

each other only occasionally. At one of their meetings the father told the son that many young people in the camp were managing to smuggle food to their elders—and why hadn't Jack done that for his father? Stung, Jack studied for days how to deal with an electric fence that stood between him and an SS kitchen and finally succeeded in burrowing his thin frame under it to steal food—one potato and some peels. But when he got the food to his father, malnutrition had gripped the older man and grossly swollen his body. He could not eat. Soon after, he died in the camp's infirmary. Later, Jack learned that the death was directly caused by an injection of gasoline into his father's veins.

As the winter stretched into the spring of 1945, Jack Tramiel himself grew increasingly fatalistic. But then a strange end-of-the-war tableau unfolded. First, the Germans vanished from the camp; second, the Red Cross moved in briefly, overfed the prisoners to the point that some died, and then left; third, the Germans returned and then vanished again. On their heels came two American soldiers—"20-foot-tall black men, the first blacks I'd ever seen," says Tramiel—who loomed in a barracks door, peered at the prisoners hiding beneath the straw of their bunks, said something in English that one Jew gleaned as "More Americans will be coming," and left. Next a tank rolled up. In it stood a Jewish chaplain in dress uniform, who declared in Yiddish: "You are free," and told the tank to move on. These were troops of the advancing American Army, the month was April 1945, and Tramiel was 16.

Tramiel, today 69 and a fireplug in build, stayed in Europe for more than two years after his liberation, and many of his recollections of those days concern food: how he tricked his way into a sanitarium to a rich, and shamefully fattening, diet; how he gorged happily while working in an American Army kitchen; how he did other odd jobs for "money or food." But he also learned during this time that his mother was alive and back again in Lodz. He saw her there but then left, resolved by that time to marry a concentration-camp survivor he'd met, Helen Goldgrub, and go with her to the U.S.

The two wed in Germany in July 1947. They got to the U.S. separately, though—he first, in November of that year. His confidence, strengthened by what he'd survived, bordered on hubris: "I figured I could handle just about anything," he says. He started out living at a Jewish agency, HIAS, in New York City; got a job as a handyman at a Fifth Avenue lamp store; learned English from American movies; and at their end pigged out on chocolate instead of eating regular dinners.

Then, in early 1948, he did the improbable, joining the U.S. Army. By the time he left it four years later, he'd been reunited with his wife and fathered a son (the first of three). The Army had also pointed him to a career by putting him in charge of repairing office equipment in the New York City area.

When Tramiel checked back into civilian life, he entered a long period of close encounters with machines that typed words and manipulated numbers. He first worked, at \$50 a week, for a struggling typewriter-repair shop. Using his Army connections, Tramiel got the owner a contract to service several thousand machines. "The guy flipped," says Tramiel, but did not give his enterprising employee a raise. "I have no intention of working for people who have no brains," said Tramiel to the owner, and quit.

Tramiel then bought a typewriter shop in the Bronx. He did repair work for Fordham University and, when he once got a chance to buy scads of used typewriters, rebuilt and resold them. He next prepared to import ma-

chines from Italy, but found he could get the import exclusivity he wanted only by moving to Canada. It was in Toronto, in 1955, that he founded a company he called Commodore, an importer and eventually a manufacturer of both typewriters and adding machines. Why Commodore? Because Tramiel wanted a name with a military ring and because higher ranks, such as General and Admiral, were already taken.

Commodore went public in 1962 at a Canadian bargain-basement price of \$2.50 a share—a deal that raised funds Tramiel needed to pay off big loans he'd gotten from a Canadian financier named C. Powell Morgan, head of Atlantic Acceptance. Deep trouble erupted in the mid-1960s when Atlantic, to which Commodore was almost joined at the hip, went bankrupt, amid charges of fraudulent financial statements, dummy companies, and propped stock prices. Tramiel was never charged with illegalities, but an investigative commission concluded that he was probably not blameless. In any case, the Canadian financial establishment ostracized him. Struggling to keep Commodore itself out of bankruptcy, he was forced in 1966 to give partial control of the company to Canadian investor Irving Gould.

Commodore's line then was still typewriters and adding machines, but the electronics revolution was under way and setting up shop in Silicon Valley. Tramiel himself moved there in the late 1960s and soon, displaying a speed-to-market talent that has characterized his whole life, had Commodore pumping out electronic calculators. In time, one product, a hand-held calculator, grew so popular that it was self-destructive: The company that supplied Commodore with semiconductor chips, Texas Instruments, decided to produce calculators itself—selling them at prices that Commodore couldn't match.

With Commodore again reeling, Tramiel vowed never again to be at the mercy of a vital supplier. In 1976 he made a momentous acquisition: MOS Technology, a Pennsylvania chip manufacturer that also turned out to be extravagantly nurturing about 200 different R&D projects. Tramiel, a slash-and-burn, early-day Al Dunlap in management style, killed most of the projects immediately. But he listened hard when an engineer named Chuck Peddle told him the company had a chip that was effectively a micro-computer. And small computers, said Peddle, "are going to be the future of the world."

Willing to take a limited gamble, Tramiel told Peddle that he and Tramiel's second son, Leonard, then getting a Columbia University astrophysics degree, had six months to come up with a computer Commodore could display at an upcoming Comdex electronics show. They made the deadline. "And everyone loved the product," says Tramiel, relishingly rolling out its name, PET, for Personal Electronic Transactor. Unfortunately, this was potentially an expensive pet, carrying a lot of risk—and demanding, says Tramiel, "a lot of money I still did not have." So he determined to gauge demand by running newspaper ads that offered six-week delivery on a computer priced at \$599, a seductive figure on which Tramiel thought he could still make a profit. The ads appeared, and a hugely encouraging \$3 million in checks came back.

Commodore got to the market with its computer in 1977, in the same year that Apple and Tandy put their micros on sale. In the next few years, Tramiel drove those competitors and others wild by combatively pushing prices down and down, to levels like \$200. He also became famous for rough treatment of suppliers, customers, and executives—and about it all was fiercely unrepentant. "Business is war," he said. "I don't believe in compromising. I believe in winning."

Which is what he did in those early years for computers, leading Commodore to \$700 million in sales in fiscal 1983 and \$88 million in profits. At its peak price in those days, the stock that Tramiel had sold in 1962 at a price of \$2.50 a share was up to \$1,200, and his 6.5% slice of the company was worth \$120 million.

But then, in early 1984, just as annual sales were climbing above \$1 billion, Tramiel clashed with a Commodore stockholder mightier than he, Irving Gould—and when the smoke had cleared, Tramiel was out. The nature of their quarrel was never publicly disclosed. Today, however, Tramiel says he wanted to "grow" the company, and Gould didn't.

Commodore was really Tramiel's last hurrah. True, he surfaced again quickly in the computer industry, agreeing later in 1984 to take over—for a pittance—Warner Communications' foundering Atari operation. But in a business changing convulsively as IBM brought out its PC and the clones marched in, Atari was a loser and ultimately a venture into which Tramiel was unwilling to sink big money. Eventually he folded Atari into a Silicon Valley disk-drive manufacturer, KTS, in which he has a major interest but plays no operational role.

Today Tramiel is basically retired and managing his money. From four residences, he's cut down to one, a palatial house atop a foothill in Monte Sereno, Calif. In its garage are two Rolls-Royces, a type of luxury to which Tramiel has long been addicted.

Naturally, charity fundraisers took Tramiel up. When those for the Holocaust Memorial Museum appeared, he at first thought of it as just one more philanthropic cause to be supported. But his wife, Helen, 69, who spent her concentration camp days at Bergen-Belsen, is intensely aware that both she and her husband survived what millions of other Jews did not. "No," she said adamantly, "for this one we have to go all out."

#### INTRODUCTION OF POSTAL SERVICE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROMOTION ACT

**HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 1998

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to treat the U.S. Postal Service the same as any private employer under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The fact that the Postal Service has not been covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Act in the same way as private employers—including private employers with whom the Postal Service directly competes for business—is apparently due to the fact that both the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Postal Reorganization Act were being considered at the same time by Congress, in 1970. In any event, the Postal Service, although it is now "an independent establishment of the Executive Branch of the Government of the United States" is considered a "federal agency" for purposes of the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

As a "federal agency," under Section 19 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and Executive Order 12196, the Postal Service is supposed to comply with OSHA standards, but it is not subject to OSHA enforcement as are

private employers. Instead, the Department of Labor is authorized under Executive Order 12196 to conduct inspections of agency workplaces "when the Secretary [of Labor] determines necessary if an agency does not have occupational safety and health committees; or in response to reports of unsafe or unhealthful working conditions, upon request of occupational safety and health committees . . . ; or, in the case of a report of an imminent danger, when such a committee has not responded to an employee who has alleged to it that the agency has not adequately responded to a report." In such cases, the Department of Labor is required to follow up its inspection with a report to the head of the agency. In addition, under the executive order, the Secretary of Labor submits an annual report to the President on each federal agency's workplace safety and health performance. However, neither the Department of Labor nor the state agencies which enforce OSHA requirements in 23 states have the legal authority to require the Postal Service to comply with OSHA requirements, or to issue citations or penalties against the Postal Service for violations of OSHA requirements.

As my colleagues may know, I have been working for some time on much needed reforms of the workers compensation system for federal employees, known as the Federal Employees Compensation Act, or FECA, which is also the workers compensation program which covers Postal Service employees. The present program is expensive, has not been updated for years, continues to be afflicted by cases of fraud and abuse, and in many cases discourages employees' return to work. Measured by either total compensation costs or number of claims, Postal Service employees comprise one of the largest components of FECA.

During a hearing held on the FECA program on March 24 by the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, a representative of the American Postal Workers Union claimed that "[in] our experience, the federal government's workplace safety and health program remains inadequate and deficient, and this is where the greatest savings could and should be achieved in the costs associated with workers injured on the job in the line of duty."

While I certainly do not share the view that the only problem with the FECA program is the lack of effort by the Postal Service or federal agencies generally to seriously address workplace hazards in order to prevent workplace injuries, it does seem to me reasonable and appropriate to provide assurance that in addressing FECA we are not ignoring the issue of workplace safety. Nor does it seem unreasonable to me that the Postal Service, which increasing competes directly with private companies, should do so "on a level playing field" with regard to OSHA regulation and enforcement.

So for both of these reasons I am introducing legislation to treat the Postal Service the same as private employers for purposes of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Under the bill, the Postal Service would be subject to inspection, citation, and penalty by OSHA and approved state OSHA programs. I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in order to pass this legislation during this Congress.

W. STANLEY GARNER HONORED

**HON. JAMES H. MALONEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American people the celebration of an individual in Connecticut's 5th Congressional District to be held this Saturday, April 25th, and the many accomplishments of Mr. W. Stanley Garner of New Fairfield, Connecticut. Family, friends and associates of Mr. Garner will gather at the new Fairfield Senior Center to honor him for his personal contributions to the Public Library and the community at large.

Born in New Fairfield on January 9, 1923, Mr. Garner involved himself in community affairs as a young man, and was an avid user of the New Fairfield Free Public Library when it was simply a corner room in the small town hall building before World War II. In 1967, Mr. Garner became Trustee of that library and served in that capacity for more than 20 years, a longer continuous tenure than anyone else.

During these twenty plus years, and since, Mr. Garner has been at the forefront of all the Library's construction projects and was primarily responsible for the establishment of the town's Children's Library. He served on the Building Committee for the present Town Library, built in 1975, as well as on the Building Committees for the addition to the New Fairfield Middle School, the Fire House and the town Police Station.

Mr. Garner's reputation as a builder in the area is outstanding, having been responsible for the construction of hundreds of homes in the area, as well as several public facilities including the Parish House of St. Edward's Church and its adjacent Sullivan Home. He was also a long time member of the Board of Directors of the Union Savings Bank in New Fairfield.

Throughout his life, Mr. Garner has given a level of public service that few achieve. He continues to serve today as an example of the type of service and dedication that all of us should follow. Despite his level of involvement, however, Mr. Garner has never allowed his outside activities to overshadow the importance of his family. This October 28th, Stan and Aileen Pulver Garner will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary with their two sons.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Connecticut's 5th Congressional District, and this House, I want to congratulate Mr. Stanley Garner on this life-long achievements and thank him for his service and dedication to New Fairfield, its institutions and citizens.

RECOGNIZING COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE CONTINUUM OF CARE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a citizen coalition known as Colorado's Northern Front Range Continuum of Care, whom I recently met with in my Fort Collins office to learn of their assessment

of the community's need for affordable housing, transitional housing, group homes and homeless services. The Continuum of Care is comprised of over 125 individuals representing various community organizations including Alternatives to Violence, American Red Cross, Catholic Charities-Northern, House of Neighborly Service, WIRS, A Woman's Place, Weld Food Bank, Greeley Interfaith, Right to Read, Cities of Greeley, Loveland, and Fort Collins, Neighbor to Neighbor, Fort Collins Authority, Larimer County Mental Health, Larimer County Department of Human Services, Loveland Housing Authority, Crossroads Safehouse, Crossroads Ministry, Colorado Division of Housing, Ft. Lupton Housing Authority, Greeley Housing Authority, Greeley Transitional House, United Way of Weld County, Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity, CARE Housing, and Funding Partners.

Continuum of Care was formed for the purpose of inventorying existing local resources in the community, and to identify gaps in housing and service delivery for special populations. The assessments were achieved through the participation of these representatives who developed this analysis bringing their particular community experiences to the table.

The following facts were established concerning the value of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit:

H.R. 2900 would increase the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits to \$1.75 per capita and index the cap to inflation.

The current cap is severely limiting the state's capacity to help the thousands of lower wage families from renting decent, safe and affordable housing.

In 1996, Colorado was allocated \$4.5 million in housing tax credits but the demand far exceeded this allocation with requests totaling \$15.3 million.

The Low-Income Tax Credit is a federal tax credit to investors for ten years for up to 9% of their cost of constructing or rehabilitating apartments dedicated to lower-wage working families at restricted rents.

Since 1987, the housing tax credit has helped develop over 7,692 units of affordable housing in 40 counties in Colorado.

During that same time period in Larimer and Weld Counties, funds totaling \$4,525,677 were allocated, providing 1,183 new housing units.

Facts were also presented in support of Private Activity Bonds:

H.R. 979 increases the Private Activity Bond (PAB) cap from \$50 to \$75 per capita and index the cap to inflation.

This legislation will stimulate job creation, the production of affordable housing, industrial development, environmental cleanup and higher education in Colorado.

Currently the cap is the greater of \$50 per capita or \$150 million per state per year. This computes to about \$200 million annually in Colorado.

Annually, this cap is used-up completely. Demand exceeds supply by four-to-one.

In the last two years, over \$414 million of private activity bond authority yielded a significant positive economic impact for Colorado.

Over \$336 million in tax exempt bond financing for affordable housing for our bluecollar work force funded new home ownership and rental opportunities.

\$41 million of financing for industrial development (manufacturing facilities) and agricultural loans.