

for 25 and 50 years. Their dedication should be commended.

The Joliet Federation of Musicians Local 37 is a strong organization that has greatly benefited and enlightened our community.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO TRANSFER CERTAIN FACILITIES OF THE MINIDOKA PROJECT TO THE BURLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I'm introducing this bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain facilities at the Minidoka project to the Burley Irrigation District.

In 1926, under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, operation and maintenance of the distribution system of the southside pumping division of the Minidoka project was transferred to Burley Irrigation District. The district has operated and maintained the distribution system ever since.

In the early 1950's the main southside canal and certain electrical distribution lines were transferred for operation and maintenance to Burley Irrigation District as well. In addition to those transfers the district agreed, under its contracts, to pay to the United States the construction costs incurred in constructing the project and the Minidoka Dam.

It also agreed to pay its proportionate share of the construction costs of storage facilities in which the irrigation district attained a right to all water stored in the space acquired by the district in the reservoir.

At this time, the Burley Irrigation District has paid in full all construction costs allocated to the district in the storage facilities and all costs incurred in the construction of the distribution system operated and maintained by the district.

For 70 years the Burley Irrigation District has demonstrated its competence in operating and maintaining the facilities proposed for title transfer. Clearly they have the technical capability to meet both their physical and financial obligations.

For these reasons I am introducing this bill to convey title to the Burley Irrigation District, of Federal reclamation distribution facilities.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Student Health Insurance Portability Protection Act of 1997.

Last year, we made great strides in passing the Kennedy-Kassebaum Health Insurance Portability Protection Act. However, 14.3 million college students covered by health insurance plans sponsored by their college or university are not covered under last year's health provisions. It is essential for college students to fall under these provisions.

My bill requires college-sponsored health plans to be portable and exclude long pre-existing condition waiting periods. College-sponsored plans will be considered as group plans and allow students to go from college-sponsored plans to work-sponsored plans without loss of coverage due to a preexisting condition. Students will also be eligible for another school's health plan when transferring from university to university. This bill takes an important step in ensuring health care coverage for our country's college students at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and ensuring health care for our Nation's college students. Give them the health care they need to enter the work force. Do not leave college students out of health care reform.

THE TAX FREEDOM RESOLUTION

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I will introduce the Tax Freedom Resolution to repeal the 16th amendment to the Constitution. This resolution will reverse one of the most destructive amendments to the U.S. Constitution and deny Congress the ability to lay and collect taxes on income.

I believe that the 16th amendment has created a system that is economically destructive, impossibly complex, overly intrusive, unprincipled, dishonest, unfair, and inefficient. Now is the time for us to restore freedom to the American taxpayer.

The tax freedom bill is the first step to do that. It will encourage an open, honest and constructive debate about why our current tax structure has failed and what we expect in a new system.

Why do we need to repeal the 16th amendment? Let me tell you. The current system cannot be fixed. It has already undergone 31 major revisions and 400 minor ones in the past 40 years. And each time the system has become more and more complicated, not less.

The IRS has 480 different tax forms, plus 280 more to explain how to fill out the first 480. The original Tax Code had 11,400 words; today it has 7 million.

Our current system also discourages savings and investment and hampers economic growth. Complying with the Federal Tax Code costs taxpayers more than \$200 billion each year. In 1991, the tax foundation reported that small corporations spent a minimum of \$382 in compliance costs for every \$100 they paid in income taxes.

In addition, several economists have said that replacing the current tax system will cause interest rates to go down and savings and capital investments to increase.

Right now, we have a system that stifles opportunity by picking winners and losers; a system in which Washington decides what is best for the people, instead of letting the people decide what is best for America.

The Federal Government simply takes too much money out of people's pockets. As recently as 1982, Americans paid only 19.90 percent of their income in taxes. New data reveals that in 1995 Americans paid 31.3 per-

cent of their income in taxes: The highest level in history.

By embracing the principles of freedom, we can create a system that is fair and simple that reduces the Federal Bureaucracy, that encourages savings and investment, that is efficient, that drives the economy, that creates opportunity for all, and that puts more money in your pocket.

Fundamental and comprehensive tax reform will be one of the most profound changes this Nation experiences this century. It is time for all of us—whether you support a flat tax, a consumption tax, a value added tax, or a national sales tax—to come together and focus on our one common goal: Replacing the current system. The tax freedom bill gives us the chance to do that and at the same time restore freedom to the American taxpayer.

IN HONOR OF JOHN A. PICA, SR., RECIPIENT OF THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO, JR., GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 1997

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute John A. Pica, Sr., the 1997 recipient of the Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. Good Citizen Award. John Pica exemplifies the spirit in which this award is given. He has devoted every day of his adult life to service of his country and his community, especially the Italian-American community of Baltimore.

Raised in the Little Italy section of Baltimore by Italian immigrant parents, Tony and Maria, John Pica received a bachelor of law degree at Mt. Vernon School of Law and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore. In addition, he attended the Maryland Institute of Engineering.

In 1943, John enlisted in the Army and served in the 34th Infantry Division. He returned home as the most highly decorated war hero in the State of Maryland, achieving the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, a Combat Infantry Badge for courage, and the Roll of Honor Award for Distinguished Service.

John Pica also served with distinction as an aide to my father, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. In 1955, when my father was mayor of Baltimore, he appointed John to a vacancy on the Baltimore City Council, where John served until 1967. During his tenure on the council, John was instrumental in passing major legislation of great importance to the community of Baltimore. Among his many legislative accomplishments, John was responsible for securing Social Security and health insurance benefits for city employees and for revising the housing building code, which brought about the reorganization of the Department of Public Works. John continues his public service today by serving on the Maryland Transportation Commission as an advisor to Gov. Parris Glendening.

Mr. Pica's extraordinary professional success has not prevented him from active involvement in his community. His enthusiastic participation in organizations including Italian-American Charities, the Little Italy Lodge, and as cofounder of the Little Italy American Legion, merely solidified the great respect and