

Particularly if you think of it in terms of: a down payment on a house or a car, one years tuition at a local community college, or several months worth of quality child care at a local day care center.

To that end, Congressman DAVID MCINTOSH and I have authored the Marriage Tax Elimination Act.

It would allow married couples a choice in filing their income taxes, either jointly or as individuals—which ever way lets them keep more of their own money.

Our bill already has the bipartisan cosponsorship of 232 Members of the House and a similar bill in the Senate also enjoys wide-spread support.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union when the President declared emphatically that, quote “the era of big government is over.”

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government.

But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business.

And what better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentleman, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math.

It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect it.

What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty—a bipartisan priority.

Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

Lets eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

WHICH IS BETTER?

NOTE: The President's Proposal to expand the child care tax credit will pay for only 2 to 3 weeks of child care. The Weller-McIntosh Marriage Tax Elimination Act H.R. 2456, will allow married couples to pay for 3 months of child care.

WHICH IS BETTER, 3 WEEKS OR 3 MONTHS

CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT

	Average tax relief	Average weekly day care cost	Weeks day care
Marriage Tax Elimination Act	\$1,400	\$127	11
President's Child Care Tax Credit	358	127	2.8

MOURNING THE PASSING OF BELLA ABZUG

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge sadly the passing of Bella Abzug, a former Member of this House of Representatives. Bella Abzug was a fearless defender of the rights of the people. She was always there arguing on behalf of the downtrodden, arguing on behalf of civil rights, staking out a claim for the rights of women, fearless defender of the rights of women, someone who was admired across this country for her independence, for her courage, for her willingness to stand up and speak out for what she believed in.

Bella Abzug was a legendary figure not only in the politics of New York State but in the Government of the United States. She became a symbol of someone who would fearlessly represent the interests of her constituency, someone who had the ability through her personality to summon masses of people to the standards of truth and justice in this country.

Bella Abzug is going to be missed in this country, and she will be missed by millions of Americans who have appreciated her dedication, her love of our Nation and her understanding that America can always be better, that it has a higher truth to resonate to, that it should be an all-inclusive Nation, a Nation where the rights of women are upheld as well as everyone, a Nation where the rights of the poor are upheld as well as everyone, a Nation where all of us have a chance to make this a better place.

I will miss Bella Abzug. She was a personal friend. She was someone with whom I had the opportunity to share many moments, and I could tell my colleagues I have learned from her and I consider her a treasure for this country, and on behalf of the people of the 10th District of the State of Ohio I want to say, “Farewell, Bella. Thank you for serving this Nation.”

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE IMPORTANCE OF SMALL BUSINESSES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today about a success story that is close to home. It is about an independent business located in my hometown in Illinois where I grew up, which is a farming community in central Illinois. The business is the farm implement business which has served many beautiful and profitable farms that are located in this part of Illinois for many years.

In fact, on July 25, 1998 this business will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The business I am referring to is the Smith-Marcotte, Inc. I am pleased, therefore, to come to the floor today to recognize this business, but in a larger sense to recognize the importance of small businesses throughout America.

Whether we are celebrating their 100th anniversary, their 50th anniversary or their 1st anniversary, it is a known fact that small businesses in America create more jobs for working men and women than all the industrial giants of our country together. Therefore, small business is truly the engine that keeps the great American economic machine running.

Another point that I think is extremely important about small business is the opportunity it gives to men and women who want to have the independence, and, yes, take the responsibility of being on their own so that they can have the opportunity to be entrepreneurs. There are those in our society who may be happier working for a giant corporation. There are many who feel the need and the stirring in their souls to be entrepreneurs, to own their own business, to have the opportunity in this way to seek success for themselves and their families.

□ 1815

Small businesses, like the Schmidt-Marcotte, are truly important to rural America. I am pleased to recognize this business and all the others like them across America for what they do for the rural economy.

I may not have mentioned, but at the beginning I intended to say that not only does this business deserve to be honored for the number of years, but that I have a personal involvement with Schmidt-Marcotte, Inc.; it has been a part of my life when I was growing up for many years. I have known the principals for my entire life, which is over half the time that they have been in business.

When I was growing up, the then Schmidt Blacksmith Shop and Implement Business was located just on the back of the block where my parents' home was located. I would, as a young child playing in the neighborhood, often pass the blacksmith shop and look in the door. Maybe I would venture inside to see and talk to the men that were working at their jobs.

At that time, the blacksmith shop was still outfitted with the billows and fires burning in the keels, which were part of the trade of a blacksmith. You would see the owner making horse-shoes or other apparatus for use for horses and farm machinery.

I have known all the generations except the founder, who was an immigrant named Richard Schmidt, who came from Germany. He was the first generation, and he immigrated to Central Illinois in 1881. He was followed in the business by his son, Paul A. Schmidt, his son, Richard E. Schmidt, and his son, Steven P. Schmidt, and his two children, Michael and Jenny. They are all very real people to me, not just names.

As has been the pattern over the years, small businesses grow and merge. Sometimes they divide. But in this case the Schmidt Implement Business has grown and merged with the Marcotte Implement Business, and then in the nineties merged with the Cox-Evans Implement Business, and here again my relationship with the Cox-Evans family goes back for almost my entire life. This family is now in its fourth generation in the farm implement business.

It is my hope as we recognize the Schmidt-Marcotte Implement Business today we will also reflect a little bit upon what in this country has made it possible for this country to grow and prosper, and with those reflections, we should rededicate our efforts and our commitment to keeping America strong and our government supportive and not overpowering, so that this small business can survive a second 100 years, and so that all small businesses across America can continue the opportunity to grow and prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD my full text of the history of the Schmidt-Marcotte Implement Business in Illinois.

The business actually began with Richard Schmidt's immigration to Atlanta, Illinois, from Germany in 1881. Upon his arrival, Richard began work for Mr. Demer Rhodes, the local blacksmith. Richard worked for Mr. Rhodes for several years, learning the "smithy" business. In 1895, Richard married Minnie Butler and set up housekeeping. Three years later, two events occurred which would eventually set the course for the business: Richard purchased the blacksmith shop from Mr. Rhodes and his son, Paul A. Schmidt was born.

The first shop, a two-story building, was located near the railroad on First Street. The lower level was a general blacksmith shop. A day's work consisted of shoeing horses, sharpening plow shares, and general welding, all very hard, physical labor. The firing of the

metal was done in two coal-fired forges and then pounded into shape on anvils. The second floor of the building housed a complete wagon and buggy manufacturing facility and repair shop. Finished buggies and wagons were moved upstairs by means of an outdoor ramp.

Around 1915, Richard purchased a gas engine to power a set of overhead line shafts which ran various machines by individual belts. This engine powered a 75 pound trip hammer to forge metal once done by human hand, a punch and sheer to cut iron, a drill press, and a threat cutting machine. This was the beginning of automation for the business. Eventually the gas engine was replaced by an electric motor.

In 1916, Richard's son, Paul, graduated from Atlanta High School and joined his father in the business. When World War I started in 1917, Paul went into the armed services and served a tour of duty in France. Upon his son's return in 1918, Richard had added to the blacksmithing business a line of horse drawn implements—the beginning of the family farm implement business as I know it today.

The first horse-drawn implements sold by the business were manufactured by Emerson-Braningham Company. The line of implements included horse-drawn gang plows, sickle mowers, and disk harrows. Still, the blacksmithing business flourished as the bulk of farm power was still furnished by horses.

1926 was to become a letter year for the business; Richard Schmidt died and son, Paul, took over the business. In that same year, the Emerson-Braningham Company was bought out by J.I. Case Company of Racine, Wisconsin, and Paul Schmidt signed his first contract with J.I. Case Company, the beginning of 72 years of continuous service to the local farm community. Two years later, Paul and his wife Ruth, had a son—Richard E. Schmidt—the third generation.

With the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930's, the word for the next several years was "survival." In 1933, total cash sales for Paul Schmidt were less than \$1,500.00. In order to keep the business going, a large portion of the work done was either for barter or charged on the book. Few tractors and machines were sold at this time. The business survived once again on blacksmith work and welding. Life was hard for farmers. A bushel of corn was worth \$.10. The heat wave and great drought of 1936 caused many crop failures and that winter was one of the coldest on record.

1937 seemed to be the turning point in the farm machinery business. The economy had picked up and the Great Depression appeared to be over. Paul purchased two train carloads of Case two-row cornpickers. The cost of these machines was approximately \$900.00. Modern combines that could be pulled by a tractor, began to replace the threshing machines.

The farm economy was on an upswing. The practice of trading horses and cow for new machines was common-place. At one time, Paul had eight horses and two cows boarded at Hoblit Farms south of Atlanta. The late 1930s introduced rubber tractor tires, taking the place of steel-lugged wheels. This enabled the farmers to travel faster, provided more traction in the fields, and made local road commissioners happier.

Few farm machines were made with the onset of World War II in 1941. Farm machin-

ery manufacturers turned their efforts to making war equipment. The bulk of the business at the blacksmith shop was that of repairing old equipment. By the end of the war in 1946, Paul Schmidt had built a new modern tractor shop, a parts room and office facility.

It was always Richard E. Schmidt's intention to join the family business. He graduated from Atlanta High School in 1946 and was accepted at the University of Illinois. After one year of college, Richard returned home to help manage the business. In 1950, Richard was drafted into the U.S. Army and served his tour in Korea. At the same time, post-war sales increased and the business flourished. By the end of the Korean Conflict in 1953, the business had changed from a blacksmith shop selling some machinery to a farm machinery dealership doing some blacksmith work. Richard returned home from the war, and in January of 1953 married Dema Smith. One year later, the future fourth generation to take over the business, Steven Paul Schmidt was born.

The late 1950's brought major growth to the business and to the farm economy. In 1958, Case Company introduced their first automatic tractor transmission. This was the beginning of major technological advances for farm machinery manufacturers. Machinery was becoming larger and more sophisticated.

With the addition of the New Idea farm machinery line in 1960, Richard E. Schmidt broadened the business' customer-base twofold. First, to include a larger group of farmers and second to the seed corn industry. New Idea appealed not only to area farmers but to the seed corn industry because of its introduction of self-propelled corn harvesters. With the addition of this new equipment line, an additional building was erected at the downtown location in 1968 so that machinery could be repaired inside where it was sheltered from the weather. Paul A. Schmidt and Son employed five people at this time. Sadly, the decade closed with the passing of Paul A. Schmidt on February 4, 1969. Paul had enjoyed over 50 years in the farm machinery business.

Schmidt Implement Company was formed in 1970. Good grain prices during the mid-1970s encouraged rapid growth in the business. In 1976, Dick's son, Steven P. Schmidt graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois; with a degree in business administration. Shortly after graduation, Steven joined the family business.

The growth of the business determined the fate of the original blacksmith shop. It had become apparent that the business had outgrown its original downtown location; a move was required. An eight-acre tract of land was purchased on the south edge of Atlanta. The business would be bordered by I-55 and U.S. 66. An 11,200 square foot metal building was constructed on the site in May of 1978, doubling the original shop size. The new site, once the northwest edge of the old Atlanta fairgrounds, is marked by a cornerstone. The day of the village blacksmith has passed on.

This was a busy time for both Richard and Steven Schmidt. 1977 welcomed the birth of son Michael to Steven Schmidt; daughter Jenni was to follow in 1979. The fifth generation of Schmidts had arrived.

For Richard, 1978 found him elected to the office of president of the J.I. Case Dealer Council. This council was formed to provide a common link between dealers and corporate management.

The business continued to flourish under the government's PIK (payment-in-kind) program and in 1985, two major equipment lines, J.I. Case and International Harvester, merged to become Case International. This merger eventually precipitated another partnership. On November 1, 1987, two Logan County farm equipment dealers joined forces, Schmidt Implement Company and Marcotte International, Inc. of Lincoln, Illinois. This merger became operational under the name of Schmidt-Marcotte, Inc., resulting in the closure of the Marcotte dealership on Woodlawn Road in Lincoln. With the merger came the construction of two more buildings and doubled the number of employees.

William (Bill) Marcotte brought to the business 21 years of association with International Harvester products. Bill graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1966 with a degree in agriculture. He worked for International Harvester as a sales representative out of their Peoria office. In 1973, he was transferred to Lincoln, Illinois as an assistant manager and purchased the dealership in 1974. He had been owner/operator until the merger in 1987.

In 1992 Schmidt-Marcotte further enhanced their central Illinois leadership in agriculture implement sales by merging with Evans Implement of Lawndale. David Evans closed his business in Lawndale, purchased stock in Schmidt-Marcotte, and joined the Schmidts and Bill Marcotte as a business partner. This merger provided the company with their second major farm equipment manufacturer—New Holland—as well as several short line companies including Kinze, an industry leader in planting equipment.

David Evans' family has been involved in the farm equipment business since 1953. That year his grandfather and uncle, John Cox and John R. Cox, started Cox Implement Company, an Allis-Chalmers dealership in Lincoln. Cox Implement flourished and in 1966 they moved their business to Lawndale to accommodate the business' growth and need for space. In 1979, David and his father, Tom, bought the dealership and operated it under the name of Evans Implement. As the years passed, the Allis-Chalmers dealership grew with the addition of Steiger, Kinze, New Holland, and a host of short line companies. Tom Evans retired in 1991. That same year Dave's son, Tim Evans, joined the business. Tim, currently the office manager of Schmidt-Marcotte, is a fourth generation family member involved in the farm equipment business.

Schmidt-Marcotte's merger with Evans resulted in greatly expanded customer services in areas including sales and parts.

Schmidt-Marcotte, Inc., currently operates with Steve Schmidt as president, Bill Marcotte as vice-president, and Dave Evans as treasurer, and currently employs 30 individuals. In December, 1998, Michael Schmidt will graduate with a degree in agriculture from Western Illinois University, and plans to join his father, Steve, in the business, marking five generations in the farm implement business.

In closing, a celebration marking their 100 years of service will be held in Atlanta, Illinois at the business on July 25, 1998.

TRIBUTE TO CADET SHIRER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. MASCARA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cadet Shirer, a lifelong Western Pennsylvanian, a very special person who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. Shirer was born and raised in Westmoreland County in the community of Alverton, Pennsylvania, on March 31, 1898. He still calls Alverton his home, a community which also is the residence of his two children, Thomas and Joyce, and their families.

I want to take this opportunity also to honor Mr. Shirer for his dedication to his country. At the age of 19, he joined the Army to defend his country during World War I. He served in the E Company of the 10th Pennsylvania Infantry, and later as a member of the medical troop that was shipped to France.

He is one of the few remaining World War I veterans in Western Pennsylvania, and the last surviving charter member of the Veterans of World War I and the VFW Post in Scottdale, Pennsylvania.

His commitment to the ailing troops did not end with the signing of the Armistice. For 20 years, beginning in 1961, Mr. Shirer took it upon himself to help veterans in Westmoreland County by providing them with the necessary transportation to the nearby Veterans Administration Hospital in Pittsburgh.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Shirer at several events in my district. He is a distinguished man who still proudly wears the Army uniform when attending veterans events. What strikes me most about him is his ability to recite by memory John McCrae's great war poem, "In Flanders Fields," and the Gettysburg Address, remember, without the assistance of notes. He is truly a remarkable man.

In your honor, Mr. Shirer, we are having a flag flown over the Nation's Capitol building today. I join Mr. Shirer, his children, his grandchildren and his great grandchildren in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday. He stands as a symbol for all veterans who have fought to keep this country's freedom.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight for a very special reason. A lot of times we talk about having a vision for the future of this country, and we talk about a social vision for the future of this country and we get all confused about Washington's role in that social vision. This morning I was reading the Washington Times, and there is an article that I would just like to call everyone's attention to, because it says a lot about this vision.

We talk a lot, first, about education and how we can make education num-

ber one in the world. We talk here in Washington about how if we get out of the way and get control of education back into the hands of the parents and the community, and we get our parents back actively involved in making the decision on where their kids could go to school, and what should be taught in the schools. If we can get the parents involved actively in these kids lives, then education will once again be number one in the world, and that is the best thing we could do here in Washington.

This article this morning that I was reading talks about a lot of the other implications of getting the parents back involved in the lives of the kids. This article was a national study of 12,000 teens, and they found the influences of family, school and personal character, and they found that these influences can either protect teens from all kinds of problems or result in teens having more problems.

Listen to some of these results, because these are the issues we talk about here in Washington, and we sometimes get hung up out here in Washington about how Washington can fix these problems.

How do we stop teenagers from cigarette use? Listen to what they found in this survey of 12,000 students. Cigarette use among teens: How do you slow it down? Number one, parent, family, connectedness. Parents and family doing things together.

Number two, parent at home before and after school, at dinner time, and at bedtime.

Number three, parents and teens do activities together regularly.

Notice what is missing from this list? There is no new Washington program to solve the problem, but rather parents involved with their teenagers.

Let's go on to another one. Alcohol use among teens. You see this idea of getting parents back involved in education of their kids is going to have a lot of side effects. Let's talk about alcohol use among teenagers.

Number one among these 12,000 students surveyed, number one to slow alcohol use among teenagers, parent-family connectedness.

Number two, parent at home before and after school, at dinner time, and at bedtime. And listen to this one: Teen religious identity. You want to slow down alcohol use amongst teenagers? Parents need to be involved with their kids once again.

Marijuana use, how do you stop marijuana use amongst teenagers? Again, no new Washington program, no new Washington spending, number one to stop marijuana use amongst kids, remember, this was 12,000 students surveyed: Parent-family connectedness. Parents doing things with their kids.

Number two, parents at home before and after school, at dinner time and bedtime. Notice the consistency here. When the parents are around for their kids, the abuse of whether it is alcohol or cigarettes or marijuana goes down dramatically.