a city with private money if you think the city has no future. The city has a future. The city is coming back. The first people to understand it are those who have the most to lose, private businesspeople who have put their money where their mouth is, which is what I am asking this Congress to do when it comes to our schools, to put their money on the summer program and not on vouchers, where it will have no measurable effect on the average kid in the District of Columbia.

Nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, you have never seen me give the rosy, merry picture of the District. That is why I have spoken about the frightening decline in the D.C. tax base. I have introduced a bill, as recently as last week, called the D.C. Economic Recovery Act that would give a tax break to District residents from their Federal income taxes. I come forward to do this for the District, recognizing it would not be done for others because the District is a special case and you have made it so, and it is so under the Constitution of the United States.

We have no State, Mr. Speaker. So that when residents leave the District, a very different phenomenon occurs than when they leave Baltimore or Richmond because when they take their money with them, there is no State to recycle their money back to the District of Columbia, as the State recycles money back to Baltimore and as the State recycles money back to Richmond. If there is no State to recycle the money back, then you say, ''Well, why don't you tax the people who come in every day to work here and use the same services that residents use here during the day?'' The reason we do not do so, Mr. Speaker, is because this body, and the other body, the Congress of the United States, has indeed barred a commuter tax.

So the District is left high and dry. People leave, no way to make up for them because no State to help make up for their flight, and no way to make people who come in and use our services pay for the use of those services because the Congress has barred a commuter tax. I am asking this body to help make up for putting your capital between a rock and a hard place, and I am pleased and may I give credit to the leadership of this body and of the other body for supporting the D.C. Economic Recovery Act.

Mr. Speaker, the figures speak for themselves. We want to hear them now so that we will not be the last to turn out the lights.

□ 1500

The figures speak for themselves. If we look at who the movers are, we see that 25 percent of them earn between $35,000 and $50,000, and 38 percent of them earn between $50,000 and $100,000. Mr. Speaker, those are middle-income taxpayers right there. That is 63 percent of the people moving in that core, prime middle-income group between $35,000 and $100,000. Those are the people who pay taxes to the District government.

If the District does not have people to pay taxes to the government, no amount of surplus can make up for the flight of its core tax base. That is why I have introduced the District of Columbia Economic Recovery Act, not as special treatment to the District, but to make up for the special detriment that this body has placed on the District because we believe that that is necessary because it is the capital of the United States.

Who is not leaving the District, Mr. Speaker? Those who make under $15,000; or put it another way, it is the poor. That is to say, under $15,000, only 3 percent left. The years I am talking about for these numbers, Mr. Speaker, are 1990 to 1996.

The very rich are not leaving in large numbers either. Only 10 percent of those who make $100,000 or more are leaving, and we are overly dependent upon these very rich people, and I love every last one of them, and I hope they do not go anywhere.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. NORTON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I could not help but watch with interest the gentlewoman's discussion on the floor here today as the gentlewoman has been talking about her wonderful District, which is our Nation's capital, and I wanted to share with those who are focusing upon the presentation my experience in dealing with the gentlewoman regarding the city.

I first was drawn by way of attention when the gentlewoman mentioned David Gillmor, who is the housing director here and a fellow who we have both worked with, a fabulous public servant who is among those who is trying to make a difference in the Nation's capital and is making a very special contribution.

I also wanted to share with the gentlewoman and others the fact that just a short time ago I returned from a, not exactly a ribbon-cutting, but essentially that, at a Habitat for Humanity, location very close to the Capitol here, where in this case Freddie Mac was presenting a check for $1 million for a program that the gentlewoman knows as the House That Congress Built.

But as we were doing that, we were also expressing our appreciation for those who come together, in this case to help Ms. Christy Ingram and her family prepare to move in, probably sometime this summer to their new home here in the Nation's capital as a result of partnering that is going on in the city, that is designed to try to make a little difference here.

As the gentlewoman knows, I come from California, but when I am in the Nation's capital doing this job, I am a constituent of yours, for I live in the city. I am very proud that I do. It is a marvelous community that needs all the help that all of us together should and want to give it. But especially I just wanted to express my appreciation to you and to those of you like David Gillmor who are truly making a difference for all of us who live here.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for taking the time to come to the floor. I do have to say to this body that the gentleman from California, who represents his own district with great energy and great distinction, nevertheless decides he always has to do good where he is and has initiated a program here that he is now spreading through the rest of the country. He came to me, imagine how I felt, when a distinguished and senior, not in age, but in longevity in the House came to me and said, we want to build a house by the Congress of the United States here in the capital of the United States, and I want to thank the gentleman for his work for the District.

NO WAIVER OF JACKSON-VANIK

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, 1 week ago the administration issued a waiver of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, opening the way for OPIC and Exim funds to filter into Vietnam. I was expecting this decision to come from the administration; however, I had hoped that common sense would guide that decision. Vietnam is a Communist country. Its citizens enjoy no religious freedom, little economic freedom, and no freedom to vote, and it is not getting better.

The recent promotion of a hard-line Communist to the Secretary General position, a man who once stated that his government has concerns that foreigners are somehow out to undermine Vietnam's independence, has stalled all hopes of changing the economy in Vietnam. Vietnam is not ready for OPIC. Your support or opposition to OPIC and Exim is not in question here. What is is the government subsidies for businesses in Communist Vietnam.

In anticipation of this decision by the administration, I introduced H.R. 3159, legislation which will now make this waiver null and void. The United States should not extend these benefits to a country that has done little in the way of granting freedom to its citizens. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

WHITE HOUSE SILENCE: AMERICANS WANT THE TRUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITFIELD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 10 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, not far away in a United States Federal courthouse, a grand jury may hold in its