

MAKING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE
POLICY PERMANENT

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, for years, in scores of town hall meetings I have conducted throughout my district, an overwhelming majority of my constituents have told me consistently that balancing the federal budget and making our tax system fairer rank among their top priorities.

That's why I am so pleased that this year, for the first time in a generation, we will achieve a balanced budget. Indeed, the Congressional Budget Office, is now actually projecting a surplus by year-end. This is great news. But what's to guarantee that Congress, in future years, will continue to maintain fiscal discipline and live within its means? What's to prevent Congress from returning to the ruinous tax-and-spend policies of the past?

Today, the House will vote on the Tax Limitation Amendment. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important, bipartisan resolution, which would make it unconstitutional for Congress to raise taxes without first achieving a two-thirds supermajority vote in both Houses.

According to a poll conducted just last month, a supermajority of the American taxpayers supports a supermajority requirement for Congress to raise taxes. And just last week, when I spoke to the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, my assertion that Congress should vote to impose this restriction on itself drew loud applause.

Legislatures in fourteen states, including my home state of Arizona, have already instituted this fiscally responsible provision. And the evidence is clear that tax limitation amendments work. Studies have shown that states with this supermajority provision have not only reduced the growth of taxes and spending, but also increased economic growth and employment, compared to states that have no tax limitation provision.

The Tax Limitation Amendment would enshrine the principle of tax limitation, and the supermajority requirement, in permanent law, while providing the right mix of discipline and flexibility for Congress. It would make it much more difficult for Congress to increase discretionary spending without undermining its authority to deal with legitimate economic and military emergencies.

The House of Representatives already is on record for tax limitation. House rules now require a supermajority vote to increase income taxes. But this only applies to the House, and—because it is only a rule, not a law—it is only for this Congress. There is no guarantee that future Congresses will adopt similar rules. To make tax limitation permanent, we must pass this amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CARIBBEAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY'S 13TH ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURS OF THE YEAR AWARDS GALA

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI) and the honorees of the 13th Annual Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Gala. The special event will be held in Brooklyn, New York on April 23rd, 1998. Mr. Roy Hastick, Sr., President and CEO of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.; Mr. John Imperiale, Dinner Chairman; Mr. Richard Jackson, Chairman of the Board for the Chamber; and other organizers of the event have tirelessly dedicated themselves to developing an event that will celebrate the accomplishments of a few outstanding entrepreneurs in New York City.

The CACCI is a statewide, not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York in 1985 to promote economic development among Caribbean-American/African-American and other minority entrepreneurs. During the many years of dedicated service to the business community, the Chamber of Commerce, Inc. has aggressively and compassionately pursued opportunities to ensure the survival of Caribbean/African American and other minority entrepreneurs. The Chamber's contributions to the economic development have increased their level of influence in today's competitive business climate.

Over the past several years, the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. has received numerous awards for its strong advocacy role. In 1998, the Chamber of Commerce was awarded the National, New York State, and New York City Small Business Advocate of the Year awards. More recently, the Chamber received the Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, the Ronald H. Brown Business Service Award, the U.S. Small Business Administration Award for Distinguished Service, and the New York State Federation of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce "Chamber of the Year Award."

I salute the fifteen honorees who have made significant achievements in their respective professions and who deserve recognition for their devotion to our Caribbean-American/African American community. The individuals that will be honored at the special event include the following: Denzel Bacchus, President of Exotic Caribbean Products; Clifford P. Charles & Kenneth A. Charles of Charles and Charles Certified Public Accountants; Grace Claxton-Johnson, President of Johnson Home Care Services, Inc.; Julia Lystra Collis, Owner, President and CEO of Aristocrat Manor; Ricot Duputy, President of Radio Soliel D'Haiti; Rosner Jean George, President of Irvington Manor Catering Hall; Dick Gidron, CEO/Founder of Dick Gidron Ford; Herman Hall, Publisher of *Everybody's Magazine*; Lowell Hawthorne, President of Golden Krust Bakeries, Inc.; Daniel Passrello, General Manager of Kings Plaza Shopping Mall; Balfour Peart, Manager of Worldwide Sales; Ellis Watson, President of ETS Air Shuttle; Zamal Sanker,

CEO of Caribbean Daylight; and Josephine Infanti, Executive Director of Hunts Point Local Development Corporation.

The honorees of this year's awards dinner represent national and international models for the promotion of economic opportunity and leadership in the business community. They have displayed a level of determination and commitment to economic development that must serve as a source of inspiration in other cities. These community leaders represent an unwavering commitment to job creation by recognizing the positive impact that equal opportunity in employment has on the quality of life for many residents of the city and the State of New York. It is these unique and special qualities as individuals and business professionals that warrant their recognition. I am proud to be involved with such an accomplished group of individuals. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in honoring these remarkable individuals.

I commend the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. mission to ensure diversity in the American business sector. I further commend the Chamber for their impressive showcase of professional excellence. Mr. Hastick, Mr. Imperiale, and Mr. Jackson have committed their lives to developing closer political and economic ties between persons in New York and in other nations. I look forward to broadening and deepening my friendship with the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. in the years ahead for the benefit of the people of Brooklyn and New York.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF GARY
JOHANSEN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Gary E. Johansen on his retirement from the Palos Verdes Estates, California, Police Department after ten years of dedicated service.

Gary joined the Pleasanton, California, Police Department in 1977 after a career as a high school instructor. His experience as a teacher greatly enhanced his law enforcement career and the communities he served. He was active in teaching in the fields of traffic accident investigation and drug enforcement. He was a patrolman, motor officer, sergeant in patrol and training, lieutenant in patrol and administration and captain in managing the investigation's division.

In 1988, Gary was appointed Chief of Police in the City of Palos Verdes Estates. During his tenure he guided the Department through difficult financial times while improving both training and equipment. He established the DARE Anti-drug program in local schools, oversaw installation of Computer Aided Dispatch, reduced response time on police calls, increased the number of Neighborhood Watch Groups, and worked on community outreach to resolve local conflicts in schools or among residents.

Chief Johnson has continued to teach in both school and police environments. He holds a Bachelor and Masters Degree from California State University in Fresno, is a

graduate of the POST Command College and holds an Executive Certificate from California Peace Officers Standards and Training.

My close friendship with Chief Johansen began in tragedy. He provided strength and courage to his officers, staff and families after a masked gunman charged into a hotel room during a training session and murdered two of his officers. His example helped sustain a shocked and grieving community. Gary's retirement to his home in Bend, Oregon, will leave a grateful community in his debt.

IN RECOGNITION OF EARTH DAY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today, we celebrate Earth Day. From its humble grass-roots beginning, Earth Day has grown to an international event. Events are planned in all 50 states and in the continents of Africa, Asia, Europe and North and South America.

Proudly, my home state of Wisconsin can claim some credit for this worthwhile event. Former Governor, U.S. Senator and Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson championed environmental issues during his 18 years in Washington. Of all Senator Nelson achievements, he will always be remembered for his progressive environmental record.

In 1963, Senator Nelson urged then-President John F. Kennedy to give national visibility to the importance of protecting the environment by taking a nationwide conservation tour. At every stop he would spell out, in dramatic fashion, the serious and deteriorating condition of our environment and discuss a comprehensive agenda to begin to address the problem. No President had ever made such a tour. While Earth Day was still seven years off, President Kennedy's conservation tour awoke the nation's attention to this issue.

After 28 years, Senator Nelson and other environmental advocates of his day may be proud of what Earth Day has grown to become. Since the first Earth Day celebration, this country has passed a number of important environmental measures—the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, Conservation Reserve Program to name just a few. Thousands of acres of wetlands have also been restored and nearly extinct species have been saved. Wisconsin can clearly see the positive effect of these important laws every time we enjoy the beauty of the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

As a nation and a world, we must not rest on our past achievements. In the next 35 years, America's population is expected to grow from approximately 266 million people to nearly 350 million. This growth brings development which may encroach upon many of the environmental accomplishments we have attained. With new found freedom and economic prosperity, many other nations of the world also project increased populations and environmental concerns as their industrial bases expand.

As members of Congress, we have a responsibility to ensure the protection of our environmental resources. I urge all my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to remember the efforts of Senator Nelson and

others of his generation by joining me in passing legislation that protects the nation's and world's natural resources.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. At its 150th birthday, the I&M Canal is one of the best-kept secrets of American history. In 1848, when the I&M Canal connected the Great Lakes and the Mississippi, it created a water highway between New York harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. The Canal opened the floodgates to an influx of new commodities, new people, and new ideas. The I&M, and the railroad and highway lines that soon paralleled its connection between Chicago and LaSalle, became the great passageway to the American West. At a stroke, the opening of the I&M Canal gave Illinois the key to mastery of the American mid-continent.

The dream of the canal had animated every vision and underlaid every plan for Illinois for 200 years before. As it was being built, the Canal's commissioners laid out a canal port called Chicago that would grow into a great metropolis. Creative Illinois investors patented new agricultural and industrial machines that would make this the richest economic zone the world had ever seen. That people from all over the world flocked to the region, lending their intelligence and their muscle to building the most populous inland American state, and Chicago the greatest city of the American heartland, is directly traceable to the 97-mile canal that linked the Great Lakes to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

The Illinois & Michigan Canal did not do the whole job by itself. But it started the ball rolling. In the wake of the canal, Chicago got its first street plan, attracted its first generation of merchants, created its board of trade and system of commodities trading. The railroads would complete the work, but only on the basis of what was pioneered by the canal.

In 1984, Congress recognized the I&M Canal's historic significance and future potential by designating the nation's first Heritage Corridor. Private citizens, business and government leaders are cooperating in unprecedented park, trail, and historic preservation projects. After years of economic decline, the newly revitalized Canal Corridor is now becoming a splendid living history museum of American enterprise, technological invention, ethnic diversity, and cultural creativity. The I&M Canal's mix of open space conservation, historic preservation and economic development is fast becoming a national model for regional planning and tourism promotion. The heritage of the I&M Canal is becoming a catalyst for Northern Illinois' future economic health and an inspiration for future generations.

A HISTORIC DAY FOR THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE AND ITS THOUSANDS OF IRISH-AMERICAN RESIDENTS

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a historic day for the city of Milwaukee and its thousands of Irish-American residents.

Tomorrow, April 23, several officials who negotiated the ground-breaking Northern Ireland peace accord will be in the Common Council Room at Milwaukee's City Hall. The news conference is a precursor to the officials' participation in the ninth annual University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee George F. Kennan Forum in International Affairs. This year's forum, entitled "Prospects for Peace in Northern Ireland," was arranged long before the peace talks reported progress this spring and culminated in the Good Friday Agreement peace accords announced on April 10.

The officials attending the UWM Forum on International Affairs include: W. David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party; Anthony Cary, counsellor political at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C.; and Irish Consul General Frank Sheridan of Chicago. Other confirmed speakers include Bronagh Hinds, of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition of Belfast; Mitchell McLaughlin, Head, Island Wide Sinn Fein Organization of Belfast; Bridd Rodgers, Chairperson of the SDLP Negotiations Team.

The Good Friday Agreement ended twenty-one months of grueling talks and tense negotiations and one last 32-hour marathon session between Northern Ireland's political leaders. The settlement plan offers a hope for peace among sectarian groups that have waged a war of terrorism against each other for nearly thirty years.

Under the settlement plan, self-rule would be restored to Northern Ireland for the first time in 26 years and new institutions would be created to provide the minority Catholics with a greater voice and to meet the majority Protestant wishes that Northern Ireland remain a part of Britain. The settlement plan also calls for the strengthening of relations between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Although some factions have voiced opposition to the settlement plan, the hope for peace continues to grow as the May 22 referendum date approaches. On that day, the people of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will have the opportunity to vote for peace.

I think President Clinton said it best when he said "After a thirty year winter of sectarian violence, Northern Ireland today has the promise of a springtime of peace."

Milwaukee has long participated in the practice of healing and developing understanding among Irish youth. Since 1980, Milwaukee area families have participated in The Ulster Project, which brings Catholic and Protestant teen-agers between 14 and 16 years of age, at no cost, to the United States to live with Catholic and Protestant families with children of the same age. The Belfast teens, nominated by church and school officials in Northern Ireland, are selected for participation