

his love and respect for the power of radio as both a medium and art form, and his respect for his listeners.

Mr. Dahl is truly a great American success story. As native of California, he tirelessly honed his craft at stations throughout his home state. When he came to Chicago in 1978 at age 23, Steve Dahl was already a seasoned pro and immediately drew large audiences with his outsider's perspective and boundless humor and energy. Throughout his 20 years in Chicago, Mr. Dahl has shown that a radio personality can be creative and funny, while remaining the consummate professional.

Part of the attraction his listeners have with Mr. Dahl has been his relationship with his family. Unlike many broadcast personalities who manufacture a professional on-air persona from their real lives, Mr. Dahl has woven ups and downs of marriage and raising a family into most of his shows in a way in which any family can relate. It is not unusual for the Mr. Dahl's wife, Janet and three sons, Patrick, Matthew, and Michael to have discussions, debates and even the occasional argument over the airways.

Mr. Dahl not only takes his profession seriously, but his obligation to his community as well. He has donated his talents and countless hours of his time to worthy causes throughout the Chicago area, especially in his suburban hometown where Janet Dahl serves as a member of the Board of Education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Dahl on his 20th Anniversary of entertaining Chicago. I would like to extend my very best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION, MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption in Morristown, New Jersey.

The Assumption Church, the oldest standing church in Morristown, has served as a gathering place for spiritual worship since 1848, when the first Mass was held there on Christmas Day. Founded several months earlier that year by Father Bernard McQuaid, who became the church's first Pastor, it was given the name, "Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary," and became the first Catholic church established in Morristown. At the time of its dedication by Bishop Hughes in March, 1849, the parishioners at the new church numbered only 120 in total. In contrast, approximately 1800 families belong to the parish today.

Continuing the tradition of social outreach begun by Father McQuaid, who, in 1850, started a school in the basement of the church, the Church of the Assumption today participates in close to forty social ministries along with other churches in Morristown. These range from meals and housing for the needy to programs for the spiritual enrichment of young adults, and include its newest ministry, a weekly Sunday Mass for the Deaf.

In addition to the positive community impact which comes directly from the good works of the Assumption Church, the church has also been instrumental in establishing other houses of worship, hospitals and schools in Morris County. Through the founding of St. Virgil's Church in Morris Plains, St. Joseph's Church in Mendham, Bayley Ellard High School and All Souls Hospital (now the Mt. Kemble Division of Morristown Memorial Hospital), Assumption Church has greatly expanded the spiritual and social opportunities available to residents of Morris County.

The Church of the Assumption is led today by its Pastor, Rev. Msgr. Martin F. Rauscher. Additional clergy at the church includes the Associate Pastor, Father William Winston and nine priests and deacons. As these individuals, with the assistance of the church's parish, lay the foundation for continued success into the next century, I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to join me in commemorating the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its sesquicentennial anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LAND PRESERVATION TAX FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Land Preservation Tax Fairness Act. This legislation will cut taxes on income earned when an individual sells his or her land or development rights to a nonprofit organization with the purpose of preserving this land.

This bill will make it more economically viable for a person to sell his or her land to an organization to keep it undeveloped rather than sell the property to someone who may develop it. I do not think all development is bad. However, I think we should reward people who are willing to pass up large sums of money so that their property can be preserved.

Currently, individuals must pay taxes on any income they may receive when they sell their property or development rights to the government or nonprofit organization which will keep the land undeveloped. I think the legislation I have introduced will encourage more people to do this by reducing the amount of taxes they must pay on any income realized from such a sale.

Reducing the pressure to build on currently undeveloped property, particularly in areas that are in close proximity to either a national park or metropolitan area, is especially important. My bill will combat the negative effects on urban sprawl and protect the natural areas around our national treasures.

Under current law, sellers can only deduct a small proportion of their original investment from any gain that they may make on this type of sale. However, this bill will allow individuals to deduct the entire amount of their original investment from any gain they may realize which will result in more people making an effort to preserve undeveloped land.

Without this type of tax relief, only the wealthy farmers and landowners will be able to afford not to sell their property to devel-

opers. The Land Preservation Tax Fairness Act will provide this opportunity to a larger number of people and help preserve more farmland and natural areas for future generations.

I hope my Colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation so that we can help protect the environment and reduce the tax burden on the American public.

THE STOP KIDS FROM SMOKING ACT

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Stop Kids From Smoking Act", a bill that will go a long way to achieving the important goal of ending youth smoking. This bill would make it illegal for any establishment that allows children under the age of eighteen to have a vending machine. The premise for this bill is simple: if children are unable to buy tobacco, it makes it significantly harder for them to start smoking.

We have effective laws that require individuals to show proof that they are eighteen in order to buy tobacco products. However, each year minors illegally purchase 256 million packs of cigarettes. How is this possible? It is easy. Kids go to the one place where they do not get carded—vending machines. They go to the diners, hotels, restaurants, and other places that generally have a vending machine in a hall or entranceway, put their money in the machine and get tobacco. Rarely are they even seen, and less often are they questioned.

I realize that some states and towns across the country have already taken this a step further by banning tobacco vending machines entirely. My bill would not preempt these laws. Instead, it would simply ensure that no child under the age of eighteen be able to buy tobacco in any situation, even when they are not being watched and questioned.

Please join me and my bipartisan original cosponsors in protecting America's youth from the deadly habit of smoking. Let's stop illegal tobacco use by minors and save this next generation from premature death from tobacco-related disease.

A BILL To prohibit the use of vending machines to sell tobacco products in all locations other than in locations in which the presence of minors is not permitted.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stop Kids From Smoking Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS

The Congress finds that—

- (1) almost 90 percent of adult smokers began at or before age 18;
- (2) 35 percent of high school kids currently smoke cigarettes;
- (3) each year minors illegally purchase 256,000,000 packs of cigarettes;
- (4) more than 5,000,000 kids alive today under the age of 18 will die prematurely from tobacco-related disease unless current sales are reversed; and
- (5) numerous studies and surveys show that significant percentages of young people are

able to purchase cigarettes from vending machines, even in jurisdictions that have laws restricting the placement of the machines or requiring the use of locking devices.

SEC. 3. ACCESS.

(a) VENDING MACHINES.—Vending machines may be used to sell tobacco products only in an area or establishment from which individuals under the minimum age prescribed by subsection (b) are denied access.

(b) MINIMUM AGE.—No manufacturer, distributor, or retailer of tobacco products may sell a tobacco product to an individual who is under the age of 18, except that if a State or municipality has established a higher age, no manufacturer, distributor, or retailer of tobacco products may sell tobacco products in that State or municipality to an individual who is less than such higher age.

(c) PREEMPTION.—This Act shall not preempt any State or municipal law which bans vending machines that sell tobacco products, nor will it preclude any State or locality from enacting such a stronger ban in the future.

SEC. 4. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act, the term "tobacco product" includes cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, pipe tobacco, and smokeless tobacco.

SEC. 5. PENALTY.

Any person who violates this Act is liable to the United States for a civil money penalty of \$1,000 for each violation.

EMPTY SHELVES: 1998 SURVEY OF U.S. FOOD BANKS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues' attention the following report on the tremendous challenges food banks across the United States are facing. Despite our booming economy, demand is rising at surprising rates in most communities.

Here in Congress, most of the talk about hunger has focused on welfare and the reform bill that we passed in 1996. But when you leave Washington, the focus shifts to the food banks. That's where hungry people turn when they've run out of options, and it's where the millions of Americans who regularly donate to canned food drives send their support.

The food banks are in trouble. I am not here to rehash welfare reform, Mr. Speaker, and I was surprised that most food banks aren't interested in doing that either. As the food bank in Montgomery, Alabama put it, "We are doing our best to meet the need, and we think in the end we will help make welfare reform work." A lot of food banks expressed similar optimism, and I share their hope. I think all of us do.

Of all the ways we can make welfare reform work, food is the least expensive one. Job training, transportation to get to a job, child care, health care—these are all pricey investments. Food is an investment too—although some people talk as if food is like a carrot you dangle in front of a mule to make it go where you want it to go. That might work with animals, but it simply doesn't work with people.

Hungry makes people tired. It saps their spirit and drive. It robs them of the concentration they need to learn job skills. It forces them to focus on where their next few meals

are coming from—instead of on finding a job, or holding one. And it makes them prone to get sick, from every flu bug that comes around, and up to some very serious diseases.

When Congress enacted welfare reform, we increased federal support for food banks by \$100 million—but the money inserted into the gap between need and supply is falling far short. We originally took away \$23 billion from food stamp recipients. But we gave just \$100 million to food banks. With that, they are struggling to provide just a few days worth of emergency food to the people who've lost their food stamps, or whose food stamps don't last the entire month. It's just not enough.

It made common sense to increase our support for food banks significantly, and we did just that. With evidence mounting that this still falls impossibly short of what is needed—and that many food banks simply cannot make it without more support—it makes common sense to revisit the decision on the appropriate amount of additional support.

This survey of food banks adds to the evidence of booming demands on food banks. It is not designed to be statistical analysis. But it does provide perspective from around the country—a window on what is happening in communities of every size.

What I found most striking overall is that, of the food banks that estimated the increase in demand for food, 70% reported demand grew much faster than 16%. That is the rate reported in a December 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors that shocked me, and many other Americans. And yet so many food banks are reporting even higher rates. I think it underscores the fact that poverty reaches beyond our cities. It scars rural communities and suburban ones too—a fact that many people overlook when they conjure in their minds the image of a welfare mom, or a food stamp recipient, or someone in line at the local food pantry.

Beyond that, the story of hunger in America that the food banks are documenting is an individual one. It increasingly features working people, whose low-wage jobs don't pay enough to put food on the table. Often, it includes people for whom hunger is a symptom of deeper problems—of illiteracy, a lack of education, a history of substance or domestic abuse. But equally often it includes people who are trying to climb out of their problems, trying to improve their prospects and willing to participate in initiatives aimed at giving them the tools they need. And, when the story includes a food bank, it always features people doing the Lord's work—and in increasingly creative ways. The survey describes some of those approaches, and I think many of them deserve attention and praise.

The food banks, and the hungry people who are doing their best to escape poverty, cannot do it alone. We need a range of initiatives to fill the gaps, and I will be using this survey to support my work on at least three ideas:

First, and most immediately, the food banks need more money. I am working on a bill now, but the fact is that even millions of dollars would be a small investment in making sure that welfare reform succeeds. I'm also looking into including the President's request for \$20 million to support gleaning initiatives, because food banks rely heavily on gleaned food.

Second, we need to end the tax law's discrimination against charitable donations from

farmers and businesses who want to donate food. Current law says the value of food is nothing more than the cost of its ingredients—which already are deducted as a cost of doing business.

That means it makes no difference to the green eyeshades in "Accounting" whether the food is donated or dumped. In fact, it costs a few pennies more to donate the food (in transportation or labor costs). The same is true for farmers: why not plow under unsold crops, if it costs you time or money to donate them instead? Many businesses and farmers donate food anyway—but many more probably would if we treat food as a charitable donation, in the same way that old clothes and other donated goods are treated.

Late last year, I introduced the Good Samaritan Tax Act, H.R. 2450, and I urge my colleagues to support that. I also am looking into ways we can remove obstacles to trucking companies and others who can help get food to hungry people.

Third, we must increase the minimum wage. As the Latham, New York food bank put it, "The fastest growing group of people being served by food pantries is the working poor. That is a disgrace. Minimum wage should lift people out of poverty."

There are other good anti-hunger initiatives as well, but if we are serious about answering the clear call of food banks in trouble, these three ought to be at the top of the agenda.

Food banks have been doing the hard work on the front lines of fighting hunger for decades. They are supported by their communities, and they are the organizations that increasing numbers of citizens turn to. In my own state of Ohio, *one in nine* people seek emergency food assistance every month, according to a September 1997 report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

When I visited my local food bank in Dayton recently, I was amazed to find it was the same place I had come often in the past. Then, the shelves were brimming with food—and good food too. Lately, the shelves have been empty, and when I visited it seemed they contained more marshmallows than nutritious staple foods. I was able to convince Kroger to make a generous donation to help Dayton's food bank. I urge my colleagues to see for themselves what is happening in their own communities, and to lend a hand in whatever way you can to answer this growing need.

Increasing numbers of people are so hungry they're willing to stand in line for food, Mr. Speaker. I cannot rest knowing that, too often, there is no food at the end of that line. And I urge my colleagues to take a few minutes to review this report, and to see the situation for themselves.

EMPTY SHELVES: 1998 SURVEY OF U.S. FOOD BANKS

A Report by Hon. Tony P. Hall, Member of
Congress, February 25, 1998

BACKGROUND

In January, 1998 I surveyed more than 200 food banks to learn their experience in meeting the needs of the people, and the charities that serve them, who turn to food banks. Fifty-five responded in detail.

The questionnaire was designed to accomplish two goals. First, it would provide information that could be used to gauge the depth of a phenomenon documented in the U.S. Conference of Mayors' December 1997 report, which found 16 percent more people were turning to food banks for assistance in 1997