

from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] were added as cosponsors of S. 713, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for additional deferred effective dates for approval of applications under the new drugs provisions, and for other purposes.

#### TAX FREEDOM DAY

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today is National Tax Freedom Day—the day when families around the country finally start working for themselves and not for the Government. For families in my home State of Washington, however, Tax Freedom Day does not come until May 14. In Washington State, families must work 5 additional days before the income they earn can go to meet their own needs and not the Government's.

The residents of Washington State will bear the Nation's fifth highest tax burden in 1997 with each man, woman, and child of the State owing \$6,572 in Federal taxes. Add this with State and local taxes and each Washington citizen will owe \$9,881 or almost 37 percent of the average, annual income to support the Government.

It is no wonder today's families are feeling squeezed. It is no wonder more and more families must rely on dual incomes and parents must work longer and longer hours. Families are paying more in taxes today than ever. They are now spending more just on taxes than they do on food, clothing, shelter, and transportation combined.

This is not fairness. It is robbery.

Clearly, it is time for Congress to seriously reexamine our current tax system. As Betty Dursh from Spokane, WA, stated in her recent letter to me:

It is past time to reform the Tax Code. We are now in our fifth year, hear this, our fifth year, of working almost half the year before the taxes are paid. That is unconscionable! It is wrong!

Yes, Ms. Dursh, it is wrong and it is far past the time for Congress to begin the work of reforming our tax system.

The budget agreement announced by the President and Congress 1 week ago today gives me hope—hope that we can finally begin to put our fiscal house in order and provide some tax relief for the American people. If our efforts are successful this summer and we are able to begin the job of reforming some of our most oppressive taxes it will be a good step. But it will only be the first, small step in the direction of the real reform we need—reform that will, at last, provide us with a tax system that respects the right of American's to keep their earnings and investments. This will require much more than one or two changes to the volumes of provisions in the Tax Code, however. It will require a complete examination and, eventually, overhaul of the entire system.

I want to leave my colleagues with one final thought—the words of a 52-year-old woman from Marysville, WA who lost both her husband and her job

this past year and who is unable to sell her home to make ends meet because she would be required to give the Government 40 percent of the proceeds of the sale in capital gains tax. Ms. Linda Blasengame has this message for all of us here in Congress:

I have lost so much and have always fought back but I can't imagine the pain of having to lose my dignity too. Please, look inside your heart and help me and so many others that are in my shoes. . . . I don't need a handout, I need your help.

Congress must heed the cries for help from people like Ms. Blasengame and we must respond to the outrage of people like Ms. Dursh. The American people are slowly losing patience with our bandaids approaches. Americans overwhelming want a fairer and simpler tax system. They deserve this and they are relying on us to work toward this end.●

#### MURRAY KEMPTON

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, on Monday of last week, Murray Kempton died. With his passing, we mark the end of a legend in New York, and in American journalism. Kempton was the kindest man and toughest reporter we have known in our time. A certain incandescent sweetness now departs. Yet his memory and, yes, his legacy remain.

The Daily News' columnist Sidney Zion captured Kempton's unique ability and thus legacy when Zion wrote: "Kempton used his power to condemn, but loved his right to absolve. And when he absolved the sinner, he owned the territory."

This was Kempton's singular power. With characteristic flair, Kempton would challenge corruption with voracity. Then instead of reveling in victory, would show compassion for the humans beneath the deeds and absolve the sins of some of the greatest losers in New York's history. Carmine DeSapio, Alger Hiss, Carmine Persico, Roy Cohn. Such was the power of the words which Kempton wielded.

When the reformers in the City had finally overcome DeSapio, one of the great Tammany bosses, Kempton wrote, as only he could: "The age of Pericles had begun because we were rid of Carmine DeSapio. One had to walk carefully to avoid being stabbed by the lilies bursting in the pavements. I wish the reformers luck—with less Christian sincerity than Carmine DeSapio does. I will be a long time forgiving them on this one." Kempton felt sympathy and respect even for the rogue. He stood up for the loser whether it was Carmine DeSapio, a deposed dictator, or a shunned local New Yorker.

J. Edgar Hoover once called Mr. Kempton a snake and a rat. From one who was once referred to by Mr. Hoover as a skunk, I take pride in knowing that my work was seen in the same light as Kempton's. But I fear no one else has what the Washington Post called, "[Kempton's] skeptical sympathy" required to continue his work.

The Age of Kempton is over. Budding writers would do well to re-read and emulate his work; public figures continue to thank and rue the day Kempton chose them to be subject of his column; and for we who knew him, only sorrow bursts through the cracks in our hearts today.

I ask that the following articles about Murray Kempton be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

[From the New York Post, May 9, 1997]

#### KEMPTON'S FUNERAL IS A LESSON IN SIMPLICITY

(By Christopher Francescani)

Even in death, Murray Kempton's disarming humility ruled the day.

There were no eulogies at the legendary columnist's simple Upper West Side funeral yesterday, although hundreds of the city's greatest literary, political and newspaper voices were on hand.

There were no limousines, although Kempton was considered royalty among the city's press corps.

And there were no gaudy floral tributes, only small bursts of potted cherry blossoms, Casablanca lilies and white azaleas perched unassumingly on the altar.

But the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, who sounded off for decades on every aspect of the city he loved, was remembered—and remembered well.

"The funeral was pure Murray," Post columnist Jack Newfield said. "His manner, his grace, his kindness, his humility beyond self-effacement. He was the benchmark."

Kempton, 79, whose gentle elegance and amusing eccentricities won him the respect of virtually all of his "fellow workers," died Monday at a Manhattan nursing home.

In a note written in 1989, entitled, "My Funeral," he'd requested a brief ceremony with no eulogies. His body was cremated earlier this week.

"He chose a simple ceremony in the classic Anglican manner, which focuses on God's love and the equality of all persons in the face of death," said the Rev. Gaiyard Hitchcock of the Church of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

"His [funeral] runs against the grain of most American funerals, where the Mass turns into a celebration of the person."

Kempton, known among his colleagues as much for his intricate sentence structure as for riding his three-speed bicycle to news events—jazz humming through his headphones—spent most of his 55-year career at the New York Post and Newsday.

The Baltimore-born scribe, who once ran copy for H.L. Mencken, won a Pulitzer for commentary in 1985.

The pews of the tiny Gothic-style church where Kempton worshiped for decades were filled to capacity 30 minutes before the ceremony began.

William F. Buckley Jr. and Mayor Giuliani pressed their way through the crowd. Writer Nora Ephron sat pensively in a rear pew as the church bell rang out 79 times, once for each year of Kempton's life.

Columnist Jimmy Breslin, Post editor Ken Chandler, Daily News editor Pete Hamill, writers Kurt Vonnegut, Phillip Roth and Calvin Trillin, and cartoonist Jules Feiffer were there—as were former Mayor David Dinkins, Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger and hosts of other dignitaries.

Off to the side of the altar, a choir clad in black sung hymns softly in Latin.

Some of Kempton's favorite passages from the Bible took the place of speeches.

Instead, eulogies were whispered between pews and among the crowd of mourners outside the chapel.