

GPO bookstores. In fact, PC Week magazine in 1999 rated the GPO as one of the nation's top technology innovators.

Every month, DiMario estimates, 20 million GPO publications are downloaded from the Internet. During the first hour after the release of the Microsoft ruling, 152,000 successful connections were made on the GPO's popular Internet information service.

"The GPO has about 100,000 titles on-line that are on our own server here, and we provide links through our Web site [www.access.gpo.gov] to an additional 60,000 titles from other agencies," he said. "That's a moving target, and it is growing."

The GPO's publications are also available in electronic and traditional print formats at some 1,350 federal depository libraries. These are located at most colleges and universities, many public libraries and state and local government libraries.

Switching to electronics and decentralizing production has caused a massive reduction in the number of employees at the GPO complex, for many years ranked as the world's largest printing plant. This record, DiMario concedes, now probably belongs to private-sector companies such as Chicago's R.R. Donnelley & Sons.

"When I came here in the early 1970s, we had 8,500 employees," recalled DiMario. "Now we have 3,300 employees. Primarily the change occurred early when we retired the traditional letterpress operations. This transition continued, especially after Congress required the agency to acquire as much of its printing as possible from the private sector."

In recent years the GPO has contracted out 70 to 75 percent of its printing. "We have 10,000 contractors on a bid list to do this work," said DiMario, "and about 3,000 participate on a regular basis through the central office or the 20 regional and satellite printing procurement offices."

During the early years of the Reagan administration, labor relations at the GPO were stormy, with proposed furloughs and pay cuts as high as 22 percent. Things are much quieter now; prominently displayed on DiMario's office wall is an award from the Printing, Publishing and Media Workers Sector of the Communications Workers of America citing him for "maintaining equitable management relations."

Fatkin has seen the GPO go through many of these changes. Hired by the GPO in 1971, his job at first was to repair linotype machines. "Everything switched over after the computer hit big time in 1981," recalled Fatkin, who describes himself as a printer-proofreader. "There was a lot of ongoing retraining. The trouble today is that new people come in who can type 100 words a minute [on a computer] but don't know type faces and sizes. You learn that as an apprentice printer."

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at a time of unprecedented economic prosperity and growth, many American families are left behind. Those families work hard and play by the rules. They deserve a raise. But many of my colleagues on the other side are standing

in the way of giving 10 million workers a raise in the minimum wage. Instead, they insist on sending to the President a bill to raise the minimum wage that is tied to a tax giveaway to the rich. As a result, we will see the economic gap expand even more. I applaud the President for making it clear that he will veto this dreadful bill.

This is not a minimum wage increase bill; it is a maximum giveaway to the wealthy. Under their \$120 billion tax cut, the wealthiest 1% of all taxpayers, or those earning more than \$319,000 a year, would get 73% of the total tax cut. This is not a surprise. The leaders of the other party have demonstrated many times during the past year that they would rather pass bills that benefit special interests and the rich instead of hardworking families.

A minimum wage worker earns \$10,700 a year. That means a single mother on minimum wage with two kids earns \$2,600 below the poverty line. Many of my colleagues on the other side would prefer to give her 33 cents a year over 3 years. Their tax plan gives millionaires \$6,128 a year. Is this what Republicans meant by compassionate conservatism?

Sixty percent of minimum wage earners are women; nearly 75% are adults; 3/5 are the sole breadwinners in their families; and more than 50% work full-time. Those who have to take care of our children at daycare centers and our parents at nursing homes deserve better. They deserve more than \$5.15 an hour. A raise in the minimum wage is about economic fairness and social justice. It is a small step in ensuring that all Americans share in our nation's economic prosperity and growth. I urge my Republican colleagues to stop playing politics with the economic welfare of 10 million hard working people.

HONORING LIEUTENANT RICHARD BEIRNE AS IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2000

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join West Haven's Irish community as it honors Lieutenant Richard Beirne as Irishman of the Year. His outstanding record of service, both professional and volunteer, serves as an example to us all.

Lieutenant Beirne has dedicated his lifetime to the West Haven community, devoting himself to improving the lot of our children and families. He began his career as a volunteer fireman in 1975, and was inducted as a career firefighter with the West Shore Fire Department in 1980. Few things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Whether hosing down flames, rescuing a child from a burning house, or waiting for our call, firefighters are there to protect us and provide us with the peace of mind we need to sleep at night. For twenty-five years, Lieutenant Beirne has shown a commitment to protect our community. There are no words that can express our sincere thanks and appreciation for his service.

Beyond his commendable professional career, Lieutenant Beirne has an unparalleled record of community involvement. A member of several service organizations, Lieutenant Beirne has made a tremendous effort to promote Irish-American culture. In addition, Lieutenant Beirne currently serves as the Vice President of Local 1198 Professional Firefighters Union AFL-CIO, he is working to ensure that firefighters—hard working men and women—are assured livable wages, quality health benefits, and secure pensions to support themselves and their families. Despite all of these commitments, Lieutenant Beirne still finds time to volunteer as the EMT for the Pop Warner Football League. Providing this service at practices as well as games, he ensures the safety of every child participating in the league. Lieutenant Beirne has shown an incredible level of commitment to his community. He has been a mentor to many youngsters and serves as an inspiration to us all.

Today, a community will gather to honor Richard Beirne as Irishman of the Year. I cannot think of a more deserving individual to be given such a title. I am pleased to join with his wife, Susan, children, Patrick and Katie, friends and the entire West Haven community in congratulating him on this very special honor. My best wishes to Richard and his family for continued health and happiness.

A TRIBUTE TO LEVERT HOAG A WONDERFUL AMERICAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 14, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I wish to take this moment to recognize the remarkable life and significant achievements of one of Pueblo's leading ladies. Though she is gone, she will live on in the hearts of all who knew her and be remembered for long years by many who didn't.

LeVert Hoag, married to the late Pueblo chieftain publisher, Frank Hoag, Jr., died at the age of 87. She was known as an outgoing, enthusiastic, kind and warm person. Mrs. Hoag had a deep interest in the community, from the time she moved there in 1935. She was an integral part to Pueblo, helping out any where she could to make the Pueblo community a better place to live.

She was the chairman of the first Service League Follies in 1937, member of the Pueblo Community College Foundation, sponsor of the Hoag Theater, member of the Pueblo Hall of Fame and was also active in the United Way, the Pueblo County Tuberculosis and Health Association and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Mrs. Hoag also served on the board of the Pueblo Civic Symphony and was also an honorary chairman of the Pueblo Metropolitan Museum.

LeVert Hoag is someone who will be missed by all of us. Those who knew of her will miss spending time with her. We, as a society, have lost someone who was rare to begin with. Mrs. Hoag made the ultimate sacrifice to help a total stranger. Hopefully we can all learn from the example that LeVert Hoag set.