

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO SOUTH CAROLINA'S WATERMELON FARMERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to South Carolina's watermelon farmers who planted more than 11,000 acres of watermelons this year. Yesterday, each Member of Congress should have received watermelons grown at the farm of Jim Williams of Lodge, SC. These watermelons were picked on Sunday and driven overnight by Clinton and Wade Murdaugh to be delivered to both the House and the Senate on Monday morning.

We take great pride in our watermelons in South Carolina. We like to call them Mother Nature's perfect candy; they're sweet, succulent, nutritious and even fat-free. South Carolina farmers lead the way in the production of watermelons. My State was a pioneer in the use of black plastic and irrigation to expand the watermelon growing season. By covering the earth in spring with black plastic, farmers can not only speed the melons' growth by raising soil temperatures, but also prevent weed growth.

So, as we all enjoy this summer treat, I would like to thank all the folks in South Carolina who brought us these watermelons: Jim Williams of Williams Farm in Lodge, SC; Les Tindal, our State agriculture commissioner; Martin Eubanks and Minta Wade of the South Carolina Department of Agriculture; Randy Cockrell and the South Carolina Watermelon Association; Bennie Hughes and the South Carolina Watermelon Board; and also Senator HOLLINGS, Representative SPRATT and their staffs who helped to deliver the melons. They have all worked very hard to share a taste of South Carolina with my colleagues here in Washington and I thank them.

DEMOCRATS USE SKEWED FIGURES TO CHALLENGE TAX-CUT PROPOSAL

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following editorial which appeared in the Omaha World Herald on June 20, 1997. This editorial is of particular interest because it notes the fraudulent basis for the argument used by Democrats opposing the Taxpayer Relief Act.

DEMOCRATS USE SKEWED FIGURES TO CHALLENGE TAX-CUT PROPOSAL

Democrats who don't like the House-approved tax-cut proposal that is now before the Senate ought to challenge it on its merits instead of putting out a fraudulent class-warfare argument.

The Clinton administration and congressional Democrats who oppose the Republican-sponsored plan argue that the proposed net tax cut of \$85 billion over five years (\$135 billion in cuts and \$50 billion in tax increases) is targeted to favor the rich. They rely on a report from President Clinton's Treasury Department asserting that two-thirds of the benefits would go to people in the nation's top 20 percent of earners.

Treasury officials reached that conclusion by inflating the definition of income like a toy balloon. It included things such as "imputed rental value." That means the sharp-pencil pushers at Treasury have calculated how much a homeowner could rent his home for and added that figure onto his income. They also included the increased value of retirement funds, pension contributions and employer-funded life and health insurance.

Those are not what most middle-class people would call "income." Such ridiculous additions skew the economic profile of the middle-class taxpayer. But they enable Treasury officials to ratchet millions of people up into phony levels of wealth and then claim that the middle class is being overlooked in the tax-cut package.

The Joint Committee on Taxation sees it differently. Using a definition of income more like that of the IRS, the committee found that people earning from \$20,000 to \$75,000 a year would receive 71 percent of the proposed tax savings in the GOP plan. The percentage jumps to 88 if the range is expanded to \$100,000. Only 7 percent of the proposed tax cuts would go to people earning more than \$100,000 a year.

Based on a reasonable definition of income, the Republican tax-cut proposal is focused on the middle class. But Democrats insist that the GOP is intent on stiffing the middle class in order to take care of high rollers.

In a battle of credibility on tax policy, the Joint Committee on Taxation demolishes the Clinton administration's Treasury Department. We are inclined to believe the committee when it says 1) Treasury is unfairly inflating income figures to push middle-class families into upper income levels, and 2) the majority of GOP-proposed tax relief is directed to the middle class.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MINDER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues.

Each city or town has a person who is dedicated to improving the community and making it a better and more enjoyable place for people to live, work, and raise their family. Joseph Minder has been this person for the city of Martins Ferry, OH.

Throughout his career, Mr. Minder has worked tirelessly for the city of Martins Ferry. He served as recreation director for over 9 years, service and safety director for over 13 years, and as an administrative assistant until his retirement. He continued to serve the city, and the people who have made Martins Ferry

their home, as a volunteer as well. Joseph Minder was a member and often chairman of such events as the Betty Zane Frontier Days, the Strawberry Festival, and he also worked to bring fireworks to Martins Ferry for Independence Day.

Mr. Minder's greatest accomplishment was overseeing the new, state-of-the-art waterplant in Martins Ferry. This plant just went on line in May. Again, Mr. Minder's hard work and determination benefited the people of Martins Ferry, OH.

Joseph Minder's service and commitment to Martins Ferry are commendable, and Mr. Minder's work is deserving of the thanks and praise of the people of his community. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking Mr. Minder, and wishing him luck and success in his retirement.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN PROTOPAPAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Father John Protopapas on his retirement from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Cleveland, OH, after 30 years of service, guidance, and friendship.

John Protopapas was born in the village of Pano-Zodnia, Cyprus in 1927. His grandfather was the Protospyter of his village, and his father was the psalti. Following family tradition, John Protopapas was destined to serve the church. In 1949, an uncle sponsored him to enter the United States. He enrolled in the Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary in Brookline, MA. After graduating in 1952, he attended Andover Newton Theological School earning the degrees of bachelor of divinity and master of sacred theology, majoring in pastoral clinical psychology.

In June 1955, he married Catherine Lianides and was ordained. The couple spent 10 years in Bangor, ME, at St. George Church. During this time, their three children, Christopher James, Paula Joanne, and Mira Lynn, were born. After brief assignments to the Holy Dormition Church in Oakmont-Verona, PA, and Kimisis Tis Theotokou in Alliquippa, PA, Father Protopapas was assigned to Cleveland's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church on July 15, 1967. The community has enjoyed his selfless leadership in spirituality, education, and culture ever since.

Father Protopapas is a prominent humanitarian. As a result of his sponsorship, several patients from Greece have traveled to local hospitals to receive open-heart surgery. He was appointed honorary mayor of Cleveland in 1989 for his important work in the progress of the city. Among the many other honors he has received throughout his life, Father Protopapas currently holds the positions of member of the Diocesan Council, chairman of

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