

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 Southeastern 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

and extend my condolences to the families of those who were killed or injured. I know full well how the crew and the air wing on the U.S.S. *Harry S Truman* must feel regarding this tragic occurrence.

This accident underscores the risks that American service members take in order to master and to maintain the skills they need to keep our Nation safe and to protect our security around the world. The military is a dangerous profession, and we cannot take for granted the hazards that our men and women in uniform face on a daily basis, in times of war as well as in times of peace.

Mr. Speaker, last month I visited some of America's troops overseas, particularly in Kosovo, Bosnia, and Germany. With me were two other Members of the House, both of whom are on the Committee on Armed Services with me. We were astonished by what we saw: the dedication, the sacrifice, and above all, the intense level of activity, even in peacetime. It of course was an eye-opener, and it does give one a new sense of appreciation of the military.

It is the kind of education that I believe more Americans should have. As the population grows and fewer and fewer households have a picture on the mantle of a son or daughter in uniform, we do not have as many parents asking us to look after their Johnnie or their Janie who is in the service. We do not have as many Members of Congress with military experience.

That, of course, concerns me, because I don't believe it is good for America to have its military services become separate from the society that supports them and that they in turn defend.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, there is an unfortunate gap between civilian America and military America. Many civilians simply do not understand the role of people in uniform. It is an arduous profession, it is a dangerous profession, as I mentioned a moment ago, and the more civilians that can see our military, the better they can understand just how important a job they do.

One way the military has traditionally tried to maintain a bond with the people in our country is to involve civilians in military activities. That takes many forms, from public airshows to allowing citizens to observe military operations up close.

As we know, Mr. Speaker, the issue of how civilians should be involved in military activities is now subject to no small debate. I hasten to say, this is not a trivial matter. It is important for civilians to see how the military works, what they get for their money, and most of all, just what excellent men and women wear the uniform of the United States today.

I can certainly understand why, following the terribly sad situation involving the U.S.S. *Greenville*, some might believe that civilians should not be allowed aboard ships or aircraft, or to visit active military facilities. Without addressing the role of civilian ob-

servers in that particular case, let me say that I believe closing the doors of military facilities to civilian observers would be counterproductive.

To be clear, they should remain just that, observers. They should not be in control of any military hardware. Keeping hands off is no reason to keep eyes out. The Constitution provides for civilian control of the military, and that requires an informed public. Allowing responsible citizens access to the operating military is the most basic way of keeping the public aware of what the military life is all about, and what part the armed services should play in our society.

Even more basically, the more civilians see the military, the more word gets around that our men and women in uniform deserve our support. It works the other way, too. Military personnel are glad to know that their work is being seen and appreciated by the people back home.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the military is on its way to becoming just another special interest group, an organization that sees its own interests as separate from the rest of society. But the military is an integral part of our society. Indeed, it is woven by tradition and constitutional design into the very fabric of America itself.

To separate the military from civilian observation would be no less significant than separating our flag from the stars and stripes.

STATEMENT OF MARITZA LUGO ACCUSING THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND STATE SECURITY OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, despite the visitors, some from this body, who are going down to meet with the Cuban dictator and come back thrilled, having drooled with the privilege of meeting with him and having a banquet in his palace, the reality of Cuba today is quite different. The leaders of the Cuba of tomorrow, of the inevitably democratic Cuba of tomorrow, are in many instances in the political prisons of the totalitarian state today.

One such young woman, the mother of two, is Maritza Lugo, a Cuban political prisoner of conscience. A few days ago she managed to sneak out. She knows she is risking her life. But if she had the courage to sneak this out for the world to know, I think that I have the obligation to read it for my colleagues and those interested to know what she says.

Statement by Maritza Lugo, March 5, 2001, addressed to all people of good will who defend human rights.

She states:

From this horrible place I come before you, the international organizations who defend

human rights, the organizations defenders of democracy, justice, and peace, the religious organizations who promote liberty; the whole world and its people, to denounce the government of Cuba.

I accuse the dictatorial government imposed on Cuba and its repressive arm, the State Security, of all the injustices and abuses they commit against the Cuban people, the penal population, and especially against the political prisoners of conscience. I accuse those miserable and cowardly men and women who, through the use of force, commit all types of human rights violations, while nothing stops them as they attempt to defend a false revolution built and maintained upon a foundation of lies and infamies.

As a physically defenseless woman in ill health, as a mother of two unfortunate daughters currently without a mother's care and armed with my religious faith as my only weapon, I accuse.

I accuse them of publicly blaming every day a foreign country to give a false impression to the Cuban people that they have nothing to be guilty of. And this is why we, the repressed ones, demand that the criminals be sanctioned in the name of all victims that have suffered and continue to suffer in our homeland.

Stop the continuous wanton detention of innocent people whose only crime is disagreeing with the Castro regime. Stop taking them to inhumane prison cells where they are physically as well as psychologically tortured, as are their family members. They are kept in these prisons for an arbitrary and undetermined amount of time, living among dangerous common criminals and exposed to all kinds of risks. They are kept incarcerated for months without an expeditious trial, serving an unjust sentence while waiting to be charged or tried, as others are tried and unjustly condemned.

To the dictatorial government, I say, stop denying that you torture people. Stop denying international organizations access to our prisons with the pretext that you do not accept others meddling in internal affairs or that you do not compromise your sovereignty. To promote your agenda, you conveniently allow bribery and deception to prevent the inspection of these prisons according to international law.

Maritza Lugo continues:

I denounce that political prisoners are treated differently from other prison inmates. We are more rigorously repressed, even though the behavior of some common prisoners may be undesirable. Political prisoners, "counterrevolutionaries," as they call us, are constantly watched by guards and common prisoners trained for this sole purpose. We are searched more often and more demands are placed on us to follow their stringent so-called rules. The women's prisons are practically uninhabitable due to the putrid water that leaks from the floors above. The sinks are clogged and the prisoners have to do their wash on the floor. We are neither given supplies nor detergents to clean, leaving us to our own resources to solve our problems, using our own pieces of clothing. But this doesn't stop them from making demands on us and passing inspection to check our cleanliness. If they fail you, they submit a report that may carry the possibility of punishment. Medical attention is atrocious and there's hardly any medicine, while the Communist government affords the luxury of exporting doctors and medicine to other countries. This is not done because government officials are kind and generous people. This is done for propaganda purposes only, taking advantage of the misery other nations suffer to sell them their