

Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Frank W. Ballance, Jr., Bobby Scott, Lynn C. Woolsey, Pete Stark, Maurice D. Hinchey, Hilda L. Solis.

MOVING EXPENSES FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Associated Press has now reported that the Federal Government has paid out over \$100,000 each in moving expenses to hundreds of Federal employees.

Investigators found 388 moves that cost taxpayers over \$100,000 each. One FBI employee got \$203,000, and three IRS workers got over \$190,000 each for their moves. In addition to these hundreds of moves that have already been paid for, 81 other Federal employees have been authorized to receive over \$100,000 each for their moves.

Mr. Speaker, this is ridiculous. It is excessive. It is a rip-off of the taxpayers, and Congress should stop it. Federal employment used to be called government service. However, it is anything but public service when employees seem to care less and less about what a move costs as long as it does not come out of their own pockets.

CONGRESSIONAL BICYCLE CAUCUS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that as we are dealing with some weighty matters here before us that we also may be able to pause for a moment and deal with one simple little item that can help bring us together. We are in the midst now of encouraging Members to renew their membership in the bipartisan Bicycle Caucus.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and I have issued a letter that is circulating to the Members. Last year, we had over a hundred Members, representing 37 States, that worked to help promote cycling policies around the country, to do work here in Washington, D.C., to promote that opportunity to make the cycling-friendly environment and to have some positive experiences for Members, family, and staff using cycles here.

Next week, there will be a bicycle summit with participation from virtually every State in the Union, over 500 people. We encourage Members to renew their membership. They will get the certified bicycle membership pen, and we will have an opportunity to work together on something that we will enjoy that will be good for the environment, good for health, and good for our country.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues and the American people for supporting our men and women who have volunteered to stand in harm's way. While no one desires to go to war, the threat to America posed by Iraq and international terrorism is real, and many of those in the Armed Forces may be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice.

I am especially appreciative of our servicemembers because I recently served on a delegation led by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to visit the courageous troops in Kuwait, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Already nearly 170,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves have been called up for deployment. These brave people have volunteered to leave their jobs and families to help secure our liberty.

Many of our military families struggle to make ends meet, and I ask Americans to reach out to them. Every helping hand is greatly appreciated, even if just a word of encouragement. I ask everyone across this great land to support our troops by assisting their families while they are defending freedom.

DIVIDEND TAX CUT

(Mr. BEAUPREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, in coming days and weeks, this body will take up issues of economic growth and taxation fairness. The President has suggested the elimination of the tax on dividends, a tax paid of course by investors, half of which I am told are senior citizens, treated as ordinary income.

This tax is rightly referred to as a double tax because companies that pay dividends have already been subjected to a corporate income tax. Thus 60 percent or more of every dollar of business profit, when taxed both at the corporate and personal level, could end up in the Federal tax bucket.

This seems excessive. It seems unfair. It seems a penalty on success. This is clearly a disincentive to capital investment which is critical, of course, to job creation; capital investment, which declined for eight consecutive quarters of our battered economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain every Member of this body is committed to more job availability for Americans, especially now. Elimination of the dividend tax would be an incentive for capital investment which is necessary for job creation.

Let us do American workers a favor and eliminate the dividend tax now.

JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's jobs and economic growth package because of the immediate benefits that it will provide for our small business owners.

Under current law, businesses can only deduct a fraction of new investment expenses and are forced to wait years to deduct the full cost. The President's jobs and economic growth package will help reduce this anti-investment bias by immediately increasing the amount of investment that can be deducted from \$25,000 to \$75,000 per year. Increasing by 300 percent the amount that small businesses can invest in their company will have an immediate and positive impact on our Nation's economy. This package is projected to return an average of \$2,042 to over 23 million small business owners this year.

This legislation will help increase the bottom line, and I hope my colleagues will support it when it comes before the House.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL GUARDSMEN AND RESERVES

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as our Nation mobilizes in every way, and most especially our military, to confront the war on terror, as our soldiers in numbers exceeding 150,000 prepare in a theater overseas for possible confrontation, a brief word about the citizen-soldier and their role, National Guardsmen and Reserves in this effort, fully 60,000 of which have not only been activated but deployed to that theater overseas.

This week, the historic base, Camp Atterbury in my own district, became the very first State-owned National Guard facility to be activated as a mobilization site in the war on terror. My congratulations to Governor Frank O'Bannon and the Indiana Army National Guard and the 38th Division for their stewardship of this facility, and it is all of our hope and prayer that the men who pass through that place through mobilization go with God and go prepared and come home to their families and their grateful communities soon.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S ECONOMIC PLAN

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said that the best thing that the government can do to stimulate the economy is get out of the way, and I agree completely. President Bush's economic growth and jobs creation plan is a perfect blueprint for

what elected officials should do to stimulate this economy and create jobs.

I want to just tell my colleagues briefly about a small company in my district, the 11th of Georgia, the Daisaka company owned by Patty and Carlos Suarez. This is a glass-decorating company. They started 5 or 6 years ago with 6 employees and now have 45, but the Suarezes want to grow that company. With the increase of the capital credit from \$25,000 to \$75,000 a year they are going to be able to do that and create 10 or 12 additional jobs and grow that company.

We need to pass this economic growth and job creation package now so that more and more small businesses in this country, we estimate 23 million of them, will benefit from this growth package and end up creating 1.2 million jobs.

I commend the President and we need to get on with that business and pass that package.

COMPLETE DEATH TAX ELIMINATION

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of tax relief for small business owners and farmers in the 12th District of Georgia and in America.

Small business owners and farmers in my State have always assumed their fair share of our Nation's tax burden. Fortunately, because of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, these hardworking men and women will not bear the burden of additional taxation in death, at least not for a few more years.

Unfortunately, Congress did not finish the job, and many of my constituents, real working Americans, will face the so-called death tax once again in 2011. That is why this morning I signed on as a cosponsor of H.R. 57, the Death Tax Permanency Act of 2003. I believe that the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) has put together a fine piece of legislation, and I am proud to cosponsor this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are not rich. They work hard, building on the American dream of freedom in pursuit of happiness. They also expect to leave something to their children. Without complete death tax elimination, farmers and small business owners are left out of that dream. The death tax is restrictive. It is an obstacle to the American dream and it is unfair and inappropriate.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAUPREZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House,

the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO PAINE COLLEGE

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time to offer praise to one of Augusta, Georgia's most prized and valuable educational institutions. A recent guest of Travis Smiley's C-SPAN program ventured that Paine College was among several Historically Black Colleges in serious trouble financially and was in danger of dissolving. This could not be farther from the truth for Paine, which has experienced the largest growth in its 70 years of accredited education, with an average enrollment of 850 young men and women for the past 5 years.

As a college professor, I know the challenges that today's institutions of higher education face. The rising cost of education and the ever-growing competition between schools to recruit and retain students are difficult to manage, but among these and other trials Paine College has not only held its ground but has grown and it has prospered.

Paine students hail not just from Georgia but from all corners of our great Nation and from foreign lands, including Zambia and Cameroon. Gate Millennium Scholars, recognized for their achievements in high school, are given the chance to attend the college of their choice with full funding. This year, two of these students chose to continue their education in Augusta and build a foundation of a successful life with a degree from Paine College.

Like many colleges and universities throughout the country, many of Paine's students qualify for Federal scholarships and grants. Additionally, 227 students are currently studying at Paine with the assistance of the Georgia HOPE Scholarship, for which they have to maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average.

With so many choices among institutions of higher education, students will go where they can find the best educational value. Paine College has experienced its recent growth by recognizing that fact and providing a low-cost education that produces excellent results. Graduates of Paine College often move across town to attend the Medical College of Georgia or to study at other prestigious graduate programs across the country, such as Penn State University, the Claremont School of Theology, or the University of Maryland.

Those of us who have served as teachers know that it is not only the job of a school to help shape and educate the mind but to develop a member of a community who will offer something in return to his neighbors. Paine's students can be seen volunteering to give back to the Augusta community every day. The Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Shiloh

Senior Community Center, and the area public schools have all benefited from the generosity of Paine College students and alumni who give their time to volunteer in areas where they can have a positive impact on the lives of Augusta's youth.

Academically, Paine College provides an outstanding curriculum run by a top-notch faculty. Business, education, natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences and humanities programs all offer programs of study to prepare students to not only compete but to excel in their chosen fields. To appreciate the quality of a Paine College education, all you have to do is see a short list of the achievements of Paine's alumni. Frank Yerby has published 32 novels. Charles Goode Gommillion argued and won a United States Supreme Court case. Mack Gibson was the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and works for NASA.

Paine College has served as a great resource for the development of great minds and members of the community both for Augusta and for our country and the world as a whole. I can see nothing but more growth and continued great achievements for Paine in the future, and I am proud to represent its students and faculty in the House of Representatives. Students seeking a quality-centered education can be confident in choosing Paine College and being a proud part of America's future.

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MURPHY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, "O, let America be America again, the land that never has been yet, and yet must be; the land where every man is free. The land that's mine, the poor man's, Indian's, Negro's, me, who made America, whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain, whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain, must bring back our mighty dream again."

Mr. Speaker, those eloquent words of celebrated African American poet and writer Langston Hughes resound today as we celebrate Black History Month 2003. On February 1, 2002, Mr. Hughes joined the other 24 prominent African