

Congress has repealed and reviewed the luxury taxes which mostly affect the wealthiest of all Americans. We should now review a repeal of the increase on the excise tax on beer. This type of excise tax is regressive and it affects the average American. If we can repeal excise taxes on items that affect the wealthy, we should look at items that affect the average working person. Forty-three percent of the cost of beer is taxes. This is simply too high.

Lately, there has been a lot of talk about tax reform and tax fairness. Repealing the excise tax on beer would help make the Tax Code more fair. Mr. Speaker, I urge Congress to take another look at the beer tax.

SALUTE TO THE NATIONAL
STEINBECK CENTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bestow congressional recognition on the National Steinbeck Center, a national cultural institution located in Salinas, CA, in the heart of my congressional district. The city of Salinas is John Steinbeck's hometown and the Salinas Valley is the setting for some of Steinbeck's most powerful writings. It is only fitting, then, that a national center be located in Salinas, dedicated to the preservation of the art of John Steinbeck and to the celebration of his works and ideas through a variety of historical exhibits and cultural programs.

John Steinbeck was one of our Nation's greatest authors, a native son of California, Pulitzer Prizewinner, and Nobel Laureate. "Grapes of Wrath," which became an American classic, earned him the Pulitzer Prize Fiction Award in 1940. In describing the journey of an Oklahoma family's migration to California during the Depression in the hopes of realizing a better life, Steinbeck achieved worldwide recognition for his keen observations and powerful writings of the human condition. With "Cannery Row," published in 1945, Steinbeck wrote a lively story about life in the thirties in Monterey, a sleepy California fishing village, when life seemed to him to have more meaning, although the conditions were quite different. Steinbeck's fiction represents the character of our people, in particular their vitality and uniquely American qualities. As a resident of California's central coast, John Steinbeck's novels are rich in the portrayal of our region's abundant agricultural heritage, and the locales of his stories are reflective of life and the people of the Salinas Valley. In 1962 he received the Nobel Prize for Literature "for his realistic as well as imaginative writings, distinguished by a sympathetic humor and keep social perception" for his work.

I join the State of California in proclaiming the National Steinbeck Center. The national center will be a world-class museum and cultural center dedicated to Steinbeck teachings and lore. It encompasses one of the largest existing collections of Steinbeck artifacts, papers, and photographs in the world, and commemorates the Salinas Valley's multibillion-dollar agricultural industry, an industry which has earned the valley the designation as the Salad Bowl of our country. The National Steinbeck Center hosts an annual Steinbeck

Festival at the beginning of August, where visitors can immerse themselves in films, tours, panel discussions, and special events depicting Steinbeck's writings. The National Steinbeck Center is not only a tribute to Steinbeck's life and literary genius, but also a unique repository for American culture from the first half of this century.

John Steinbeck's literary accomplishments make him an icon of our cultural heritage. In bringing the plight of the poor and disadvantaged to the forefront of our social consciousness, Steinbeck's writings are as contemporary to modern day societal problems as they were in previous decades. In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in 1962, John Steinbeck left each one of us with words to live by " * * * celebrate man's proven capacity for greatness of heart and spirit—for gallantry in defeat, for courage, compassion and love. In the endless war against weakness and despair, these are the bright rally flags of hope and of emulation."

I ask the Speaker and all my colleagues to join me in saluting the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, CA.

ESTABLISH A VISA WAIVER PILOT
PROGRAM FOR NATIONALS OF
KOREA

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this measure in support of economic growth and jobs for Americans.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Korea reports that the average visitor from South Korea to the United States spends over \$3,400. South Korean visitors to the United States spent nearly \$2 billion in 1995. This means economic growth and jobs for Americans particularly those in States most visited by South Koreans: California, New York, Hawaii, Guam, Nevada, Arizona, Illinois, and Washington, DC. All indications show that this boom is just the beginning. Today, South Korea has the 11th largest economy in the world and is the 6th largest United States trading partner. We need to take positive advantage of this new phase of South Korean prosperity.

Unfortunately, the United States continues to restrict Korean travelers by not allowing South Korea to participate in the Visa Waiver Pilot Program [VWPP]. Although many more Koreans would like to visit the United States, they find the visa process to be cumbersome. Today, the United States lags behind Canada, Australia, and other countries in cornering the Korean tourist market.

The bill I offer with Mr. JAY KIM would establish a visa waiver pilot program for nationals of Korea who are traveling in tour groups to the United States. Under this bill, Korean visitors are allowed for a period of not more than 15 days. The bill would also establish special bond and notification requirements for tour operators. These include the posting of a \$200,000 bond and approval by the Secretary for a tour operator's application to escort tour groups to the United States.

As we work to strengthen our economy in this country, I am confident that increased rev-

enues generated from Korean visitors will be most welcomed.

LET LEBANON BE LEBANON: GIVE
BACK ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a House Concurrent Resolution, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty, and full independence of Lebanon.

You may ask what that means, and you may ask why it is prudent or necessary to introduce such a resolution. I will tell you.

As a Lebanese-American Member of Congress, I am aware of recent events in the Middle East which despite secret diplomacy may have slowed the peace process. I have seen resolutions introduced in this body which would do the same by calling upon Syria to get its Armed Forces out of Lebanon—as though Syria is the only occupying force that needs to get itself out of Lebanon; as though Syria is to blame for every single adverse thing that has happened to Lebanon in recent years.

Mr. Speaker, Syria is no angel—but Syria isn't the only problem Lebanon has, or that the Middle East has, for that matter. We all know that to be true.

The biggest problem today appears to be that everyone views Lebanon as some kind of bargaining chip, or pawn, to be used by Israel and Syria and then whoever else find themselves with an ax to grind in the region—not an ax to grind with Lebanon necessarily—and they then proceed to grind their axes at will and at Lebanon's expense.

The most recent grinding of axes in and around Lebanon was called Operation Grapes of Wrath. And the axes were turned into shells and rockets and so-called precision weaponry that allegedly could penetrate buildings in the middle of the city of Beirut and search out a floor with a window that supposedly was concealing Hizbollah, without harming the innocent mothers and children also living in that building. But the precision weapons turned out not to be so precise, and more than 100 Lebanese civilians were killed, 400,000 were displaced and many left homeless, injured, and suffering.

This resolution is for Lebanon and about Lebanon. It isn't about Israel or Syria—except that all non-Lebanese forces are asked to get out of Lebanon. It is an idea whose time has come and perhaps a point of discussion in current secret diplomacy and/or other talks.

Another idea whose time has come is that the United States Government—the Congress—the President of the United States—need to reformulate their policy toward Lebanon and they need to reaffirm their support for a country that has long been friendly toward the United States. Not only do they need to reformulate a policy, the policy needs to be implemented.

Lebanon has a government, and it has an army, and it is rebuilding and it is getting stronger and more secure every day. It is time that the United States Government began

looking at and considering Lebanon as the master of its own house—the captain of its own ship—and understand that the United States Government should negotiate directly with Lebanon's government on issues concerning Lebanon and its future.

There is no need for the President, the Congress, or anyone else to look toward Syria to the North, or toward Israel in the South—they have no right to decide Lebanon's future.

As a matter of fact, our Government needs to look backward 18 years ago—and recall United Nations Security Council's Resolution 425 which calls for the withdrawal forthwith of Israeli forces from Lebanon and for which the United States representative to the United Nations voted.

The Taif agreement regarding Syria did not go far enough because it did not call for withdrawal. It did call for a redeployment of Syrian forces to the entrance of the Bekaa Valley and the disarmament of all militia in Lebanon, both of which Syria has ignored.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I introduce this concurrent resolution, urging the President to take the necessary steps to activate the Consultative Group for Lebanon's Reconstruction, which was established by the April 26, 1996, understanding between Lebanon and Israel—entered into after Operation Grapes of Wrath, which rained so much death and destruction upon innocent civilians in the land of my grandfathers.

By this resolution I and my colleagues who cosponsor with me call for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon so that she will no longer serve as the preferred battleground for her neighbors.

It tells the President that he need not wait upon the reconvening of the official Middle East peace talks, or the finalization of a comprehensive peace accord with all nation states in the region—to help Lebanon get non-Lebanese forces out of Lebanon.

The resolution calls upon the President to negotiate directly with officials of the Government of Lebanon on issues pertaining to Lebanon. To negotiate directly means just that—without any middlemen.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I submit this resolution to the House, calling upon Lebanon to assert more independence to assure the international community that Lebanon has the political will and the military capability to guarantee security along her borders, for herself and her neighbors, and to disarm all militia upon the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

Let Lebanon be Lebanon.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST
WINNER

HON. DAN SCHAEFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SCHAEFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit into the RECORD a copy of the winning entry for the State of Colorado in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest. Out of the more than 116,000 secondary students who entered, Kelsey Perkins, of Aurora, CO—Smoky Hill High School—was selected as 1 of 54 national winners of a college scholarship.

ANSWERING AMERICA'S CALL

(By Kelsey Perkins)

Good Morning, and welcome to the American Safari Corporation. I will be your guide for today's tour. What brought most of you here was not the call of the wild, rather it was the call of America. Today we will be conducting a tour in search of some rare species. Now I'm sure that some of you have been told that our search is futile since the price we are seeking is often considered to be almost extinct. I'll let you be the judge of that. For those of you who are not familiar with our goal today, let me begin by telling you that we are searching for some responsible Americans. Before we set out, I will outline three identifying marks of a responsible American which will help you in our hunt.

The first sign of a responsible American is often that of involvement in our country's armed services. In many countries across the world, military service is mandatory for young men. They have no choice in whether or not to serve their country. In the United States we have no such requirements. Service is voluntary during peace-time. The strength of a country's military is often the standard by which it is judged by other nations. The military is not only a fighting force, it is an international representative of its country. Service shows patriotism and pride for one's home. The armed forces serve the common good by protecting America's interests in all areas, and by embodying the strength, skill, and patriotism that symbolizes our country and fills every American with pride. For many citizens, military service offers the perfect opportunity to answer America's call and take on responsibility for our nation. Our armed forces have very high standards for their applicants. By meeting this standard of excellence through service in the armed forces, many men and women are successfully answering America's call to responsibility.

The second tell-tale mark to look for in our hunt is involvement in the government. Perhaps one of the best days to search for responsible Americans is on the first Tuesday in November. They can be seen in herds as they assemble to vote. In a day and age where many people are content to sit on the sidelines and not become involved in our government, utilizing one's right to vote and becoming involved in the government is a sure sign of a responsible American. As President Harry S. Truman observed, "It's not the hand that signs the laws that holds the destiny of America. It's the hand that casts the ballot." Responsible Americans not only participate, but realize what an honor their role in government is. Our founding fathers risked execution by first daring to give Americans their rights to vote and to be involved in government because their actions of protesting unfair government were seen as treasonous. Since the Revolution, Americans have fought and died in many wars to keep Americans free. They fought and died to maintain our rights which include voting and government participation. As citizens of the United States today, it is our duty and privilege to vote in elections and to be involved and informed about our national and local government. Answering America's call includes meeting these responsibilities which support the rights for which many men and women have risked their lives.

One final way to find a responsible American is to look for those who are involved in community service. Acts of unselfish kindness for the common good or the benefit of others is not too much to ask in a nation which has so much. Community service touches the individual lives which make up this great country. It serves as a testimony

to our country's humanity. Behind the mass of the armed forces and government are the everyday individuals in life which can be touched and inspired by the work of a few citizens who have realized their responsibility as members of this nation. Many organizations work year round to meet the basic needs of our nation's people because we have a responsibility to those less fortunate than ourselves. So, be sure to search for those who spend their free time helping others in such places as food banks, soup kitchens, and schools.

Well, I hope my little overview has given you a better idea of what to look for in your hunt for a responsible American. Don't forget to look for those obvious signs we reviewed: military service, government participation, and community service. With these in mind, you're sure to find a trail. Please also consider yourself in regards to what's been said today. Don't be afraid to answer America's call personally. By doing so, you could greatly increase the responsible American population. They don't have to be an endangered species.

DAYTON POWER AND LIGHT
HONORED

HON. FRANK A. CREMEANS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. CREMEANS. Mr. Speaker, the Dayton Power and Light Co., which serves my district, was honored in a Capitol Hill ceremony here in Washington, receiving the Edison Electric Institute's Common Goals Special Distinction Award for outstanding achievements in community responsibility/special needs.

Mary Kilbane, DP&L's school program coordinator, and Ann Farmer, manager, corporate communications, were presented the award by EEI president Thomas R. Kuhn.

The award recognizes DP&L's energy conservation and environmental awareness patch program. The course uses hands-on activities, visual aids, and creative learning techniques to teach Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the company's service area about energy production and conservation and how these functions affect the environment. When participants complete certain requirements, they qualify as energy smart citizens. Scouts receive a colorful way to go patch with second-year students able to earn a Lucky the Dog pin. With such incentives, DP&L's program in 3 years educated more than 10,500 scouts and leaders.

I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Dayton Power and Light for receiving the EEI Common Goals Award and for its good work on behalf of a better community. Congratulations, DP&L.

THE BALANCE THE BUDGET FIRST
ACT OF 1996

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation that will repeal the automatic annual pay adjustment for Members of Congress that was written into law by a previous Democratic Congress, making clear that