

rise in the cigarette tax and a statewide education campaign, a substantial reduction in smoking among California's teenagers resulted. The National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, a well-respected independent scientific organization, concluded that—

If tobacco is made less affordable . . . consumption will tend to decline, especially among children and youth, whose smoking habits are not fully established. Therefore, policymakers have an effective means available to them—increasing the real price of tobacco by increasing excise taxes—to reduce the consumption of tobacco by youths and thereby to reduce the health toll of tobacco use in future years.

Most people who smoke today—about 90 percent—began smoking when they were kids. If the cost of a pack of cigarettes were raised to the equivalent of two Big Macs rather than the equivalent of just one today, youngsters might think twice before putting down the money for the cigarettes. And without continued waves of new smokers, the 400,000 Americans who die each year from smoking will not be replaced.

In order to prevent nicotine addiction in children and youth, the National Academy of Sciences recommends the following—

(1) Congress should enact a significant increase in the tobacco tax,

(2) All tobacco products should be taxed on an equivalent basis, and

(3) The real value of tobacco taxes should be maintained to account for inflation.

The Tobacco Health Tax and Agricultural Conversion Act of 1995, if enacted, would accomplish each of these steps.

In the past, concerns have been raised over the impact a tobacco tax hike would have on tobacco farmers. We believe this bill offers a solution, not a problem, for tobacco farmers.

U.S. tobacco farming has been declining for more than a decade. This has not been caused by increased tobacco taxes in the United States. This is not a result of reduced cigarette manufacturing in the United States. The decline in U.S. tobacco farmers, from 179,000 in 1993 to 137,000 today, is because U.S. cigarette manufacturers like Philip Morris and R.J. Reynolds have more than doubled their imports of less expensive foreign-grown tobacco over the past decade. Today, more than one-third of tobacco used in U.S.-manufactured cigarettes is imported. This trend is anticipated to continue, leaving U.S. tobacco farmers and their farming communities devastated.

The legislation we are introducing today would allocate 3 percent of the revenues raised to a Tobacco Conversion and Health Education Trust Fund. The purpose of this is to assist individuals and communities that today are reliant upon tobacco farming to convert to other crops and industries. These funds could be used to purchase tobacco allotments from farmers or to finance infrastructure construction and modernization for agricultural diversification. Affected communities would be able to use these funds to stimulate nontobacco related economic development. Under this legislation, literally hundreds of millions of dollars annually would become available to tobacco farmers and tobacco-growing regions.

A portion of moneys in the Tobacco Conversion and Health Education Trust Fund would be allocated to support health education efforts. Rather than rely solely on the increase

in the price of cigarettes to educate American consumers of the true costs of cigarettes, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services would conduct campaigns—building on efforts already underway in several States—to educate Americans on health risks, including the risks from tobacco use.

A larger portion of the funds raised would be used to fund expanded medical research efforts. A full 9 percent of the revenues raised, estimated at roughly \$1.5 billion per year, would be placed in a newly created National Fund for Medical Research. These resources will augment the current effort underway at the National Institutes of Health and throughout the Nation to expand our understanding and ability to deal with complex medical problems. As we all know, only one-quarter of all worthwhile grant applications submitted to the NIH each year receive funding.

The remainder of the revenues raised by this legislation would be deposited into the Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund. The reason for this is simple. As stated by a former HHS Secretary who held responsibility for the Medicare program, "Smoking is the single largest drain on the Medicare trust fund, poised to take \$800 billion over the next 20 years." The revenues from this bill may not cover Medicare's full smoking-related costs, but this bill provides a good start.

In sum, this legislation is good for America—for America's youth, America's families, and the American economy. Lives will be saved, suffering from disease will be diminished, long-term health care costs will be reduced, diversification in farming communities will be supported, and revenues will be generated for the health care needs of our elders.

Mr. Speaker, we could continue for hours to cite reason upon reason to support this legislation. Some may want me to do so, merely to delay taking action. But at some point we must take action. We must decide that this is a necessary step and that it can no longer be delayed. We believe that the time is now. We urge our colleagues to support this legislation.

A summary of the bill follows—

SUMMARY OF "THE TOBACCO HEALTH TAX AND AGRICULTURAL CONVERSION ACT OF 1995"

INCREASE IN TOBACCO EXCISE TAXES

This legislation would increase the excise tax on cigarettes by \$1.76 per pack (from \$.24 per pack to \$2.00 per pack) and increase the excise taxes on other tobacco products.

The excise taxes would increase in future years by an amount equivalent to the rate of inflation.

This legislation would become effective after September 30, 1995.

USE OF REVENUES

Medicare Part A Trust Fund—88% of revenues—to strengthen the solvency of the Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

National Fund for Medical Research—9% of revenues—to augment the resources currently available to the National Institutes for Health for medical research.

Tobacco Conversion Account—1.5% of revenues—to assist individuals and communities that today are reliant upon tobacco farming to convert to other crops and industries.

Health Education Account—1.5% of revenues—to educate Americans on health risks, including tobacco use.

PINE PLAINS, NY, HOSE CO. AND RESCUE SQUAD CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been partial to the charm and character of small towns and small town people. The town of Pine Plains, NY, is certainly no exception.

The traits which make me most fond of such communities is the undeniable camaraderie which exists among neighbors. Looking out for one another and the needs of the community make places like Pine Plains great places to live. The concept of community service is exemplified by the devoted service of the Pine Plains Hose Co. and Rescue Squad. For 100 years now, this organization has provided critical services for the citizens on a volunteer basis. As a former volunteer fireman myself, I understand, and appreciate, the commitment required to perform such vital public duties.

Mr. Speaker, it has become all too seldom that you see fellow citizens put themselves in harms way for the sake of another. While almost all things have changed over the years, thankfully for the residents of Pine Plains, the members of their fire department and rescue squad have selflessly performed their duty, without remiss, since the formation of this organization in 1895. From June 8, 1995 through June 10, 1995, the hose company will be hosting a celebration commemorating this milestone. Not only will this offer the residents of Pine Plains a chance to enjoy themselves at the planned festivities, including a parade, carnival and fireworks, but it will provide the perfect opportunity for them to extend their gratitude to this organization and its members.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been one to judge people by how much they give back to their community. On that scale, the members of the Pine Plains Hose Co. and Rescue Squad are great Americans. I am truly proud of this organization because it typifies the spirit of voluntarism which has been such a central part of American life. We would all do well to emulate the service of the men and women who comprise the Pine Plains Fire and Rescue Squads. To that end, it is with a sense of pride, Mr. Speaker, that I ask all members to join me in paying tribute to the Pine Plains Hose Co. and Rescue Squad on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

LOVE STORY WITH A LONG HISTORY

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael and Marion Duckworth Smith, a special couple who live in a unique place in my district. Within the boundaries of one of the most urban areas of our country, Marion and Michael live on the Riker Estate, the oldest New York City farmhouse still used as a residence.

Michael and Marion's relationship blossomed just as the residence has over the