

\$16 billion). 65% of that so-called contribution is spent on compliance and enforcement. Consequently, less than 1/3 of 1% of the Federal budget revenue comes from this tax (approx. \$5 billion).

Repeal would dramatically help the economy and would reduce the Federal budget deficit. According to several studies at least 145,000 new jobs would be created in the first year of repeal, personal income would rise \$8 billion annually, family businesses would stay in business, job preservation would be enhanced, and long-term investment would be enhanced. Plant and infrastructure investment would be enhanced and the trend in most industries towards consolidation would be reversed. Philanthropic giving would go up, minority-owned business would be preserved, female-owned business would be preserved, business innovation, and creativity would be stimulated, and savings would increase.

Primarily because of the death tax 70% of family business don't survive the first generation, 87% don't survive the second generation, less than 5% survive the third generation, and this misguided tax is the primary reason for the inability of minority owned businesses to perpetuate themselves.

The burden of this public policy now falls on the middle class. When workers are laid-off and family businesses fail, the negative trend towards a two-tier society is accelerated—encouraging corporate takeovers and the consolidation of industries. This leads to workplaces characterized by layoffs, job reduction and disinvestment.

The death tax started early in the 20th century targeted at a few super rich families. Most people still believe this is a "soak the rich" law and that repeal would only benefit the rich. Most Americans are appalled that the death tax rate is 55% and that everything it applies to has already been taxed at least once.

What can you do? Educate yourself. Contact and lobby your Congress person and Senator. Identify and work with key Congressional staffers. Lobby the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee. Work with your local chamber and the U.S. Chamber, as well as any other business association you have a relationship with. Inform other industry groups. Contact and educate other family business owners. Use and promote the use of the free print ads we have developed at the Seattle Times. Use and promote the death tax web site (deathtax.com)

[The Seattle Times was found in 1896 by Alden J. Blethen. The newspaper is currently owned and operated by 4th and 5th generation family members. Six members of the Blethen family are employed full-time, three of whom are long-term members of senior management; another family member is actively involved in governance; and four more are employed during the summer. The Seattle Times is the largest evening newspaper left in the country. It is one of a handful of locally owned, family-owned metropolitan newspapers left in America. The Times and Blethen family are committed to perpetuating local, family ownership in spite of the overwhelming pressures to sell to large, public, foreign owned newspaper chains and despite personal and corporate resources that are drained away from the business and the community to deal with the estate tax. Individual family members have foregone significant personal wealth to continue family, local ownership. Fourth generation

deeply involved with estate planning since 1975.]

SOME PROBLEMS WITH
CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2400

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives passed landmark legislation to improve our Nation's highways and transit systems. This legislation is an absolutely vital investment in our infrastructure. In my District, Highway 21—the deadliest road in Missouri and possibly the deadliest road in America—stands to see improvements that will save the lives of children and adults who drive on it daily.

But, there's a problem with this legislation. I am outraged that some of these very needed investments in our transportation system are funded on the backs of veterans—just before the day we honor the memories of those who have fallen for our country. It is also regrettable that additional funding was provided at the expense of our kids, who will lose vital child care at a time when we should be increasing our investment in children. The majority of my Democratic colleagues object to these cuts.

It is wrong that we have been forced to choose between safe roads and veterans health care, child welfare and other vital investments. The Administration proposed other ways to fund this bill, but Republican leaders refused to consider them.

I voted for the Democratic instruction to the negotiators of this agreement that we not use veterans health care as an offset for highway spending. The Republican leaders ignored this motion. Our veterans deserve better treatment than this.

I will support this legislation because of Highway 21 and the memory of those who have lost their lives on this road—dubbed Blood Alley. Action on a multi-year highway bill has already been delayed for months, and further delays could have serious adverse consequences on vital road and transit repairs across the country. But I believe we could have done much better than we have done today—and that we have simply created new problems that will have to be addressed in the future.

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S REMARKS
AT THE SIGNING OF THE NATO
ENLARGEMENT RATIFICATION
DOCUMENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 22, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Clinton signed the documents completing United States ratification of the accession protocols for Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to become full-members of the NATO alliance. This is a historic occasion, Mr. Speaker, and one that places the United States firmly on the side of fostering democ-

racy, security in Central Europe, and the creation of viable civil societies.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to President Clinton for playing a critical role in negotiating the agreements and winning the support of our other NATO allies for the admission of these three new countries to the alliance. His strong leadership at the Madrid Summit less than one year ago was crucial for this great victory.

I also want to acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, the leadership of Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who was responsible for carefully shepherding through the process of negotiating the admission of these three countries to NATO. She has also personally taken the lead in convincing the American people of the vital interest that the United States has in the admission of these countries.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remarks of President Clinton yesterday at the White House ceremony marking United Ratification of the accession protocols for Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON RATIFICATION
OF NATO ENLARGEMENT

The PRESIDENT. Thank you very much. I suppose I should begin with an apology for having to dash off and pick up the paper, but I would hate to lose this document after all the effort we put into getting to this point. (Laughter.)

Mr. Vice President, thank you for your leadership on this issue. Senator Roth, Senator Biden, Secretary Albright, Secretary Cohen, General Ralston, Mr. Berger, to the ambassadors of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the other members of the diplomatic corps who are here, to Senators Levin and Lieberman and Lugar, Mikulski, and Smith, I thank all of you so much.

Let me say notwithstanding my good friend Senator Biden's overly generous remarks, we are here today because of the efforts of a lot of people who supported this effort: members of Congress and former members of Congress, present and former national security officials, present and former military leaders, representatives of our veterans, business unions, religious groups, ethnic communities. I especially thank Senators Lott and Daschle, Senators Helms and Biden, and you, Senator Roth, the chairman of our NATO observer group.

You behaved in the great tradition of Truman and Marshall and Vandenberg, uniting our country across party for common values, common interests, and a common future.

It's really amazing, isn't it, that Bill Roth and Joe Biden come from Delaware. I want you to know there is no truth to the rumor that I agreed to move the NATO headquarters to Wilmington in return for this vote. (Laughter.) However, it does say a lot for those small states that these two remarkable men have made such an indispensable contribution to this effort. I thank the other senators who are here for their passionate commitments.

I'd also like to mention one other person, my advisor on NATO enlargement who managed the ratification process for the White House, Jeremy Rosner. Thank you, Jeremy. You did a great job, too, and we thank you. (Applause.)

I see so many people here that—and I don't want to get into calling names, but I thank Mr. Brzezinski, Ambassador Kirkpatrick, General Joulwan and so many others who are here who have been a part of America's effort over the last 50 years to make sure that after World War II freedom triumphs.

We learned at great cost in this century that if we wanted America to be secure at