

Our plan already requires very rapid and sustained productivity growth of over 3 percent per year—in excess of the 2 to 2.4 percent achieved in the private sector. It supposes complete success of BSM, aggressive reallocation of internal resources, such as eliminating some submissions processing centers, rapid growth of e-filing, and use of productivity enhancing techniques, such as competitive sourcing for some activities. These items make it possible to cope with growth in filings and filling the gap in required workload with very limited staff growth, but do not make it possible in addition to “absorb” unfunded but required line items.

SIMPLIFYING THE TAX CODE

Most informed observers are justifiably horrified at the complexity of the Tax Code. The cost of taxpayer compliance with this code is over \$80 billion per year, more than eight times the cost of the IRS budget. The sheer size and complexity in itself can be a source of disrespect for the law. Therefore, it is a worthy, though difficult and uncertain, challenge to pursue simplification to the maximum extent possible.

However, there is no proposal that has been seriously advanced for simplification that would have any significant effect in the foreseeable future on the problem of IRS resources.

Apart from the fact that even simplifying changes take time and effort to develop, pass in Congress and to implement, the reality is that the gap in IRS resources is so large that nearly all of our resources are required to perform the basic operations of the tax system and to pursue the clearest and most important cases of non-compliance.

With the exception of some resources in the large corporate sector, the IRS redirected nearly all compliance resources away from less significant technical tax issues to cope with current operational requirements and the most serious cases of non-filing, non-payment or underreporting of income. Even then, resources are far below what is required.

The only reasonable course is to pursue parallel paths: to address the practical problem the tax administration system faces by gradually closing the gap in the capacity of the IRS to perform its essential tasks, while pursuing a parallel path attempting tax simplification.

CONCLUSION

Five years ago, the IRS embarked on a new direction. Following it, we achieved much progress for America's taxpayers, although we have much more left to do to improve the entire way the IRS works. Today, we are faced with a growing crisis—in our ability to do our job and the fairness of our tax system. We cannot turn our back on this crisis or believe that it will go away, because it will not. But like five years ago, I believe the problem is solvable. We know the right course of action and we should have the courage and resolve to take it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GUIDE DOGS

• Mrs. CLINTON. Madam President, after reading an article in *The Saturday Evening Post* about the Germans training dogs to aid veterans blinded during World War I, a blind man living in Tennessee named Morris Frank wrote to the author, “Thousands of blind like me abhor being dependent on others. Help me and I will help them.

Train me and I will bring back my dog and show people here how a blind man can be absolutely on his own.” The author, Dorothy Harrison Eustis agreed to Mr. Frank's request, and Mr. Frank's dog Buddy became the first guide dog in America.

That was 1929 and today, there are more than 7,000 guide dogs serving in America, and two performed miracles in New York on September 11.

That morning, Roselle, a yellow Labrador Retriever and her owner, Michael Hingson, went to the office on the 78th floor of the World Trade Center. While Mr. Hingson worked, Roselle slept underneath his desk. Then the plane hit the South Tower, and what she did next was nothing short of heroic. She guided Mr. Hingson through the smoke and to the stairwell. Not only did Roselle help Mr. Hingson down 78 flights of stairs, but another woman who had been blinded by debris clutched Roselle's harness until they reached safety.

There was another yellow lab in the World Trade Center named Salty. His owner, Omar Rivera, worked on the 71st floor of the Port Authority. After the planes hit, Salty refused to leave Omar's side and walked through the smoke-filled stairway, broken glass and debris to get Mr. Rivera and a co-worker to safety. Even as the North Tower collapsed and the debris cloud filled the streets, Salty remained calm, loyal, and focused on guiding Mr. Rivera to a place free from danger.

These two guide dogs performed their jobs under the most extreme circumstances. But what they did that day reinforced what guide dogs do every day—they provide independence to individuals who are blind and visually impaired so that they can live their life free from constraints. To serve as another's set of eyes, to navigate busy city streets, and to keep their owners from harm's way is a responsibility that only a loyal dog would welcome with no questions asked.

Throughout the United States and around the world, Guide Dog Schools have given more than one hundred thousand people the chance to move about the world with freedom and dignity. Each school offers their guide dogs at no cost to the owners. All they have to do is apply, attend training, and promise to care for their dog for the rest of his or her life. The success of each school is dependent upon thousands of staff, volunteers, and generous supporters. Many people volunteer to raise puppies, socialize them and then give them up at the end of the year. And we see these dogs every day sitting patiently on the subway, stopping at walk lights, and maneuvering people around hazards that prevent a safe, straight path. They wear bright colored vests that read “Guide Dog in Training.”

Not only did Morris Frank bring the first guide dog to America, he opened the first school in 1929, *The Seeing Eye*.

Now in every State, guide dog schools provide an invaluable service. In California, *The Guide Dog School* just celebrated its 60th Anniversary, and in New York, *The Guide Dog Foundation* in *Smithtown*, has assisted New Yorkers and others from around the world since 1946. And *Guiding Eyes for the Blind* in *Yorktown Heights* has graduated more than 5,000 dogs and owners since 1954.

Each success story is testament that one good idea can transform the lives of many. But the success of the guide dog schools would not have occurred without two key components: those who believed that the blind and visually impaired could lead more independent lives with the right kind of help, and the dogs, the Labrador Retrievers, the Golden Retrievers, the German Shepherds, and other breeds that are ready, willing, and able to guide their owners through the world.

Every day, thousands of people grab on to the harness and place their trust in their companion. Some have acted with remarkable heroism like those on September 11, and we have all heard the stories about guide dogs waking their owners in the event of a fire and blocking them from the path of a speeding car. But most go through their days with quiet dignity and they deserve our utmost respect. Whether they are named Roselle or Salty or Buddy, they all respond in the same way. That harness goes on, their eyes open, and they show us that it is possible to walk through this world with a profound desire to help another so that life is limitless. ●

RECOGNIZING MOTT CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER

• Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I wish to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Mott Children's Health Center (MCHC), in Flint, MI, which has been selected by the American Lung Association of Michigan-Genesee Valley Region as the 2002 Corporate Health Advocate of the Year.

The American Health and Lung Association of Michigan-Genesee Valley Region grants this prestigious award to an organization that aspires to restrict or ban smoking, offers employee programs for smoking cessation, or exhibits respect and sensitivity to those suffering with lung disease. Winners must demonstrate financial support to local non-profit agencies as well as encourage employees to sit on local boards of directors for community based non-profit organizations. Recipients also need to display a commitment to improving the quality of life of Genesee Valley's residents. MCHC has not only met but far surpassed the American Health and Lung Association's criteria and is a worthy recipient of this award.

Founded in 1939 by Charles Stuart Mott, MCHC's mission is to better the lives of Genesee County's at-risk youth through health services and community advocacy. As a health service provider, MCHC offers the Genesee County