Cathy.

THE ROLE OF CIVILIANS IN OBSERVING MILITARY ACTIVITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to express my deep sorrow regarding the training accident on the Kuwaiti bombing range