

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2676, the Internal Revenue Restructuring and Reform Act. This legislation is a positive first step toward fundamental tax reform. It shifts the responsibility of proving one's case in a tax liability dispute from an individual to the IRS. For too long, the burden of proof in such cases has rested upon the American taxpayer. H.R. 2676 will ensure that the taxpayer is innocent until proven guilty. Now, the excessive powers of the runaway IRS are brought under control.

This bill contains several important provisions that will help Americans deal with the giant IRS bureaucracy. It extends confidentiality privileges, like those afforded to an attorney-client relationship, to non-lawyers who assist taxpayers with tax advice. It helps guarantee that powerful government officials cannot pressure the IRS to target particular taxpayers. H.R. 2676 is a vote for the American people and against the abuses of the IRS.

I am proud to support this important legislation, but it is only a first step in the critical process of tax reform. We in the Congress must not rest until the tax code is made fairer, flatter, and simpler for the American taxpayer. Americans pay too much in taxes, and are forced to spend too much of their time filing out their returns. A flat tax would both reduce the tax burden on working Americans and make the process of paying taxes much simpler. The surest way to bring the IRS under control is to make it less important. A flat tax will help us reach this important goal. I urge my colleagues to support the bill and to continue the quest for fundamental tax reform.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, the Minnesota State University Student Association [MSUSA] was formed in 1967 as a informal coalition of student leaders representing their peers at the State universities in Minnesota—Bemidji, Mankato, Metropolitan (Twin Cities), Moorhead, St. Cloud, Southwest (Marshall) and Winona. A branch campus in Akita, Japan, opened in 1990. Today, the association has evolved into an independent nonprofit corporation, funded and operated by students, and serving more than 60,000 students.

Over the last 30 years, MSUSA has encouraged students to become active participants in the decisions that affect them, working on behalf of many important causes. State university students have worked to establish child care facilities and stabilize State tuition. They have advocated increased work-study wages, simplified student transfers between State uni-

versities, improved cultural diversity and made great strides toward fairer State and Federal financial aid programs, including those in the most recent Higher Education Act reauthorization.

I am particularly grateful for the input and support MSUSA gave me with my legislation to provide greater protection for sexual assault victims on campus. This legislation was included in the 1992 Higher Education Act reauthorization, and it is now the law of the land.

Many admirable and worthwhile programs are sponsored by this student association. MSUSA's various legislative liaisons have given students the opportunity to voice their concerns at critical points in the decisionmaking process. The Monitor, the association's newspaper, has the largest circulation of any State system newspaper. The MSUSA Penny Fellowship was founded in 1987 to encourage State university students to perform volunteer public and community service internships.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the current leadership of MSUSA: Francis Klinkner, State chair from Mankato State University, Garret Melby Aanerud, vice chair from Moorhead State University; Heidi deRuyter, treasurer and operations officer from Moorhead State University; and Frank X. Viggiano, executive director. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and wish them continued success on this important anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS TO IVY TECH STATE COLLEGE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Ivy Tech College for ranking first out of 25 Indiana colleges and universities offering technical education programs. This honor, which is being awarded to Ivy Tech State College for the second consecutive year, is a tremendous honor for the northwest Indiana Ivy Tech campuses, as well as the communities they serve.

Ivy Tech is a major provider of technical education in northwest Indiana. The college continues to build upon its success by keeping abreast of the technological needs of northwest Indiana. Within the past year, Ivy Tech has added several new specialties and programs in accordance with the demand for specific business and health care technologies. Ivy Tech currently offers a physical therapist assistant program, which was developed in cooperation with the Methodist hospitals, to meet the demand for physical therapist assistants in hospitals and other healthcare settings. In addition, Ivy Tech has developed a banking and financial management speciality, in conjunction with Bank One, to enhance the education and skill level of banking employees, as well as others interested in the banking and financial services industries. Ivy Tech's East Chicago, IN, campus currently offers a new speciality in construction technology to assist in developing the skills of individuals interested in steel framing and other areas of construction.

These new fields, along with Ivy Tech's many other programs, will not only enhance the employment potential of area residents,

but improve the region's potential to provide the jobs and services necessary for long-term economic stability. Perhaps the best indicator that Ivy Tech's efforts have been successful is their increased enrollment. Within the past two years, the college has shown a steady rise in student enrollment at all three of its northwest Indiana campuses, located in Gary, East Chicago, and Valparaiso. Ivy Tech attributes this growth to its success in generating a greater public awareness of its capability in the area of technology, as well as the partnerships it has forged in providing the region with a more highly skilled workforce.

The northwest Indiana Ivy Tech campuses relish the honor of this first place ranking because it reinforces the college's standing commitment to providing Indiana residents with state-of-the-art technical education programs. Today, more than ever before, training in technology is at the forefront of education across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Ivy Tech State College on the outstanding recognition it has received. The quality educational programs this institution has offered over the years, have provided a wealth of opportunity for many in northwest Indiana.

BILL TO INCREASE PAY OF U.S. CAPITOL POLICE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 6, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with my colleague ROBERT NEY of Ohio, are introducing legislation to increase the pay scale and benefit package for the U.S. Capitol Police department. The bill establishes a pay scale and benefit packages for the U.S. Capitol Police equivalent to that of the Uniformed Division of the U.S. Secret Service. Recently enacted legislation Public Law 105-61 made the Uniformed Division one of the higher paid Federal law enforcement agencies.

Given the fact that the duties and responsibilities of the U.S. Capitol Police are similar to that of the Uniformed Division of the Secret Service, it is only fitting and proper that Congress take action to ensure that U.S. Capitol Police officers are compensated in the same fashion.

Since coming to Congress in 1985, I have been impressed with the professionalism, dedication and integrity of the fine men and women who serve in the U.S. Capitol Police department. Without question, the U.S. Capitol Police department is one of the best trained and highest performing law enforcement agencies in the country.

Day in and day out, the U.S. Capitol Police put their lives on the line to protect Members of Congress, Government officials, foreign dignitaries and the thousands of American citizens who visit the U.S. Capitol. Despite the many challenges and varied threats facing them every hour of every day, the U.S. Capitol Police force does an excellent job. They have a remarkable record of protecting the Capitol and those who work and visit there.

What I find most impressive about the Capitol Police is the fact that you don't read about incidents at the Capitol in the newspaper.