

Whether it was when I was Lieutenant Governor of Ohio or as a Senator, I had the opportunity to work with Steve for many years, and I have relied on him for advice and counsel. I consulted with Steve regularly on criminal justice issues, and I must tell you that his keen insights have helped shape nearly every piece of criminal justice legislation I have introduced in the Senate, and he helped me immensely when I was Lieutenant Governor carrying out the Governor's criminal justice agenda. Steve made a lasting impression on law enforcement both in Ohio and across our Nation. From pension plans to crime-fighting technology, Steve's foresight and vision have helped bring law enforcement into the 21st century.

One of the last times I saw Steve, he was here in Washington in July for a Judiciary Committee hearing. Fortunately, I had a chance to spend a few brief moments with Steve. That meeting reminds me again of Steve's humility. He was a humble man. He had no airs about him. He was quiet and, I must say, self-effacing. He didn't put on a show or try to impress people with his position or his power within the FOP. People felt comfortable around Steve because he was comfortable around them. He liked people and they liked him back.

At the same time, though, his affable nature didn't hide the fact that Steve Young was also a very strong man, brave, courageous, fearless, and tough as nails. After all, Steve Young was a policeman—exactly the kind of policeman I would have wanted by my side when I was a county prosecutor, the kind of policeman I would have wanted helping me if I were a victim of a crime, the kind of policeman I would have wanted protecting my children and my grandchildren and my entire family.

That was Steve Young—a model for all law enforcement. Because Steve was so humble and unassuming about his work and his position as President of the FOP, many people don't realize just how many leaders relied on him for guidance and counsel. President Bush listened to him. In fact, the President called Steve shortly before his death. I think that shows how much respect President Bush had for him and how much he appreciated Steve's work and service to our Nation.

As I read through so many of the tributes written about Steve and spoken about Steve after his death, I was especially struck by a statement given by Chuck Canterbury, the FOP's national vice president. This is what he said:

In his 11 years as President of the Ohio State Lodge, 4 years as national vice president, and his all too brief term as national president, Steve woke up each morning and went to work for the citizens of Marion City and the rank-and-file officers in every region of the country. He was as dedicated a man, an officer, and a friend as I have ever known.

I could not agree more. This quote illustrates why Steve Young was so spe-

cial to so many people. He was a humble, dedicated man who devoted his career toward working for the good of his fellow officers, for the good of Ohio, and for the good of this Nation.

Steve's commitment to our community was evident in everything he did. Criminals were caught because of him, and crimes were, in fact, prevented. He was a protector. He was a leader. He was a good, decent, hard-working man for whom I have great respect and admiration.

As I think about Steve's short but full life, I am reminded of a very familiar passage from the Bible, a passage from St. Paul's second letter to Timothy in which St. Paul said:

The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith.

There is no question, Mr. President, Steve Young fought the good fight. He finished the course. He kept the faith. Steve Young lived a life of great achievement, both public and private, and we will miss him deeply.

My wife Fran and I extend our heartfelt sympathy and our prayers to the entire Young family, especially his wife, Denise; their sons, Staten and Steven; his sisters, Gloria, Kay, and Deborah; and his mother, Lillian. Our thoughts are also with all the police officers in Steve's extended family.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Steve Young was a dear friend, an exceptional leader and a tireless advocate for law enforcement officers across the Nation. There are so many who will truly miss him, and I am one of them.

With 26 years of law enforcement experience, in 2001 Steve was elected National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, FOP, the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers with more than 300,000 members in over 2,000 local lodges across the United States. An active police officer, serving as a Lieutenant in the Marion City Police Department of Marion, OH and an FOP member for 26 years, Steve was an innovative leader in law enforcement issues. Before he became FOP's National President, Steve was the organization's National Vice President for 4 years and served as Ohio's State FOP President from 1988 to 1999. For the past 15 years he devoted much of his time to the Ohio State Lodge's Legislative Committee. He graduated from the 185th Session of the FBI National Academy.

I was honored to work with Steve and the Fraternal Order of Police on many issues affecting rank-and-file law enforcement officers. Most recently we worked closely together in the last Congress on the top legislative priority of the FOP, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. His powerful testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee helped enormously as we worked to move this bill forward. He told how law enforcement officers are never "off-duty," and described their

commitment as dedicated public servants who are trained to uphold the law and keep the peace. He observed that whenever there is a threat to the peace or to our public safety, law enforcement officers are sworn to answer that call. Steve was dedicated to this legislation because he understood the importance of having law enforcement officers across the nation armed and prepared when they answer that call, no matter where, when, or in what form it comes.

Steve Young inspired me and so many others with his enduring dedication to making our communities safer and protecting the officers who are sworn to guard and serve the American public. Law enforcement officers everywhere, and everyone who had the chance to know him or work with him, lost a great friend and champion last night. Our hearts and thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends and associates at this time of sadness over this loss and remembrance of Steve Young's life.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

THE PRESIDENT'S STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the President's bold and visionary stimulus package, one that will promote jobs and growth in our country. One would have to admit to sleeping for the last 3 years not to have seen that we have had a very unstable economy. It has spooked investors. It has spooked retirees. People do not know what they can count on to live.

The President has said: I can sit here and twiddle my thumbs or I can do something, and I can do something bold that will do the most for the most people in our country.

The President did not say: I am going to only try to help one segment of our society. He said: I am going to try to help every segment of our society. That is why he put forward a very balanced plan and one that certainly will stimulate the economy.

I wish to talk about the income tax rate deductions. The income tax rate reductions were set in the bill that we passed 2 years ago that cut taxes, probably one of the largest tax cuts in the history of America. The bill provided that over the next 10 years, people would have income tax rate reductions that would allow them to keep more of the money they earned. This applies to every person in America who works—people who pay taxes at the highest level and people who do not pay taxes at all and yet get an earned-income tax credit, even if they are in the lower brackets. We want to help every single segment of working America.

We especially want to help those at the lower end because we do not want the many people coming off welfare to think that their lifestyle and their ability to live has gone down. That is

why we have the earned-income tax credit for the very lowest brackets. These are people who do not pay taxes. Their wages are too low to pay taxes, but we give them an earned-income tax credit. They get money back to help them and give them the incentive to work and to continue working and to build their working lives so they can improve their incomes. That is expanded in the tax cuts that are envisioned by the President.

In the marriage penalty, for instance, we increase the amount one can earn by \$3,000 and still get the earned-income tax credit. That is part of the President's plan. That is a bill I have introduced with Senator EVAN BAYH that would allow every married couple to double their standard deduction, and we would double the 15-percent bracket.

That helps people in the 15-percent bracket stay in the 15-percent bracket even if they get married to someone who makes about the same amount of income as they do. We do not want to penalize marriage, and we bring forward the marriage penalty reduction to January 1 of this year under the President's plan.

We also increase the earned-income tax credit. That is a very helpful part of this bill. We also decrease the rates that every taxpayer pays, from the lowest to the highest levels, because we want everyone in America who is working and paying taxes, and people who are not paying taxes because they are not in a bracket, to have more money in their pockets to spend. We believe this is good policy. I think the President has been very bold in this.

I will be carrying the marriage penalty part of this bill. I carried the bill 2 years ago when we passed the tax cuts, and I certainly intend to try to bring it forward so it takes effect this year.

Senator BAYH and many others are cosponsoring this legislation, and I hope that we can finalize this when we are talking about the President's plan.

In addition, the President has suggested that we take away all tax on dividend income. A lot of people say: That just helps the rich. Let me talk about the dividend investment income part of this tax cut.

A tax cut on investment income particularly helps the elderly and others who rely on fixed incomes. More than half of all dividends go to senior citizens. With such pressures as rising health care costs, it is certainly critical that we let them keep more of their money. These tax cuts will help a broad cross section of Americans. For example, almost half of those who receive dividends have less than \$50,000 in income.

I have talked with senior citizens who are very concerned that the retirement for which they have prepared, for which they have saved is not going to be enough to allow them to cover their expenses.

Interest rates and dividends are notoriously low, and then they are taxed.

That is because our Tax Code has promoted a tax that is a double tax on dividends for people who give it and people who earn it. People who have already paid taxes on their income take that money after paying taxes and try to invest it in the stock market. Companies that have already paid tax on their income before they distribute also are hampered from giving dividend income. There is no incentive for them to do it because they have to pay tax on their income before they distribute. The people who receive it are receiving money on which they have already paid taxes. So we have a double taxation to the corporation, a disincentive to the corporation to pay dividends, therefore hurting the people who have invested and who are trying to prepare for their own retirement security. This leads to two unintended consequences.

First, it encourages investors to focus on returns through stock price appreciation which are taxed at the lower capital gains rate. So people are encouraged to invest in companies that might be riskier, and in many cases are riskier, than the more stable dividend-paying companies. As anyone can see from the collapse of stock prices in the high-growth sectors over the past 2 years, the current incentives in the Tax Code may not lead to the best investment decisions for people who are trying to prepare for their own retirement security.

Second, the double taxation of dividends encourages companies to raise capital by loading up on debt rather than issuing stock because interest expense on debt can lower a company's taxes while dividend payments do not. This leads to an increase in highly leveraged companies that then become at a greater financial risk when the economy slows.

America is increasingly a nation of investors. Today, one-half of U.S. households own stock. That has increased 60 percent since 1989. This is a good thing. It is good for the people of our country to say: I am going to try to make sure I have a retirement security for myself and my family. I am going to do it myself. I am going to take advantage of the Tax Code where I can invest in IRAs—and certainly 401(k)s, if one works for a corporation—to be able to invest tax free while they are still in the earning mode and then have something that will be a bigger nest egg when they retire.

We have encouraged people to invest for their retirement security, but our Tax Code today is not helpful. It is not helping them with interest income deductions. They cannot get any help on paying taxes on their interest, and certainly they have to pay full income tax rates on their dividends from corporations.

So where do people on fixed incomes go? What do they do to try to live and not go for help to their children or to the Government? Well, they do not have many choices right now. That is why the President is trying to spur the

economy to encourage corporations to give dividends rather than going to the market and borrowing money. It will make the corporations healthier. It will encourage people to invest in corporations, thereby increasing the prices of stocks, which will stabilize the stock market, which is a key indicator of the economic growth in our country. It will also allow people to make these investments and know they are going to have a better chance of getting dividends.

If a corporation can pay dividends before taxes rather than after taxes, they will have more to distribute and it will be in their best interest to distribute. It will be an encouragement. If we pass this, I am going to be the first person to stand up and call on corporations to look at paying dividends instead of sitting on pots full of money or going out and borrowing in the market. They can do their part to help the security of our country by paying dividends, and I encourage them to do it. We need to give them an incentive to do it because right now it is a disincentive, both for the corporation and for the recipient of the dividends.

I also want to bring up another point that has been raised against the President's plan, and that is that we do not do anything for States. I disagree with that. I think it is absolutely wrong. My State, like most States in this country, is looking at lower revenues this year. My State mostly relies on sales taxes. We do not have an income tax so we rely on sales taxes. Everybody who has read a newspaper in the last 5 months knows we had a very slow holiday season. Consumers did not buy as much. Our retailers are suffering from that. So when we encourage people to spend by putting more money in their pockets, that is going to help our States as well. It is going to increase State revenues. It is a key help for States.

Secondly, in other parts of our appropriations bills, we are sending money to the States. We are sending money to the States for homeland defense. We are going to fund our first responders in our States on a population basis so that it will be a fair distribution of our assets at the Federal level to try to help our States and local governments deal with protecting our citizens from domestic terrorism. We want our citizens to have a trained police force and first responder force. We want our citizens to know that our water supplies are safe, that our transportation lines are safe. So we are going to give money back to the States to help them meet the needs of our citizens for homeland defense at the local level.

We are also trying to look at giving more money to the States in Medicaid. I am cosponsoring a bill by Senator ROCKEFELLER that would increase the Medicaid payments, making sure that our public hospitals that treat our Medicaid patients are fully reimbursed so they can stay in business and so our health care system will remain a great health care system for those who cannot afford it and those who can.

We want to also encourage people to have health insurance by allowing more trade associations to give health insurance options to their members because small businesses are not able to afford health care costs. If they are able to afford them, they are suffering even more. We are hearing of more small businesses that are dropping health care coverage for their employees because of the high cost of health care. So we are going to be doing some things that would benefit the States.

The President's package is a good one. It is a bold package, and it is a package that will stimulate our economy. If people know they are going to have money in their pockets, even if it is next year or the following year, they can plan. That is the key—being able to know what the Tax Code is, so people can plan accordingly and know what their savings are going to do.

So I applaud the President. I think he has been visionary in not sitting back and saying: I cannot do anything; we are going to let the market take its course. He is watching the stock market. He is watching the jobless rate. He is concerned about it. I have talked to him. He is very concerned about people who do not have jobs. It is probably the largest concern he has right now in addition to national defense and trying to make sure we make the right decisions in national defense for the security of our country. These are the two most important issues we are facing. So the President is trying to do something about them. He is trying to stabilize the market, give people more money to spend, and encourage corporations to make the capital investments that would create more jobs.

I applaud the President. I am going to support him, and I am going to do everything I can to see that we do not have rhetoric that says this is class versus class. This is for everyone. This is for more jobs. It is for more money to spend for people who are working and who deserve to keep more of the money they earn.

I yield the floor.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for morning business be extended until noon and the time be equally divided in the usual form with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HIV/AIDS FUNDING

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise this morning to draw my colleagues' attention once again to an issue that is plaguing our world. That issue, of course, is the tragic global HIV/AIDS endemic.

The Los Angeles Times newspaper ran a particularly heartbreaking piece this past Sunday that detailed the HIV/

AIDS crisis in Africa. I will take a moment to read an excerpt from this article, as it paints a very disturbing and very accurate picture of the reality of this global HIV/AIDS crisis. This is last Sunday's Los Angeles Times:

The mother rises from her deathbed to bury her baby boy. She slumps in a wheelchair borrowed for the occasion, and an elderly relative must help hold her head up so that she can watch the body descend into the red earth.

The casket is heartbreakingly small, and though Evelyn Matule weeps for her child, her eyes are dry. Sickness and despair have stolen her tears.

Alfred is the second boy Matule has lost in a year to a disease also racking her body: AIDS. A toddler's coffin is mercifully inexpensive, but the earlier death left Matule and her family so strapped that they will serve only butter sandwiches to the few guests.

On one side of the boy's grave in this township outside the city of Welkom in central South Africa are fresh heaps of loam, each new grave marked with numbered aluminum tags, baby rattles and prescription bottles for remedies that didn't save the victims. A dozen open graves lie to the right. In less than a month, they will be full.

Mr. President, this is the reality of AIDS. Today, one in every nine South Africans—that's 4.7 million people—has AIDS. Last year alone, 2.4 million people in sub-Saharan Africa died from AIDS. Furthermore, over 34 million children worldwide have lost one or both parents to AIDS or related causes.

As the LA Times article points out, the City of Johannesburg is expecting to have 70,000 burials a year by 2010—that's up from 15,000 burials just five years ago.

This is having a huge economic impact on the African Continent, both in terms of a reduced agricultural capacity and also just in terms of the costs of burials and funerals. As morbid as it may sound, there is, quite literally, a shortage of undertakers and cemetery space in Africa, and it is adding to an already tragic health crisis.

As we all know, Mr. President, HIV/AIDS is a global problem, with a huge impact and devastating impact in our own Hemisphere. I have seen it in Haiti, a nation with the second highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world—second only to sub-Saharan Africa. My wife, Fran, and I have traveled to Haiti nearly ten times—and we are planning another trip for next week. We have seen, first-hand, the devastation of HIV/AIDS—we've seen the children, the babies, and the families. It is a true human tragedy.

An estimated 300,000 Haitians—and that is out of a population of only 8 million—are currently living with AIDS. According to the Centers for Disease Control projections, Haiti will experience up to 44,000 new HIV/AIDS cases this year. That is at least 4,000 more than the number expected in the United States, a nation with a population nearly 35 times larger than Haiti's.

This disease is having a profoundly devastating impact on Haitian chil-

dren. Already, estimates suggest that HIV/AIDS has orphaned 163,000 children in Haiti, a number expected to skyrocket to between 323,000 to 393,000 over the next 10 years. Haiti also continues to suffer from an unbelievably high HIV transmission rate from mother to child, and, of course, two-thirds of the infants born with the disease, we know, will die within the first year.

This truly is a tragedy because we know that the transmission of HIV from mother to child can be substantially reduced with proper counseling and proper medication. The reality is that millions of children are dying, and we can do something about it. We must do something about this.

I was pleased, to join my friend and colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, in leading an effort to show the Senate Appropriations Committee our support for increasing funds to combat this horrible disease. In a letter to the Committee signed by fourteen fellow Senators, we have asked for the full appropriation of \$236.4 million in additional FY03 funds to fight global AIDS. This would bring our nation's total 2003 AIDS spending level to \$1.5 billion—that's a 50 percent increase over 2002 levels.

Furthermore, I look forward to working with Majority Leader FRIST and Senator SANTORUM in the coming months to not only increase our overall contribution to fight global AIDS, but to work to ensure that our funds are being spent in the most efficient and effective ways.

At the end of the day, I believe that all of us in this Chamber are working toward the same objective—and that is to alleviate the continued suffering caused by this epidemic.

Quite simply, we have a moral obligation to do so, and I believe we must show the leadership by tackling the problem in our backyard and around the world. I thank all of my colleagues who have come to this Chamber in the past to talk about this issue and show their support for dealing with this problem. We must continue to act. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

THE PRESIDENT'S STIMULUS PLAN

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to speak once again on last week's proposals by the President with regard to the so-called stimulus plan. I think this is one of the very most important things we need to be debating right here on the Senate floor.

As the President and most of the Members of the Senate know, we just had another announcement of unemployment last week. We are at an 8-year high, 6 percent. We lost another 100,000 jobs in December. The number of people who are going on long-term unemployment without unemployment benefits is roughly 100,000 a week. Our