EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LET'S LOOK TO THE FUTURE

HON. CHARLES WILSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, from time to time a letter comes across my desk that speaks directly to the core of a problem. Recently we received just such a letter.

The debate over balancing the Federal budget and finding ways to also reduce taxes inspired an east Texan to write to my office. This letter is so in tune with both present reality and historic precedent that I wanted to share it with all of you:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: I would much prefer deficit reduction to a middle class tax cut. Although I would qualify, the tax cut would make very little difference in my well-being. But a reduction in the Federal deficit will improve my well-being and that of my child in the long run.

Please work to identify spending cuts that can be applied to deficit reduction rather than a tax cut.

Sincerely,

E.L. WRIGHT.

I expect this letter expresses the views of many people, especially those with children. It asks that we look to their future.

This means getting the Federal ledger in the black first. It means when we do turn to tax relief, the emphasis should be on deductions for education and career training, use of IRA's for college tuition, and other long-term investments.

Fourteen years ago I was one of a handful of Members who voted for President Reagan's spending cuts, and against his tax cuts. We took some flak and received bags of hate mail for this. But I felt then, as I know now, that any tax cuts must come after we achieve a balanced budget, not before. Trying to do both in the early 1980's snowballed us into the most rapid increase in deficit spending in history.

A strong, solvent America is in everyone's interest. Reaching a balanced budget should be our priority now, just as it should have been 14 years ago.

CONCERNING THE RULE TO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in reluctant support of House Resolution 44, the rule for the balanced budget amendment. Although I will be voting for this rule, I am disappointed that the Franks-Condit-Gillmor substitute amendment adding unfunded mandates language to the balanced budget amendment was not made in order by the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, our amendment was substantially similar to the Barton balanced budget amendment (H.J. Res. 1), but with two crucial differences. First, our amendment struck the three-fifths provision to raise taxes contained in section 2 of House Joint Resolution 1. While I am steadfastly opposed to raising taxes, the controversy surrounding this provision could hamper passage in the Senate and make it more difficult to achieve the requisite two-thirds vote in the House of Representatives.

Second, our amendment includes a provision prohibiting new unfunded Federal mandates. I strongly believe that a ban on unfunded mandates is essential to prevent a future Congress from balancing the Federal budget merely by shifting costs and responsibilities to State and local governments.

The supporters of other versions of the balanced budget amendment contend that there are only two ways to balance the budget—either by cutting spending or increasing taxes. But the truth is there's a third, more insidious option where the Congress would mandate expensive Federal programs onto State and local governments and require local taxpayers to pick up the tab. Judging from the past, it is clear that Congress will use any means available to avoid hard budget choices. I believe that closing the unfunded mandates loophole is imperative to preserve the integrity of the balanced budget amendment and ensure protection for local taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, including an unfunded Federal mandates provision as part of the balanced budget amendment is the only ironclad way to protect local taxpayers. Although I welcome and support efforts to solve the unfunded mandates issue by passing a statute, the sorry fact is that Congress is adept at finding ways to circumvent statutory law in order to escape from fiscal accountability.

Additionally, it is important to note that Republican and Democratic Governors have rightly expressed their reluctance to encourage their State legislatures to ratify a balanced budget amendment without a provision specifically prohibiting new unfunded Federal mandates. The inclusion of a provision to ban unfunded Federal mandates would have, in my opinion, markedly improved the chance of ratification by the States.

Mr. Speaker, our substitute amendment has the support of the National League of Cities and the National Conference of State Legislatures [NCSL]. The support of NCSL is especially noteworthy, as it is their members who will ultimately be deciding the fate of the balanced budget amendment. And since this rule precludes me from offering my substitute amendment that would have protected the States, I am skeptical whether this version of the balanced budget amendment will ever be ratified by the requisite 38 States.

Mr. Speaker, consideration of the balanced budget amendment presents Congress with a unique and historic opportunity to permanently resolve the issue of unfunded Federal mandates. Our substitute amendment would have provided the assurance that Congress would not have met its obligations under the balanced budget amendment by imposing unfunded mandates on State and local governments. Although I am disheartened that Congress will not act on my amendment today, I expect that we will be revisiting this issue should the States refuse to ratify the balanced budget amendment because of an absence of a unfunded mandate provision.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS: 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, shortly after the gateways to Guam were opened to the world, the Guam Daily News published its first edition on my home district of Guam. The paper quickly evolved into a solid business entity, which is important to our island and to the Pacific region.

Now affiliated with the Gannett News Service, the Guam Daily News is better known as the Pacific Daily News. It is our only daily paper, and a tremendous source of current events.

Over the years, the P.D.N. has changed its format, its editors, its reporters, but not its high quality. The paper may not be as thick as the New York Times or the Washington Post, but ''all the news that's fit to print,'' manages to get on its pages.

Truly part of the Guam family, the P.D.N. currently reaches a wider audience than any other island media. It overcame obstacles and outlasted a competing paper. Throughout the years, in typhoons and other natural disasters, I have always found an edition of the P.D.N. at my doorstep. Yet, the paper means so much more to Guahan.

On important occasions, the managers and employees of the P.D.N. constantly prove their keen interest in civic matters. As a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Olympic Committee, other nonprofit boards and commissions, President Lee Webber leads his staff by example. As the company grew, it shared its success with the island.

Happy 25th birthday, Pacific Daily News.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, January 11, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

APPLYING LAWS TO CONGRESS

As much as Hoosiers complain to me about excessive government regulations, they complain even more about congressional exemptions from laws that are applied to private citizens and businesses. They believe Congress should follow the same laws as private citizens, and I agree. To address such concerns, on the opening day of the 104th Congress the House passed unanimously the Congressional Accountability Act, which will ensure that Congress lives under the same laws applied to private citizens.

BACKGROUND

Many Members of Congress from both political parties and both chambers have worked for years to develop a process for applying laws to Congress that is consistent with the constitutional requirement of the separation of powers. For example, a proposal similar to the Congressional Accountability Act was included among the recommendations of the bipartisan Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, which I co-chaired. In August 1994, legislation almost identical to the Congressional Accountability Act passed the House by a margin of 437 to 4. Unfortunately, that proposal was blocked in the Senate in the closing days of the 103rd Congress. The House responded in October 1994 by applying laws to itself via a change in House rules.

This rules change was a worthwhile accomplishment. But private sector laws should be applied as fully as possible to both the House and Senate, and this is best accomplished by legislation rather than a rules change in one chamber. Moreover, the internal House rules change could not allow for court appeals of employee grievances. As a result, Congress is again considering legislation to end the long history of congressional exemptions.

IMPORTANCE

There are three key reasons why it is important for Members of Congress to follow the same laws that cover private citizens.

First, the widespread perception that Members have exempted themselves from many laws significantly undermines public confidence in Congress. This institution loses credibility and legitimacy when people believe that Members are somehow ''above the law.''

Second, more fully applying laws to Congress will improve the quality of the legislation we pass. It can be difficult for Members to understand completely the practical implications of legislation when we are not forced to confront these implications in our own place of work.

And third, it is simply unfair not to extend to congressional employees the same rights and protections available to those who work elsewhere.

COMPLEXITIES

As with many congressional reform issues, the issue of applying laws to Congress is complex, and often misunderstood. For example, many laws such as the Social Security Act have long been applied to Congress in exactly the same manner that they are applied to the private sector. Other key labor laws also are currently applied to Congress, although the methods of enforcement differ somewhat from those adopted for private sector employees. Among these laws are the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act. Some laws have not been applied to Congress simply because they have no bearing on the internal operations of this institution, such as Title IX of the Higher Education Act Amendments of 1972, which deals with women's athletics programs. And in certain areas Members are actually subject to more stringent statutory limitations than those applied to people in the private sector: examples include full public financial disclosure, post-employment restrictions, and strict limitations on outside income.

Constitutional questions have also complicated the effort to bring the legislative branch into compliance. There would be considerable potential for mischief if a President of one party were allowed to use his regulatory enforcement powers to harass or unduly influence Members of Congress of another party. The internal operations of Congress cannot be subject to regulation—and possible political manipulation—by the President.

However, even with these common misunderstandings and difficulties, the underlying problem has remained: Congress has not been subject to certain laws to the maximum extent feasible, and the institution must be brought into full compliance in a manner consistent with the Constitution.

PROVISIONS

My view is that the Congressional Accountability Act will accomplish these goals without undermining the separation of powers. As passed by the House, it contains a number of important provisions. It will: require the direct application of private sector laws, including OSHA, to Congress; create a bicameral Office of Compliance to issue the regulations necessary to implement these laws; provide that such regulations will go into effect within a certain period unless Congress explicitly votes otherwise; and allow congressional employees to take their complaints to court and receive compensation.

House passage of the Congressional Accountability Act is not the final hurdle in the process of applying laws to Congress. The Senate also has pledged quick consideration of a bill to apply laws to Congress. But the Senate bill likely will differ from the House-passed version in important ways, and the two chambers will have to agree on a single consensus package. Still, my hope is that Congress will settle the issue of congressional compliance early this year.

CONCLUSION

The application of laws to Congress is one key component of the overall reform agenda advanced by the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress and other reform-minded Members during recent years. But reform is an ongoing process, and much work still needs to be done. Members should continue to work in a bipartisan fashion for meaningful congressional reform throughout the 104th Congress. The passage of a strong reform agenda will help demonstrate that Members are serious about enhancing the openness, effectiveness, and public credibility of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN COHEN, SUBWAY HERO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jonathan Cohen, a brave young African American whose quick and selfless action prevented a fleeing suspect from escaping a tragic subway murder early this month.

Jonathan Cohen lived in the Bronx until he was 10 and attended P.S. 48 in my Congressional District. He was descending the escalator to the platform at the 34th Street station on January 4 when he saw a man push an elderly woman into the path of an oncoming subway train. While the other onlookers froze, Mr. Cohen had the presence of mind to follow the man he saw commit the crime, call out to others to call the police, and then grab and hold the suspect when he reached the token booth.

Mr. Speaker, when teachers at P.S. 48 read about this incident, they recalled the young boy named Jonathan Cohen who had attended their school 20 years ago. After doing some checking, they were able to ascertain that the hero of January 4 was a grown-up version of the boy they remembered.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 17, P.S. 48 will hold a Black History Month program. The annual theme of this year's celebration, which had been established well in advance of the events of January 4, is ''Growing Better Citizens.'' How fitting it is, Mr. Speaker, that Jonathan Cohen, who has grown into such an outstanding citizen, will speak at this event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the P.S. 48 community in priase of Jonathan Cohen for the shining example he sets for all Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF TAX LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE $15 MILLION LIMITATION ON TAX EXEMPT PUBLIC OUTPUTBONDS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the special $15,000,000 limitation on the amount of a tax-exempt bond issue which may be used to provide an output facility. The intent of this legislation is to treat public power in the same manner as other public facilities.

Traditionally, States and local governments and other public entities have relied on the issuance of municipal tax-free bonds to finance construction of a wide range of essential public facilities, including schools, roads, water and waste water treatment systems, electric and gas utilities, hospitals, health centers, prisons, and public transit. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 included numerous provisions restricting the use of tax exempt bonds. These provisions were enacted in order to curb abuses in the bond community and to increase revenue to reduce the Federal budget deficit.

One of the changes made in 1986 was the extent to which private parties could benefit from the use of facilities financed by tax-exempt bonds. Pre-1986, up to 25 percent of facilities constructed through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds could benefit from the use of facilities financed by tax-exempt bonds. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 reduced this restriction to 10 percent for all Government bonds. However, a further limitation was imposed on public power and public natural gas transmission facilities. The private use test for public power is the lesser of 10 percent of $15 million. No other entities are subject to the $15 million private-use test.

The removal of the $15 million cap would place public power on equal footing with other

public facilities. The additional restriction on public power hampers the ability of these entities to buy and sell power in the open market. In addition, the restriction constrains public power entities from building units of a size which allow them to gain economies of scale.

In 1989, the Anthony Commission on Public Finance, chaired by former Rep. Beryl Anthony issued a report entitled ''Preserving the Federal-State-Local Partnership: The Role of Tax-Exempt Financing.'' The Commission recommended the elimination of the $15 million public power limit. The bottom line is that this restriction is not only discriminatory, but it drives up the cost of power to consumers of public systems.

On June 23, 1993, the U.S. Department of Treasury testified before the Subcommittee on Select Revenue of the Ways and Means Committee and addressed this legislation. Leslie B. Samuels, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy said, ''There does not appear to be a reason to treat (these) output facilities more harshly than other output facilities. As a practical matter, the $15 million output limit of current law may have little effect other than to create an incentive for public power issues to operate inefficiently.''

The legislation will remove the $15 million cap and treat public power like other public facilities and I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

JOHN M. RANDOLPH, JR., HONORED WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to have the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a highly respected leader and my personal friend, John M. Randolph, Jr. Mr. Randolph will be honored by the Wilkes-Barre community on February 19 at the prestigious Lincoln Day Dinner sponsored by the B'nai B'rith S.J. Strauss Lodge.

Mr. Randolph, a graduate of King's College, is a senior partner in the accounting firm of Parente, Randolph, Orlando, Carey and Associates, which is the 25th largest CPA firm in the United States. It has 10 offices in Pennsylvania, and employs a professional staff of more than 300 employees.

A frequent speaker for professional and community service groups, John has often shared his financial expertise with the community. The list of his personal and professional affiliations and memberships is long and impressive. It includes a seat on the board of trustees of College Misericordia where he served as the vice-chairman of the board and chairman of the finance committee. Currently he is serving as trustee emeritus. He has served from 1989 to 1990 as a trustee for Keystone Junior College; he is a current trustee of King's College and sits on the Wilkes University Presidents Council.

John came to Wilkes-Barre in 1959 to attend King's College and made the Wyoming Valley his home. He and his wife, Sharon, are the proud parents of two sons, John III, a second-year law student, and Scott, who attends Wilkes University.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Strauss Lodge in honoring John Randolph, Jr., for his dedication to his profession and to his community. I applaud the lodge's choice of John Randolph as this year's recipient of this prestigious award.

SALUTE TO THE PARLATOS FOR THEIR SERVICE IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Julie and Alan Parlato from Rochester, NY for their accredited service in the U.S. Air Force on the occasion of their retirement at the Offutt AFB on November 18, 1994.

In SMSgt. Alan A. Parlato's 24 years in the Air Force he earned a SAC master technician patch and a SAC master aircraft and munitions maintenance badge. His decorations and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Longevity Service Award with five oak leaf clusters, NCO PME Graduation Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Air Force training ribbon. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1971 as a grand radio repairman and left as a maintenance operations superintendent and logistics group resource advisor.

In Master Sergeant Julie A. Parlato's 20 years in the Air Force her decorations and awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four oak leaf clusters, NCO PME Graduation Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Training Ribbon. She enlisted in the Air Force in 1974 as a plumber, retrained first as a teletype operator and later to go into the training career field. She left as chief, education and training section responsible for developing and evaluating unit training programs.

Alan A. Parlato and the former Julia A. Reitano met in 1969 and were married in August 1971 in Rochester, NY. They have one son, Christopher, a daughter-in-law, Heather, and two grandsons, Zakk and Storm. Alan's proud parents are Russell and June Parlato of Irondequoit, NY. Julia's equally proud parents are Joe and Theresa Reitano of Greece, NY.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and their family in thanking the Parlato family for their allegiance to and brave service for our Nation.

AGREE TO DISAGREE IN BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO GET THE PEOPLE'S WORK DONE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, when the President of the United States addressed this body last night during his annual remarks on the State of the Union, he expressed his desire to put partisan politics aside and to work with this new Congress in accomplishing the goals of the Nation. We should hasten to accept this challenge.

The President's message was a forthright affirmation of America's working men and women. He acknowledges that despite economic recovery, too many families are still working harder for less. President Clinton outlined his strategy for preparing the American people to face the demands of today's economy by raising family incomes. In an effort to reach parity in wages, he proposed raising the minimum wage. He further outlined the proposals of his Middle-Class Bill of Rights—a proposal which will help middle-class families meet the costs of raising and educating their children, obtaining training for higher paying jobs, purchasing a first home, or for the care of an elderly parent. Let us use the President's words and ideas as a framework for legislative action. We cannot afford to allow his passionate directives to simply pass through these halls as wishful rhetoric. We must act now.

President Clinton's new covenant of rights and responsibilities between the Federal Government and the American people is a prescription for new hope. I agree that the Government must help people obtain the necessary tools to improve the quality of their lives. But I further believe that people must play a role in building not only their own lives, but in building and strengthening their communities and their country. To do this, we need to reform our welfare state into a system that rewards work and responsibility; we must continue the fight against crime; and we should build upon the principles of the AmeriCorps national service program.

We are a nation of people—united to work for many of the same causes. But when we disagree, it does not mean that we are fundamentally different creatures. We simply disagree. It's that simple. For this Nation to move forward, we must learn to agree to disagree and move beyond party lines to work toward the health and well being of all. Thank you, Mr. President, for your inspiring words of encouragement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I am entering these remarks in response to Roll Call Vote 25 which took place Monday night, January 23. I have been recorded as not voting. This is due, however, to problems with my voting card rather than my absence from the floor.

My colleague from Illinois had offered an amendment to H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act. This amendment would have exempted from the provisions of the bill my Federal mandate that protects aviation or airport security.

Mr. Speaker, had my vote been accurately recorded it would have reflected a nay vote. I believe that we can not exempt numerous programs from the provisions of H.R. 5.

H.R. 5 does not restrict mandates such as ones which aim to protect aviation or airport security. Rather it requires a cost-benefit analysis and strives to minimize the burden of unfunded mandates. We must thoroughly examine the mandates that we pass on to our States and localities. I do not find this unreasonable.

TRIBUTE TO NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Newport Harbor High School football team, which completed its first undefeated season in 64 years by winning the California Interscholastic Federation championship title.

Led by Head Coach Jeff Brinkley, the Sailors' triumphant season was the culmination of an extraordinary year for these young men. It was a year that was marked not only by notable individual accomplishments and exemplary team play but also by a tremendous sense of courage and determination rarely seen in prep football. The coaching staff, the players, the fans all made their dream a reality.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting the Newport High School football team and to congratulate their championship year.

GOVERNOR WHITMAN'S SPEECH TO THE NATION

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last night New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman delivered the Republican response to the President's State of the Union Address from the historic assembly chamber in Trenton.

As my colleagues are aware, Governor Whitman has a growing national reputation for cutting taxes, slashing onerous regulations, and eliminating unnecessary spending. She has demonstrated the leadership, determination, and guts to govern effectively. She has proven that government can be smaller and less costly and still be responsive to the people it serves.

Mr. Speaker, many political pundits are touting Governor Whitman as a possible Vice Presidential nominee, and rightly so. Governor Whitman's successful policies are a model that should be adopted nationally.

I commend Mrs. Whitman on her excellent speech last night. Below is the text of the Governor's speech for my colleagues' review.

STATE OF THE UNION RESPONSE

Good evening. I'm Christie Whitman, Governor of New Jersey, and I am addressing you tonight from the historic legislative chamber in Trenton, one of the oldest in the nation. Speaking to you this evening is a tremendous honor for all of us here in New Jersey.

It is appropriate that we have come together tonight in Trenton. On Christmas morning in 1776, George Washington crossed the icy Delaware River and surprised King George's mercenaries in their barracks here—on these grounds. The Battle of Trenton was a turning point in the American Revolution.

Just as that revolution two centuries ago began in the colonies, there is a revolution sweeping America today, begun not in Washington, D.C., but in the states. In Wisconsin, in Ohio, in Massachusetts, in South Carolina, in California. The American people are seeking freedom in a new revolution that began before I ever came to office.

It is a revolution of ideas, one in which the voters are given a clear choice between bigger or smaller government, higher or lower taxes, more or less spending.

It is a revolution about a free and sovereign people saying they want power to return to them from their state houses, their county governments, their city halls.

In elections all across America, the voters have chosen smaller government, lower taxes and less spending.

They rejected the tyranny of expanding welfare-state policies, the arrogance of bigger and bigger government. The frustration of one size-fits-all answers.

In a word, they have chosen freedom.

They elected leaders like Governor Bill Weld of Massachusetts—who, in his first month in office, cut state spending by 1.7 billion dollars. Since then, he's cut taxes five times and brought Massachusetts the third-lowest unemployment rate in the nation.

And Governor Pete Wilson, who has already reformed health care in California—using market forces to guarantee access for millions of uninsured and made health care more affordable for small businesses.

They elected governors who said we should have a smaller, more efficient government—and they meant it. Like Governor Tommy Thompson in Wisconsin—he's cut spending, cut taxes, and led the most comprehensive welfare reform movement in the country.

And Governor Fife Symington, who became one of several Republican governors to cut tax every year they were in office and see their economies boom.

In state after state, the revolution of ideas took hold.

By 1994, Governor George Allen reformed the criminal justice system and abolished parole in Virginia.

And the same month Bill Clinton signed the largest tax increases in American history, Governor John Engler signed the largest tax cut in Michigan history, helping bring the lowest unemployment rate to the state in twenty years.

Here in New Jersey—like so many other governors—I was told my tax-cutting policies were a ''gimmick.'' I heard we couldn't do it—that it was ''impossible''—that it would ''hurt the economy.''

But I had given my word to the people of New Jersey that we would cut their taxes. And we did.

In the first year, with the help of the New Jersey legislature, we cut business taxes.

We reduced income taxes not once but twice. We lowered state spending—not recklessly—but carefully and fairly.

Just yesterday, I announced a third wave of income tax cuts—another 15 percent, taking us to a 30 percent reduction, to put more money in the hands of families like yours.

The results have been solid: State revenues are up even from the income tax—and 60 thousand more New Jerseyans are at work today than were a year ago—making this year our best year for job creation since 1988.

And we did it all under a balanced budget amendment to our state's constitution.

In November, the revolution came to Washington.

Now people want less government, lower taxes, and less spending from the federal government.

People want results.

In both houses of Congress, the Republican party has been elected, like many of us in the states were on an agenda of change:

We're committed to reforming welfare—to encourage people to work, and to stop children from having children.

We want to force the government to live within its means by stopping runaway spending and balancing the federal budget.

We want to lower taxes for families and make it easier to achieve the American Dream—to save money, buy a home and send the kids to college.

We're going to stop violent criminals in the tracks—with real prison time for repeat offenders and a workable death penalty.

We must send a message to our young people that crime doesn't pay.

And we're going to slash those unnecessary regulations that strangle small business in America, to make it easier to create more jobs and pay better wages and become more competitive in the global marketplace.

We intend to create a new era of hope and opportunity for all Americans.

Many of these ideas are the same ones Governors have been enacting here in the states.

Time after time, Republicans and Democrats—have found that things work better when states and communities set their own priorities, rather than being bossed around by bureaucrats in Washington.

Our colleagues on Capitol Hill are facing the same opposition we did—the same cries of ''it can't be done'' from the Washington-knows-best crowd. People who think government can't be too big and that there is virtue in raising taxes.

Well, there's nothing virtuous about raising taxes. There's nothing heroic about preserving a welfare system that entraps people. And there's nothing high-minded about wasting other people's money on Big Government spending sprees.

We overcame the same objections, the same stalling and distortion, the same footdragging. We've heard it all. And in the end, we have won the battle of ideas in our states.

Now it's time to win the battle of ideas in Washington.

If the people's agenda is to succeed in Congress, everyone needs to work together.

And while at times tonight some of the President's ideas sounded pretty Republican, the fact remains that he has been opposed to the Balanced Budget Amendment—he proposed even more government spending—and he imposed the biggest tax increase in American history.

It's clear that your votes in November sounded a warning to the President. If he has changed his big government agenda, we say great—join us as we change America.

Republicans welcome your ideas for making government not bigger but smaller.

As we move forward in the next two years, the President and Congress should be reminded that success is not measured in the number of laws passed, but in the results.

Is government serving the people better?

Are neighborhoods safer?

Are families stronger?

Are children learning more?

Are we better prepared to meet the future?

Do we have more freedom?

The election in November was a beginning, not an end—and we are committed to fulfilling the verdict of the voters and enacting our agenda of hope for the families of America. Change is hard. But we're going to work hard.

We will keep faith with America.

We will keep our word.

We will do what you elected us to do.

We will give you results.

On election day you gave us your trust. We accept your mandate.

President Clinton, you must accept it as well.

Put the principles of smaller, more effective government into action. Reduce spending and cut taxes.

Two weeks ago, in my State of the State address to the people of New Jersey, I made them a pledge which, in closing, I would now like to make to the American people on behalf of the Republican Party. By the time President Clinton makes his next State of the Union address:

We will have lower taxes.

We will have more efficient government.

We will have a stronger America.

We will have more faith in our politics, more pride in our states and communities, and more confidence in ourselves.

We will go forward together, as one family with many faces, building a future with opportunity.

A future with security.

A future based on mutual respect and responsibility.

And most of all, a future filled with hope—for our children and our children's children.

Thank you very much and God bless America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SORENSON BROADCASTING FOR 13 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND 10 YEARS OF GREAT TALK RADIO

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in my home district of Guam, we have many fine radio personalities and journalists. One of the island's communications corporations has been around for the last 13 years, and has been the only all talk radio station on our island for the last 10 years. The company is known as Sorenson Broadcasting, and its all talk radio station is NEWSTALK: K–57. Since there is only one all talk station on our local radio dial, K–57 is more like an electronic village meeting which convenes every day.

The mornings are very alive with one of Guam's solid citizens, Jon Anderson. This is morning talk radio at its finest. For 4 hours beginning at 6 a.m., Anderson engages, encourages, stimulates, and informs. Jon Anderson is the most well-known voice throughout all segments of Guam's varied communities. He has been concerned with island issues for many years now, and Guam is enhanced by his show and his concern.

Then, in the afternoon when things seem to be slowing down, Myk Powell hits the air waves. If you need a little humor, albeit tongue-in-cheek, to keep going, Myk, gives you exactly that, a little humor. He'd be proud of me for stealing that joke. But seriously folks. . . .

Myk carries on the same important role of channeling emotion, conveying information, and encouraging debate. He has that rare gift of being able to intelligently sprinkle humor throughout his show. From his Uncle Myk-ie alter ego to his hilarious commercials. Myk can tease an audience immediately after causing them to question their stance on important issues.

Beyond all the talk, NEWSTALK K–57 features the Island's only radio news team guided by news pro, Patty Arroyo, the island's only on-the-go Shakespearian traffic reporter, Jefferson Cronin, and knowledgeable news anchors and reporters.

Yes, we the radio listeners on Guam are fortunate indeed. The naysayers said you'd run out of things to talk about. Ten years later, we continue to enjoy the fine programs which K–57 radio offers today and, we hope, for many years to come.

FEDERAL MANDATES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, January 25, 1995 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FEDERAL MANDATES

Local officials and small business owners in Indiana often tell me of the difficulty they have paying for unfunded federal mandates. One of their top priorities is to limit the ability of Congress to shift costs to businesses or state and local governments by requiring them to meet certain federal standards. I agree. Congress is responding to these concerns by considering a bill this week in both the Senate and the House to limit the practice of imposing unfunded federal mandates. This bill is similar to legislation I cosponsored in 1993.

In the past, state and local governments have been told they must do things such as provide safe drinking water, reduce asbestos hazards, or impose tough criminal penalties. Businesses were required to improve workplace standards, protect their customers from fraud or abuse, and comply with numerous environmental regulations. The objectives of these federal requirements are almost always worthy: clean water, safer roads, trustworthy banks, or consumer protection. But collectively they often drain funds from local governments and discourage business growth. For example, compliance with the Clean Water Act is expected to cost state and local governments $32 billion this year. By one estimate, compliance with twelve other federal mandates will cost $33.7 billion over the next five years. In all, federal mandates consume an average of 12.3% of local revenue. In the private sector, an EPA study found that environmental compliance costs can at times exceed profits for some small businesses, including many dry cleaners, truckers, farmers, and wood finishers.

Unfunded mandates have imposed costs and inflexible rules on governments and business. They often dictate priorities to those who must comply without considering their views. But since many of the laws and regulations in question prevent discrimination, promote worker safety, and protect health, safety, and the environment, the proposals to reduce unfunded mandates must be approached with great care. The challenge is to alleviate the financial burden of unfunded mandates without letting the worthy objectives slip away.

FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS

The major impetus behind growing federal mandates is the federal budget deficit. In the 1960s and 1970s, federal money to state and local governments grew steadily as a percentage of state and local outlays, peaking at 27% in 1978. More recently, the federal government's response to budget deficits has been to reduce its share of state and local aid to about 18% of their budgets. But mandates did not decrease, and local costs escalated.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

There is broad support in Congress to curb unfunded mandates. At a minimum, the House and Senate should be required to take a separate vote on any measure that would place costs on state or local governments.

Without such a vote, the House bill's ''no money, no mandate'' provision would require the federal government to provide funds for new mandates. Before Congress takes action on a bill, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) would have to determine if the costs of the proposed legislation would exceed $50 million for states and localities, or $100 million for the much larger private sector. For bills that exceed these thresholds, any one Member of Congress could demand a separate vote on whether or not to impose an unfunded mandate.

In addition, federal agencies would be prohibited from imposing unauthorized costs on states and localities when issuing new regulations. There would also be reports to Congress on the costs incurred by state and local governments and the private sector in meeting existing mandates.

DRAWBACKS

There are, however, several drawbacks to any blanket prohibition on federal mandates. First, civil rights advocates fear restrictions on mandates could gut constitutional rights and anti-discrimination laws. Thus, the measure should not apply to laws protecting constitutional rights. It should also exempt laws to protect against fraud, provide emergency assistance, and protect national security. Second, eliminating mandates may make it more difficult to apply worthy existing health and safety standards. Third, protection from mandates should apply equally to the public and private sector. For example, local governments should not be exempt from labor safety laws just because the federal government does not subsidize their implementation. Fourth, the analysis of mandates should include potential benefits as well as costs. It would be shortsighted to abolish public health requirements that pay for themselves many times over in long-term health care savings. Fifth, estimating the effect of complex legislation is extremely difficult. Calculating direct and indirect costs of a mandate is so exacting that analysts will be hard-pressed to present accurate figures.

While this bill is not perfect, it is a good start in dealing with the complex problem of unfunded mandates. It can and will be improved over time. A major flaw in the bill is that it delays taking effect until October. We should curb unfunded mandates now, not later.

CONCLUSION

The unfunded mandates bill will cause Congress to think twice before shifting costs to local governments and businesses. It will shift power from the federal government to the states, and provide businesses and local officials a forum to discuss the cost-effectiveness of rules with federal regulators before rules take effect. These costs will now be considered as an integral part of the legislative process. Members who approve legislation without funding will be required to explain their actions to those faced with the costs of compliance.

Government that works better and costs less must consider all costs, including those incurred by the private sector, and encourage cooperation among all levels of government. We accomplish little if we balance the federal budget with unfunded mandates on the backs of others. Enactment of unfunded mandate legislation will be an important step in improving the performance of government.

INTRODUCTION OF SUPER IRA LEGISLATION

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. Thomas and I are introducing the Savings and Investment Act of 1995, commonly referred to as the Super IRA bill. Since I have been a Member of Congress, I have been very concerned about our low national savings rate. I share the belief of chairman Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve that our low national savings rate is our number one economic problem.

The savings rate has declined significantly since the 1950s. In 1993, U.S. net national saving was only 2.7 percent of net national product, compared to 12.3 percent in 1950. In a recent study, Professors R. Glenn Hubbard and Jonathan Skinner concluded raising the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) contribution limit would increase net national savings by $4 for every dollar lost in government tax revenue. Professors Hubbard and Skinner believe the decline in the national savings rate is a cause for serious concern because of the links between saving, capital formation, productivity, and American living standards.

I believe the purpose of this legislation is to increase our national savings rate. IRAs are a proven tool to boost our savings. Most contributions to IRAs are made by middle income families. All Americans should be able to contribute to IRAs. We need to provide individuals with an incentive to save for their retirement. The U.S. personal saving rate dropped from 5.2 percent of GDP in 1960–1980 to 3.4 percent in 1991–1994.

Under this legislation, all Americans would be eligible for fully deductible IRAs. Current law only allows those taxpayers who are not covered by any other pension arrangement, and whose income does not exceed $40,000 ($25,000 singles) to be eligible for a fully deductible IRA. These limits would be gradually lifted over time. The $2,000 contribution limit will be indexed for inflation in $500 increments in the year in which the indexed amount exceeds the next $500 increase.

The legislation creates a new kind of IRA option. Taxpayers will be offered a new choice of IRA. Under this new type of IRA, contributions will not be deductible, but if the assets remain in the account for at least 5 years, all income will be tax free when it is withdrawn. A 10 percent penalty will apply to early withdrawals, unless one of the five exceptions is met.

The legislation includes a provision which I believe is very important. The bill allows spouses who work at home to contribute up to $2,000 to their own IRA to the extent of their own income. In addition, the legislation waives the 10 percent penalty on early withdrawals if the funds are used to buy a first home, to pay educational expenses, to cover catastrophic health care costs, during long periods of unemployment, or to purchase of long-term care insurance. Similar penalty withdrawal rules will apply to 401(k) and 403(b) employer-sponsored plans.

We have to encourage individuals to save for their retirement. I believe this legislation is a step in the right direction. I urge you to support this legislation.

SOUTH BRONX MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL, INC. PATIENT RECOGNITION AND EMPOWERMENT DAY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 1995

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the South Bronx Mental Health Council, Inc., which this Friday will celebrate its fourth annual ''Patient Recognition and Empowerment Day.''

The South Bronx Mental Health Council is a community based organization which provides treatment and mental health services to the local population and to area schools and senior centers.

While it is important, and appropriate, to recognize the care givers who provide these services, it is even more important that those individuals who have made special efforts to overcome their challenges also receive our attention and support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting our friends at the South Bronx Mental Health Council, who on Friday, January 27 will celebrate the fourth annual Patient Recognition and Empowerment Day.