

Citizens are more free to move from one place to another, and the nation has been opened to outside interests and influence. Until 1985, no outsiders were permitted to enter the rural county we visited; now village leaders are trying to expand their 45 joint ventures with foreigners.

President Jiang's long overdue state visit to Washington in October—the first by a Chinese leader in 10 years—will provide an opportunity to address human rights and other issues.

American criticism of China's human rights abuses are justified, but their basis is not well understood. Westerners emphasize personal freedoms, while a stable government and a unified nation are paramount to the Chinese. This means that policies are shaped by fear of chaos from unrestrained dissidents or fear of China's fragmentation by an independent Taiwan or Tibet. The result is excessive punishment of outspoken dissidents and unwarranted domination of Tibetans.

But frank discussions on these and other issues can sometimes yield real progress. In private discussions in 1979, Deng Xiaoping agreed to address the issue of religious freedom, and great improvements were made. In 1987, after a visit I made to Tibet, and after subsequent conversations with the exiled Dalai Lama, discussions were arranged between his emissaries and Chinese Government officials. Unfortunately, the Tiananmen Square tragedy aborted the initiative.

In spite of our differences, China and the United States must continue to pursue ways to co-exist peacefully and productively. In addition to summit meetings, ordinary Americans and Chinese can help. For example, more than 100,000 Chinese students have attended American universities since 1979, providing an invaluable cultural and intellectual exchange for both countries.

Only through continued dialogue at many levels can we resolve differences and build a foundation for better understanding.

#### A TRIBUTE TO ROUNDY'S

### HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Wisconsin-based firm, Roundy's, Inc. which was founded in Milwaukee in 1872 and proudly celebrates its 125th anniversary this year.

Roundy's has grown from a small wholesale grocery and coffee warehouse in Milwaukee's third ward, to the largest food corporation in Wisconsin and the Nation's 5th largest food supplier. Roundy's employs over 2,700 individuals in my home State and over 5,100 in the Midwest. The Roundy's name, whether on grocery items, frozen foods, dairy, meat, produce or bakery, is synonymous with quality.

For many years, Roundy's has been a major participant in community activities. The corporation is a strong supporter of, and major contributor to, the Special Olympics in both Wisconsin and Illinois. It's president and chief executive officer, Gerald F. Lestina, is the president and founder of "In The Paint at One Two," Milwaukee's extremely successful midnight basketball league. The company is also actively involved with many area charities including the Midwest Athletes Against Child-

hood Cancer [MACC] Fund, the Lions Clubs, Kiwanis, Rotaries, YMCA, YWCA, the United Way, Salvation Army, and the Ronald McDonald House. Roundy's is also a contributor to the Second Harvesters food bank and other various community food pantries located throughout the Midwest.

With all of this in mind, I am pleased to join my colleagues from Wisconsin and throughout the Midwest in recognizing Roundy's as the good corporate citizen it is and in honoring the corporation on its 125th anniversary celebration.

Best wishes to Roundy's for many more years of success.

#### HIGH BEER TAX HURTS COLORADO

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the tax on beer hurts Colorado's economy, helps no one, and ought to be rolled back. Congress should start by repealing the 100 percent beer tax hike it foolishly imposed back in 1990.

Remember Joe Six Pack? Politicians used to invoke the name to conjure images of the average, hardworking, middle-class American. Joe Six Pack is the kind of guy who puts in an honest day's work to support a family and the mortgage.

He loves his country. He plays second base on the softball team, cheers his kids in the school play, and prays before dinner.

On Sunday, he barbecues burgers on the grill, kicks back to his mostly clean recliner, enjoys his favorite team on the T.V., and pops open an ice-cold can of beer.

Ironically, Joe Six Pack isn't too fond of the politicians who like to talk about him—and with good reason. Joe is shelling out an incredible 43 percent of the cost of every beer he buys to the Government.

In 1990, Congress passed one of the biggest tax increases in history. In fact, President George Bush, who helped engineer the deal, lost his job because of it. The tax hike included new taxes on yachts, private airplanes, expensive jewelry, furs, luxury cars, and it doubled the tax on beer.

Since 1991, Congress has repealed nearly every one of these taxes, but the huge tax markup on beer remains, and American beer drinkers continue getting nicked-and-dimed by the Government with every sip.

Beer is big in Colorado. In 1995 Colorado's beer industry paid \$53 million in excise taxes. Forty-five thousand Coloradans hold beer-related jobs earning nearly \$1 billion in wages, accounting for a total economic contribution of \$4.7 billion.

Coors and Anheuser Busch are two of Colorado's larger employers but the State is also home to regional brewers, microbreweries, beer wholesalers, distributorships, 3,000 off-premise retailers, 6,000 on-premise retailers, barley growers, and scads of other farmers who support the brewing industry. Yet much as brewing helps Colorado's economy, our fiscal performance could be even better.

Simply put, excessive beer taxes have stifled the industry's growth slowing Colorado's economy. In fact, a 1996 economic analysis

by DRI/McGraw-Hill concluded that 50,000 new jobs would be created nationally by rolling back the 1990 beer tax.

Beer was first subject to tax in 1862 as an effort to help finance the Civil War. Since then, significant increases coincided with World War I, World War II, and the Korean war. On three occasions the tax was actually reduced.

Today, Congress is looking for ways to spend less in Washington so that Joe Six Pack's middle-class family can finally enjoy well-deserved tax relief. Consumption statistics clearly point to the beer tax as a prime target. Beer taxes hit lower-income families five times harder than upper-income families.

Beer is one of the most highly-taxed consumer goods sold in America, taxed 50 percent more than for other consumer products. And the tax is terribly inefficient and unfair to consumers.

Since Federal beer taxes are levied at the brewery, they are subject to wholesaler and retailer markup and to State and local sales taxes. Consumers are paying taxes layered upon other taxes, ultimately paying about \$2 in increased cost for every \$1 in tax.

Some who support the high beer tax contend falling alcohol abuse rates favor the steep tax. Again, research dispels the notion that high beer taxes have anything to do with alcohol abuse rates, which have fallen steadily for over a decade.

Long before Congress raised the beer tax, the beer industry itself had poured millions into personal responsibility campaigns aimed at youths and consumers.

Americans heard the message and enthusiastically embraced it. But the increased tax had no measurable effect on the well-established positive trend toward more responsible alcohol consumption, and no effect at all on those who are disposed to alcohol abuse.

Higher beer prices do not deter alcohol abusers who simply turn to more concentrated or cheaper products. Market research, instead, confirms that lower sales caused by higher taxes are attributed almost entirely to fewer purchases by responsible drinkers.

This year, Congress heard the pleas of Joe Six Pack, that American families are over taxed and politicians must do more to control the Government's appetite for spending. We cut capital gains taxes, income taxes, and death taxes. We made it easier to afford a college education and save for retirement. It was a good first step.

But while the 1997 tax cuts are an encouraging start, they are certainly not the full measure of adequate tax relief. Congress can do better.

What's good for Joe Six Pack is good for Colorado, and good for America too. One of several taxes Congress should further cut to bolster economic growth is the beer tax.

#### INTRODUCING THE HEALTHY FAMILIES INITIATIVE

### HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, child abuse and neglect is an epidemic that devastates our children and often leads them to a life of crime. In 1994, public welfare agencies received reports of 3.1 million children being