

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO NELLIE LONGSWORTH

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Nellie Longworth of Bethesda, Maryland, one of the nation's leading advocates for historic preservation. Nellie will retire this week after serving as president of Preservation Action, for twenty-two years. During that time, Nellie has been tireless in her efforts to save America's architectural and cultural treasures, its historic sites and districts, and its neighborhoods and communities.

For more than two decades, with enthusiasms, perseverance, and wisdom, Nellie has helped thousands of Americans become aware and involved in public policy debates about our nation's cultural resources on the local, state, and federal levels. For Members of Congress and their staffs, Nellie has been the principal contact for historic preservation issues and a resource for us all.

Largely because of Nellie's leadership and hard work, thousands of communities across the country use historic preservation to strengthen and preserve their character. Cities, towns, and rural communities use historic properties to build pride and to foster economic development. Last year alone, 902 owners of historic commercial properties took advantage of the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit, spending \$1.73 billion and creating 42,000 jobs.

Mr. Speaker, as Nellie Longworth leaves Preservation Action, please join me in celebrating her leadership in preserving America's built environment and its cultural and natural resources for generations to come and in thanking her for her commitment to the richness and diversity of our American heritage!

CONGRATULATIONS ON 50 YEARS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, Dr. Sidney Garfield with six other physicians forged a pioneering, self-employed medical partnership to provide prepaid health care services and preventive health care services to the residents of northern California. The group ministered to its members' health care needs, both on and off the job.

Since those doctors began their work, the physicians, nurses and employees affiliated with The Permanente Medical Group have improved community health by providing medical care, conducting clinical and medical research, creating and supporting community health programs, bestowing grants and donations, and providing scholarships, education and training

for medical students and health professionals. I can attest personally to the group's lasting community involvement. For example, in my district, the staff of The Permanente Medical Group volunteers clinical time on Saturday mornings to remove gang-related tattoos from at risk youth who want to make positive changes in their lives.

The Permanente Medical Group is now the nation's largest medical group, comprised of more than 3,700 physicians, as well as nurses, employees and other caregivers. In Northern California alone, they provide health care services to more than 2.5 million people. The men and women affiliated with the medical group have consistently demonstrated their excellence, creativity and care as they have provided quality health care to all the people of our communities.

Through its 50 year affiliation with the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program, The Permanente Medical Group has demonstrated that affordable and high quality medical care can be provided through a relationship, both integrated and autonomous, between a non-profit health care plan and an independent, self-governing medical group. This is a model relationship in which medical decision-making and standard-setting are safeguarded and conducted by medical professionals. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in celebrating the half century of remarkable care that Californians have received and wishing The Permanente Medical Group another fifty years of excellence in the community.

TRIBUTE TO JEDDAH TEMPLE NO. 160

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jeddah Temple No. 160 of Orangeburg County, South Carolina. Friday evening, March 6th, I will join its members in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary.

Jeddah Temple is affiliated with the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, which is the oldest existing African-American group in the United States. Jeddah Temple has produced men of distinction throughout the nation, in the fields of education, law, engineering and finance. Since its inception in 1947, the Temple has grown in annual membership from 29 to 159 Nobles in 1982. The group has 95 members in this, its fiftieth year.

The Orangeburg Chapter of Jeddah Temple has offered tireless assistance to the Orangeburg community over the fifty years since its establishment. Its mission statement articulates an emphasis on involvement in the community. Through its activities, the Temple has endeavored to promote and enhance human relations in the Orangeburg area. Members are particularly attentive to the needs of the young and elderly. The Temple promotes edu-

cation through scholarships and tutorial programs, and it also assists the elderly and needy through the donation of time, food, clothing and other means.

Please join me in recognizing Jeddah Temple No. 160 of Orangeburg County as it celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of its creation.

TRIBUTE TO MARC ZALKIN OF CHICAGO, IL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marc Zalkin an individual who has been a serious advocate for the disabled and the poor. Marc departed this life Monday, February 23, 1998 at the age of 49. He leaves behind a committed life of service to humanity and mankind. His legacy of advocating peace in the midst of the Vietnam War, and compassion for those who were disenfranchised will forever be remembered.

Martin Luther King once said that if a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he is not fit to live in this society. I assure you that Marc had many things for which he was willing to lay his life down for. Although he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1981 his drive, commitment, passion and zeal to champion social causes to uplift humanity never waned. He was a founder and the first executive director of the 46th Ward Community Service Center, which opened in the mid-1970s to provide educational, legal, health and housing services to Uptown neighborhood residents. Whether focusing his attention Uptown or downtown Marc was a committed advocate for people with disabilities. He founded No Limits Inc., which he later called Abilities Inc., a company that created products for people with disabilities, including a Braille cookbook.

Marc was truly an idealist, whose tireless work and commitment helped elect Chicago's first African American Mayor the late Harold Washington. The 46th Ward Community Center he conceived evolved into the Uptown People's Law Office and Community Learning Center. Marc was able to help a number of families who suffered from Black lung disease receive benefits and pursue legal claims. This world is a better place because of the service Marc rendered. To your family we say thank you for allowing Marc to touch our lives in a very special way.

NEW BALANCED BUDGET FIGURES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Congressional Budget Office announced that

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for the first time in almost four decades, the federal budget is finally balanced. I applaud my Republican colleagues in Congress as well as the Appropriations Committee on which I serve for the efforts they put forth to achieve this success.

The American people gave Republicans a congressional majority because we promised to put an end to wasteful and irresponsible government spending. The Appropriations Committee is the only committee with a direct impact on spending and the federal budget. Every dollar that Congress decides to spend or save must come through Appropriations; if we do not do our job, a balanced budget can never become a reality. Mr. Speaker, anyone can talk about balancing the budget but the fact is, only the Appropriations Committee can make it happen.

While I chaired the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee, I personally engineered a \$262 million dollar two-year reduction in how much Congress spends on its own operations. We succeeded in reducing waste and improving efficiency, ultimately cutting 10% from Congress' own budget. If the entire federal budget were cut proportionately, the budget would have shown a \$100 billion surplus two years ago. The message we sent during those first years in the majority resonated throughout the federal government.

Under the leadership of Congressman BOB LIVINGSTON (R-LA), the Appropriations Committee has fundamentally changed the way Washington spends. Since taking control of Congress, Republicans have eliminated a total of 307 outdated and unneeded programs. Mr. Speaker, we have streamlined government and made it more accountable to the American taxpayer. Under Chairman LIVINGSTON'S leadership, we have held the line on government spending for the past four years in a row. That effort is now paying off.

PUBLIC SCHOOL MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1998

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation, entitled the Public School Modernization Act of 1998, which consists of two education tax incentives that are contained in the President's budget recommendations for fiscal year 1999. I am very pleased that more than fifty Members have joined me as cosponsors of this needed legislation.

It is my hope to continue to work with the Administration to introduce the President's domestic initiatives that are within Ways and Means jurisdiction. I will also continue to urge consideration by the Congress of these important proposals.

My bill would expand opportunities for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and beyond. This goal is crucial to the country's social and economic well being. It's a well known fact, that without the proper educational tools, young people lose hope for the future. We have only to look at the high levels of crime, drug use, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, and unemployment to know the value of a good education. Without basic academic opportunities, the future is bleak. My bill

identifies communities that shoulder a disproportionate share of these social problems and offers a solution—a future of hope.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 provided additional financial resources to assist families in meeting the cost of higher education. I believe that assistance is vitally important but not enough. We must do more to ensure that those students who wish to pursue higher education are prepared for the challenges of a college education. We also must work harder both to educate and train those students who choose or need to earn a full-time living after high school. In pursuit of this goal, this legislation would provide assistance to public educational institutions to make this a reality. Therefore, our bill expands the education zone tax incentives that were enacted last year. Those incentives are designed to enhance academic achievement below the college level through public-private education partnerships. I believe that we must have greater private-sector involvement in our educational system, and our bill expands existing tax provisions designed to encourage that involvement.

Our bill also includes tax incentives to assist local governments in improving and constructing public school facilities. This aspect of our bill does not require a public-private partnership and is not limited to schools in distressed areas or with a large population of poor students. This aspect of our bill provides \$19.4 billion over the next two years in interest-free capital for school infrastructure projects. Providing all students with clean and safe public school facilities is a necessary first step in assuring a high quality educational system.

Some have argued that the Federal government should have no role in assisting the public school system at the K through 12 level. I strongly disagree. The Federal government historically has provided financial resources to the public school system. It has done so in part by providing tax-exempt bond financing that enables State and local governments to fund capital needs through low-interest loans. The bill that we are introducing today, in many respects, is very similar to tax exempt bond financing. This bill does not require any additional layers of bureaucracy at the Federal or State level. It provides special tax benefits to holders of certain State and local education bonds. The procedures used to determine whether bonds are eligible for those special payments are substantially the same as the procedures currently applicable in determining whether a State or local bond is eligible for tax-exempt bond financing.

I also want to be very clear that this bill supports our public school system. I believe that improving our public school system should be our highest priority. Approximately 90 percent of the students attending kindergarten through grade 12 attend public school. If we can find the resources to provide additional tax incentives, those incentives should be focused on improving the public school system that serves such a large segment of our student population. I have and will continue to oppose legislation such as the so-called "Coverdell" legislation, that diverts scarce resources away from our public school system.

Although the bill that we are introducing today contains only tax provisions, I recognize that tax provisions alone cannot provide sufficient additional resources needed to assist students in obtaining a quality education. Therefore, I also support the other education

improvements included in the President's budget.

Currently, this Nation is enjoying one of the longest periods of economic expansion in its history, with low unemployment and continued creation of new jobs. Much of the credit for that rests with the deficit reduction efforts of the Clinton Administration and the technological advantages that our industries enjoy over their competitors in other countries.

We will not remain competitive in the world economy unless we invest in our human capital to maintain that technological advantage. Any available resources should be invested in human capital. A survey last year of economists by the Wall Street Journal found that 43 percent of the economists surveyed stated that increased spending on education and research and development would be the one policy with the most positive impact on the economy.

Amazingly, while the concept of investing in human capital goes unchallenged in debate, elected leaders are still spending more of our nation's limited budget resources on back-end, punitive programs like law enforcement and prisons, rather than front-end investments like education and training that can really pay off in increased workforce productivity.

Unfortunately, these skewed priorities are present at the local level, too. New York City spends \$84,000 per year to keep a young man in Riker's Island Prison, yet only \$7,000 each year to educate a child in Harlem.

We must change our priorities. Let's invest in the future of this country through our children. Let's bring the same zeal to encouraging and educating our children that we now apply to punishment and incarceration.

The following is a brief description of the provisions contained in our bill.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BILL

The bill would include the following two provisions as recommended in the President's budget. These tax incentives would cost approximately \$3.6 billion over the next 5 years.

1. EDUCATION ZONE ACADEMY BONDS

Section 226 of the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act provides a source of capital at no or nominal interest for costs incurred by certain public schools in connection with the establishment of special academic programs from kindergarten through secondary schools. To be eligible to participate in the program, the public school must be located in an empowerment zone or enterprise community or at least 35 percent of the students at the school must be eligible for free or reduced-cost lunches under the Federal school lunch program. In addition the school must enter into a partnership with one or more nongovernmental entities.

The provision provides the interest-free capital by permitting the schools to issue special bonds called "Qualified Zone Academy Bonds." Interest on those bonds will in effect be paid by the Federal government through a tax credit to the holder.

The bill would increase the caps on the amount of bonds that can be issued under the program as shown in the following table. The bill would also permit the bonds to be used for new construction.

Year	Current law (million)	Additions under the bill (billion)	Total issuance cap
1998	\$400	¹ \$400
1999	400	\$1.0	² 1.4
2000	0	1.4	² 1.4

¹ Million. ² Billion.