to one’s ability to pay, are much fairer. The in-
come tax is a type of progressive tax. I believe
that the current budget surplus is large
enough to consider repealing other regressive
taxes that harm lower-income Americans. As
such, I remain committed to creating a more
equal tax system.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY WILKINSON—
EXTRAORDINARY LIBRARY AD-
VOCATE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to
take this moment to recognize Larry Wilkinson
for receiving the Extraordinary Library Advo-
cate of the 20th Century award that is pre-
vented by the ALA/ALTA National Advocacy
Hon. McInnis.

Some of Larry’s accomplishments, with re-
gards to his library service, include initiating
the inception of two public libraries in the
State of Colorado. Perhaps his greatest
achievement was the restoration of a former
jailhouse into the current library in the town of
Telluride. Today, Larry volunteers one day a
week to continue his public passion and also
serves on the Colorado Council of Library De-
velopment.

The many contributions that Larry has made
have markedly improved the public’s access to
information, especially in the Telluride area.
Before Larry’s involvement and the creation of
the library, residents would have to travel to
the city of Montrose in order to obtain access
to literary materials. Thanks to Larry, that is no
longer the case.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute
to Larry’s efforts and to thank him for his work
to provide access to information that is only
available in public libraries. Larry is exceed-
ingly worthy of this prestigious award and de-
serves the praise of this body.

WELLTON-MOHAWK TRANSFER
ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. ED PASTOR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today at
the end of this long journey to fully support
this legislation which transfers the title of the
Gila Project/Welton Mohawk Division facilities
from the Bureau of Reclamation to the
Welton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage Dis-
trict.

I want to thank the Gentleman from Alaska,
Chairman Young, the Gentleman from Cali-
ifornia, Mr. Miller, the Chairman of the Re-
sources Subcommittee on Water and Power,
Chairman Doolittle, and the Ranking Mem-
ber of that Subcommittee, Mr. Doolley,
for their help in getting this legislation through
the Subcommittee, through the full Resources
Committee, and now on the Floor of the House.

I also want to thank my colleagues from Ari-
izona for their help. Congressmen Stump,
Hayworth, and Kolbe joined me in intro-
ducing the legislation, and Congressman
Shadegg quickly joined them in seeing the
wisdom of co-sponsorship. And in the other
body, both Senators from Arizona joined to in-
troduce the bill we are considering today.

The Gila project in Western Arizona was
originally authorized for construction by Presi-
dent Roosevelt in June, 1937. Construction for
the Welton-Mohawk Division was started in
August, 1949, and water from the Colorado
River was turned onto the Welton-Mohawk fields
for the first time in May, 1952. The project was
completed by June, 1957 and the Welton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage Dis-
trict fully repaid its project costs and was given
its certificate of discharge on November 27,
1991. In 1998, the District and the Bureau of
Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Agree-
ment that covers the details of the transfer of
title.

This bill, S. 356, which is virtually identical
to the bill I introduced, H.R. 841, simply au-
thorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry
out all provisions of the Memorandum of Agree-
ment covering the transfer of title, in-
cluding the authority to convey lands as re-
quired. It also requires the Secretary of Interior
and the Secretary of Energy to continue to
provide water and power as provided under
existing contracts.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, this has been
a long road, but we are finally ending the leg-
islative journey. This is simple legislation
which will help shrink the role of the Federal
government and shift the responsibilities for
ownership into the hands of local entities. In
short, passage of this legislation will ensure a
smoother and more efficient operation, which
in turn will better serve the American taxpayer
and the citizens of Southwest Arizona.

I ask that my colleagues support passage of
S. 356 and I look forward to watching the
President sign it into law.

TEXAS’ CHILD HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Texas’ Child Health Insurance Program.

Today, our children should not have to fight
to get the health care coverage they deserve.
I am sad to say, in Texas they do. A child
born in the year 2000 is far more likely to
grow up healthy and to reach adulthood than
a child born in 1900 was. Over the past 100
years, our nation’s scientific, technological,
and financial resources have built the most
advanced health care system in the world. But
the doors of this health care system are not
open to everyone.

Millions of children have inadequate medical
care. Ensuring that every child in our nation
receives the best possible health care must be
a top priority. Unfortunately, not all children
have benefited equally from the medical,
public health, and public policy
achievements of the 20th century. To a large
degree, health status is still determined by
race, language, culture, geography, and eco-

omics. In general, children in low-income
communities get sick more often from prevent-
able and infectious illnesses such as measles,
conjunctivitis, and ear infections. Low-income
children and teens are also more likely to suffer from chronic medical conditions such as diabetes,
causing cause of school absences. In fact, the sharp-

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