

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, due to a prior commitment back in my congressional district March 30, I missed rollcall votes 94 and 95. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 94, the motion to recommit on H.R. 3908, and "no" on rollcall vote 95, the vote on final passage for H.R. 3908.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING 2000 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Madam Speaker, this is a spectacular day for all of us from Connecticut, but I am fortunate enough to have the University of Connecticut stars in my district. I think as almost everybody saw last night, winning the 2000 NCAA national championship and beating the Tennessee Lady Volunteers 71 to 52, another great team with a spectacular record; but our team last night clearly controlled every aspect of the game, dominated both offense and defense. The margin of victory was the second largest in women's tournament history, a total team effort and really an astounding season with 36 wins and only 1 loss.

There were outstanding contributions by all of the players: Shea Ralph, Svetlana Abrosimova, Sue Bird, Swin Cash, Kelley Schumacher, Asjha Jones, and Tamika Williams.

Congratulations also to our great coach, Gino Auriemma, head coach; Chris Daily, associate head coach; Tony Cardoza, assistant coach; and Jamelle Elliott, another assistant coach.

UConn Huskies have done really an outstanding job through the 1990s. National championships include an undefeated season 1994 to 1995, eight Big East championships, including seven straight NCAA tournament appearances every year, 313 victories, second only to Tennessee that we were lucky enough and able enough to beat last night.

Husky fans really are the best fans in the Nation. We have had a spectacular time.

To Coach Gino and all the women there, really an outstanding season and a great lift to the State.

SACAJAWEA GOLDEN DOLLAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, in 1997, Congress passed long overdue legislation to place in circulation a new \$1 coin. Congress required that the new coin have a different edge, design, and color than the unsuccessful Susan B. Anthony \$1 coin. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with Congress, was required to select the design for the new \$1 coin.

The U.S. Mint conducted an extensive public outreach program in selecting the final coin design. This included public hearings, broadcast on C-SPAN, focus groups, public coin design exhibits, extensive print media requests for comments, and over 130,000 letters, faxes, and e-mails.

The result is simply outstanding. The new coin is golden in color with a smooth edge, and on the face of the coin is a picture of Sacajawea, the Native American woman who aided the Lewis and Clark expedition.

The public's demand for the new Sacajawea golden dollar is unprecedented. Since its release January 26, 300 million golden dollars have been purchased. In 14 weeks, there will be 500 million golden dollars in circulation. It took the Susan B. Anthony dollar 14 years to create the demand for 500 million coins.

I commend the U.S. Mint for this incredible success in proving that the public truly does want a dollar coin. To meet this enormous demand for the new coin, the United States Mint has done a terrific job of accelerating their production and shipment.

Recently, I had the honor of visiting the Philadelphia Mint, which employs 800 men and women who make this all happen. We watched the dollar coins coming through the stamping process. The Mint has doubled their production to 5.25, that is 5¼, million golden dollars a day by running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Because of their hard work, the U.S. Mint will be able to produce 1 billion coins by the end of the year.

Now, that is good news for taxpayers. But most people do not realize how good the news really is. It only costs the Mint 12 cents to make a Sacajawea golden dollar. Then the U.S. Mint sells the coins to the banks for full value, one full dollar. The result is a direct profit to the U.S. Treasury of 88 cents on every coin issued. At the end of this year, when 1 billion golden dollars are in circulation, the United States Treasury will have made a profit of \$880 million.

This profit will be eligible to reduce our \$5.7 trillion national debt. That is right. The Treasury makes a profit from issuing coins which helps lower the debt of our Nation. Yes, my colleagues heard correctly, a government department that makes a profit.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 4081, EdTEC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, as this Nation forges ahead into the 21st century, our children's education must keep pace with the rigors and demands of the information age and the new economy.

In recent years, our Nation's schools have been doing a good job of acquiring technology like computers, information technology networks, and the Internet access. Now as schools continue their efforts in acquiring and updating technology this allows time to focus on the result of these efforts, student education and achievement.

□ 1845

To help schools teach with technology, I, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY) and 17 other members of the new Democratic coalition, have introduced H.R. 4081, the Education Technology Enhances Classrooms Act, or EdTEC for short. EdTEC updates and reauthorizes the very successful and popular Technology Literacy Challenge Fund contained in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. EdTEC maintains the core elements of the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund but focuses new attention on integrating technology and classroom curriculum and also addresses a growing and troublesome trend: the digital divide.

EdTEC provides valuable framework for States and school districts to create and update their plans for education technology purchases, self-training and development, and, now, student learning. Teachers will be given more tools and guidance to actually use technology to teach core academic subjects.

Computers, networks, and Internet connections will not be used merely as research tools or for demonstrations. In the 21st century, students must learn with technology and do homework with technology just as they have always used encyclopedias, dictionaries, periodicals, and textbooks. Access and use of technology today is as important as the blackboard and chalk were to teaching in the past.

EdTEC also works toward closing the digital divide by targeting Federal dollars to schools most in need. For example, even with Federal and State resources dedicated to technology acquisition, in 1998, only 39 percent of classrooms in high poverty schools had Internet access. In contrast, 62 percent of classrooms in low poverty schools had Internet access. EdTEC focuses funds first on disadvantaged schools in cities, small towns, and rural communities according to poverty and high need.

Our Nation's schools have been working hard to provide their students with access to technology. The Federal Government, through the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, has been instrumental in leveraging the resources of local communities to acquire that

technology. In fact, since the inception of the Fund, the computer-to-student ratio has been reduced from 27 to 1 down to 14 to 1.

Nevertheless, we are at a point where most teachers report that they do not feel sufficiently trained on the use of technology in the classroom, and they do not have enough knowledge about what is available to them for teaching with technology. According to recent studies, only 20 percent of teachers report feeling very well prepared to use technology education as part of their teaching method. That is just way too low.

Students, in many instances, are more comfortable with the use of technology than their teachers and parents, but they do not always have access to technology resources at school which will actually capture their attention and enhance their learning. According to a recent survey conducted by the National School Boards Foundation and Children's Television Workshop, 53 percent of parents in households connected to the Internet report their children primarily use their home Net connection for school work. Forty-three percent of kids between the ages of 9 and 17 say their outlook about school has improved with access to the Internet.

This is important because education experts and children alike tell us that we must continue to find ways to challenge our children, to engage their creativity, to expand their interests, and, frankly, to simply fight off boredom in the classroom. The use of technology helps do that.

Our bill, EdTEC, will continue the important Federal investment in education technology. It provides States and schools with important funds and guidance in formulating technology education plans while focusing on the integration of technology and curriculum and closing the digital divide. This new century and our new economy demands our children are experienced and equipped to use the technology that is all around us. EdTEC will help our schools continue to move in that direction and ensure that our children can learn at the speed of change in the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, I want to call upon my colleagues to take a close and serious look at this legislation as we move forward with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in this session of Congress.

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, several weeks ago the House debated, and passed, a bill to increase the minimum wage. Unfortunately, I was unable to get to the floor to participate in the debate. But I want to revisit the issue today, so that I can

share with you a constituent letter I received from a small business owner in Kinston, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, Ken Moore is an example of an entrepreneur who, without interference from the government, started a business with a single restaurant in 1991, and now has 39 locations throughout Eastern North Carolina. And along the way, he has shared his success by extending opportunities to his employees.

When Mr. Moore learned that the House would be debating a minimum wage increase, he sent me a letter to share how the mandate would affect his small business and communities throughout Eastern North Carolina. I wanted to share part of his letter with the Congress.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Moore wrote, and I quote:

Congressman Jones:

I started Andy's in March of 1991 in Goldsboro, North Carolina. As of today, we have grown to 39 locations throughout Eastern North Carolina and have another six locations under construction.

The reason for our success has always been because we give our hourly associates the opportunity to own an Andy's restaurant. We have never looked for outside investors, preferring to train our people and give them the opportunity to operate and eventually own their business. We call this "starting at the minimum and earning the maximum." We now have many success stories throughout our company achieved through this philosophy.

The unfunded mandate of minimum wage put in place by Washington will hurt our business, associates, and neighbors in Eastern North Carolina.

We conducted a survey of nearly 700 employees and found only two earning minimum wage that were the primary wage earners for their family. These happen to be single moms who already receive some government assistance.

Two out of the 700 makes a mockery out of the political line that families can't exist on minimum wage. The much-touted family of four making minimum wage and trying to subsist doesn't exist, at least not within Andy's.

We don't believe that America is about handouts, but is based on hard work and persistence. These are the values we strive to teach our associates.

An increase in the minimum wage will mean an increase in prices, something which I don't want to do. Minimum wage increases invariably cause us to lay some people off and delay hiring new folks. This is sad, but simply the truth.

I would like all politicians in favor of increasing the minimum wage to simply tell the truth. Increasing the minimum wage is a tax increase, period.

Madam Speaker, I will include the entire text of the letter in the RECORD.

Madam Speaker, Ken Moore is just one of thousands of small business owners across this country, who recognize the effects an increase in the minimum wage will have on their businesses, and their communities. I appreciate the opportunity to share Mr. Moore's story. Because I believe that his concerns are shared by many small business owners across the country.

THE LITTLE MINT, INC.,
Kinston, NC, March 7, 2000.

Re Minimum wage increase.

To: Walter B. Jones, Jr.
From: Kenneth K. Moore

I started Andy's in March of 1991 in Goldsboro, NC. As of today we have grown to 39 lo-

cations throughout Eastern NC and have another 6 locations under construction. The reason for our success has always been because we give our hourly associates the opportunity to own an Andy's restaurant. We have never looked for outside investors, preferring to train our people and give them the opportunity to operate and eventually own their business. We call this "starting at the minimum and earning the maximum." We now have many success stories throughout our company achieved through this philosophy.

Eastern NC is a rural area that has been through much during the past year. We have been rocked by hurricanes and floods during their aftermath. Our home is not a wealthy area. However, our people are the salt of the earth and work very hard to pay taxes and raise good children.

Eastern NC economy is predominately agriculturally based and with tobacco taking a beating in the press and in Washington many farmers have turned to pork production. Our state government has now placed a moratorium on that. At Andy's, we understand our neighbor's plight and have only raised prices in our stores twice in 9 years. Both times have been due to minimum wage increases. As you can tell, we are trying to do our part.

The unfunded mandate of minimum wage put in place by Washington will hurt our businesses, associates, and neighbors in Eastern NC. We conducted a survey of nearly our 700 employees and found only 2 earning minimum wage that were the primary wage earners for their family. These happen to be single moms who already receive some government assistance. Two out of the 700 makes a mockery out of the political line that families can't exist on minimum wage. The much-touted family of four making minimum wage and trying to subsist doesn't exist, at least not within Andy's.

Andy's has had very little employee turnover because we give people the opportunity to grow. Even the teenagers who comprise the vast amount of our minimum wage earners don't leave us. We have a yearly banquet at which we strive to inspire and motivate them to grow into solid citizens. We give scholarships and awards. We also continued to pay our minimum wage earners after the restaurants were flooded in the wake of Hurricane Floyd. All we asked them to do was to volunteer to help out in their local shelters. We teach our young people that there is already an increase in the minimum wage. It is called doing a good job!

We don't believe that America is about handouts but is based on hard work and persistence. These are the values we strive to teach our associates. An increase in the minimum wage will mean an increase in prices, something which I don't want to do. Minimum wage increases invariably cause us to lay some people off and delay hiring new folks. This is sad, but simply the truth.

I would like all politicians in favor of increasing the minimum wage to simply tell the truth. Increasing the minimum wage is a tax increase, period. The increase is simply another way for the government to make 15.6 cents on every dollar. If you truly want to help teenagers make more money, then waive the playoff taxes on the increase. If the truth be told the increase makes for great reelection material, doesn't it?

I remember a young lady who worked for me when I first started my business some years ago. She is now an elementary school teacher and a wonderful person. I saw her not long ago and we reminisced about a Christmas Party we had in my original location in 1993. I didn't have the money for Christmas gifts for my small crew, so I gave each one a card with a personal note. As I was reminding her of this she stopped me