

that welfare reform is a success, that in the 13 or 14 months since welfare reform has been the law, we've knocked 15 percent of the people off the rolls. Well, of course as we know, a good hunk of that 15 percent are people who were smoked out who really didn't belong on the welfare rolls. Then my guess is the other half of that 15 percent were the cream of the crop, were people that were on the welfare rolls but had recent job experience who had some skills, who were totally and functionally literate.

You go deep within the mix of our 66,000 heads of households here in Philadelphia and you will find people shockingly, and it's the reason why we all agreed that there had to be change, but shockingly who have never worked in their life, who don't have one day's worth of work experience. You will find people, when you go deep into the rolls, who are functionally illiterate. As we all know, the necessary job skills in the moderate economy simply won't accommodate those type of people.

It used to be, not very long ago, ten years ago, you could be a cashier in most retail stores if you could learn to punch one button on the cash register and make change, but now, go into any retail store, small, or large, and you virtually have to run a mini computer to be a retail clerk, to be a cashier.

The necessary job skills are changing so quickly that we are kidding ourselves to think that we can change a system that has been in existence for decades and that simply doesn't work to fit the needs of Welfare-to-Work. For example, let's take child care. We basically have a child care system that is 8:30 to 5:30 because that's been the needs of the working parents, 8:30 to 5:30. But if you look at the jobs wanted in the entry level or the type of jobs our welfare recipients can hold, many of them are for weekend and night work. And there's virtually no child care available in the evenings or weekends in Philadelphia.

Now, let's talk for a second about these suburban growth centers. There are 15 of them and only two are near public transportation, traditional public transportation where someone from Philadelphia can take the subway down to Suburban Station and get on a commuter train and go out and wind up close enough that they can walk to the job centers. Thirteen of them are far enough away that you simply can't get there from here if you don't have a car. And of course, almost none of our current AFDC welfare recipients have vehicles. So not only are we going to spend a chunk of that \$51 million creating van pools and things like that to get our people to suburban job centers, but I heard you, and I know this isn't the main thrust of this hearing, but to not re-enact ISTEA without significant funds in there for Welfare-to-Work transportation programs.

As you know, Senator Specter and Senator Santorum have combined to put an amendment to the ISTEA reorganization bill in the Senate upping those dollars from \$100 million that the Administration has put in their budget, to \$250 million, and I would urge that is an absolutely essential step. If we're serious about what we're trying to do there, and in all due respect, this is not a reflection on Congressman Fattah or any of the Congressmen who are represented here, but if we're serious about trying to get people from welfare to work, we can't do it cheap. We have to spend money for transportation. We have to spend money for child care. We have to spend money for job training. And most of all, we have to spend money to help create jobs whether they be transitional jobs in the public sector whether they'll be subsidizing job growth in the private sector. Whatever it is, we have to touch every element of that, and we better do it fast.

In sum, if we do all of our jobs well, we're going to fail to be able to place well over 50 percent of our current caseload of welfare recipients and that is a pattern that you are going to find is going to happen all over the country. It is a freight train coming down the tracks going to hit us right smack in the forehead.

I would make two long-term recommendations, and I make them with the full knowledge that these may be difficult for you, Congressman, or the Congressmen represented here, may be difficult for us to get enacted, but number one, I would urge legislation to extend the deadline. I think the two-year deadline is just going to prove to be unworkable. We're not going to be ready to have job opportunities, child care, transportation to meet the needs of most of those AFDC families. So I would urge a year or two or three-year extension in the cutoff.

TRIBUTE TO THE NASHUA LIONS CLUB

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Nashua Lions Club on their 75th anniversary.

Eighty-one years ago, insurance executive Melvin Jones and his fellow Chicago businessmen formed the Lions International. The group was created to focus on humanitarian acts of service.

Several years later, after Hellen Keller challenged the Lions to become her "Knights of the Blind," William Hillman, Jr., and former Mayor Alvin Lucier established the Nashua Lions Club. Since being chartered in 1923, the Nashua Lions have not only heeded Hellen Keller's call, but have lived up to their motto "We Serve" by making Nashua a better community and improving the lives of those who live there.

After 75 years of hard work and selfless devotion, the Nashua Lions Club have raised and returned over \$750,000 to their community. But the true measure of their impact on Nashua is not in the dollars they have raised, but in the lives they have touched.

Most notably, the Nashua Lions have dedicated substantial time and resources to building projects designed to assist handicapped individuals. Under the leadership of former Mayor Mario J. Vagge, the Nashua Lions built the "Friendship Club" for the handicapped, and under the direction of past President Rich Nadeau, they constructed "Melanie's Room" for a handicapped young girl.

Responding to Hellen Keller's challenge 77 years ago, the Nashua Lions have also worked closely with the Nashua school nurses to provide free eye exams and eye glasses to needy area students. They have spent over \$30,000 in the last 25 years to buy new eye screening machines for Nashua schools.

Aside from their numerous community and charity efforts, the Nashua Lions have also provided leadership to the entire Lions International organization. During their 75-year history, the Nashua Lions proudly have produced two District 44-H Governors, Joseph J. Bielawski from 1983 to 1984, and Edward Lecius this year for their diamond jubilee.

Mr. Speaker, the Nashua Lions exemplify America's charitable spirit. Their leadership,

compassion, and hard work have helped make the Gate City a wonderful place to live. I rise to express my thanks and congratulations for 75 years of caring and devoted service.

THE MANDATES INFORMATION ACT OF 1998

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mandates Information Act of 1998. This bill is similar to H.R. 1010, the Mandates Information Act of 1997, which I introduced on March 11, 1997. The bill is introduced as a follow up to the success we have had with the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act.

As you are aware, the Unfunded Mandate Relief Act required the Congressional Budget Office to estimate the cost of unfunded mandates a bill would place on both local governments and the private sector. These cost estimates are required to be included in the committee's report which accompanies a bill reported to the House.

The law also established a point of order procedure for bills which contained a mandate on local governments exceeding \$50 million. The Mandates Information Act of 1998 will establish a similar point of order procedure for bills containing a unfunded mandate on the private sector in excess of \$100 million.

The changes reflected in the Mandates Information Act of 1998 have been made at the behest of the Rules Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman with the commitment to move this important piece of legislation forward. I look forward to participating in a hearing on these changes later this week followed by a full and open debate on the bill before the full House in the near future.

DE COLORES MEXICAN FOLK DANCE COMPANY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was witness to a most dazzling and energetic dance ensemble at their inaugural performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. This Washington, D.C. based dance company has received broad acclaim at major performances including the Presidential Inaugural's "American Journey" at the Smithsonian, and a near sellout concert performance commemorating Mexico's "day of the dead" at the Gunston Community Arts Center Theater.

De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company is unique in the area for its commitment to preserving and presenting the authentic, rich and varied interpretations of Mexican dance, music, and costumes. Their vision is to establish an Instituto de Danza for children and adults in the nation's capital to teach and train a future generation of artists. Performances are intended to foster greater understanding about Mexican art, history and culture. Members receive rigorous training, tutoring and

performing opportunities, and are encouraged to strive for the highest standards in Mexican folkloric dance interpretation.

Company General Director, Adriana Martinez, a former Capitol Hill staff assistant, began performing professionally at the age of 21 with the Ballet Folklorico de Stanford under the tutelage of master instructors Susan Cashion and Ramon Morones. She joined forces with the principal dancer and Co-Director Enrique Ortiz, former Director of Los Tapatios, to form De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company in 1996. Principal dancers and several of the founding members each brought with them years of experience teaching, directing, performing, and training. Other Capitol Hill staffers performed traditional dances of Mexican regions highlighting Veracruz, El Norte (Chihuahua), Tamaulipas (Huasteca), and Region Jalisco. The company is composed of beautifully attired women: Constance Chubb, Gloria Corral, Guadalupe Jaramillo, Rocio Jimenez, Irene Macias, Irma Martinez, and Alma Medina. Along with male partners: Maximo Galindo, David Garcia, John McKiernan Gonzalez, Joseph Lukowski, Geoffrey Rhodes, and A. Santiago Alvarez.

Mr. Speaker, the De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company brings to our nation's capital a rich contribution of Latinos in the arts and humanities visible through their unique art form. I ask colleagues in Congress assembled to wish them great success as they move forward with our vision to educate children about Mexican culture and heritage through traditional folklore.

UPON INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 249 RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE VA SHOULD RECEIVE PROCEEDS FROM ANY TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the proposed settlement between major tobacco companies and various states will receive much attention by the Congress in the coming session. With so much money and emotion wrapped up in one issue, it is anybody's guess how Congress will finally try to resolve this highly contentious issue.

But no matter how Congress ultimately decides to address this issue, there is one group of Americans that cannot be left out of any tobacco settlement—our nation's veterans.

I share the Administration's view that we should make it a major public health priority to reduce cigarette smoking and nicotine addiction, in part through establishing significant constraints on the ability of tobacco companies to continue to engage in deceptive and deadly marketing practices. A responsible, comprehensive tobacco settlement may be the best way to achieve this goal.

But while the Administration has assumed our federal government will collect over \$65 billion in proceeds from any tobacco settlement, its Fiscal Year 1999 (FY 99) budget fails to earmark any settlement money for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the federal agency that spends over \$4 billion each year pro-

viding health care to veterans suffering from tobacco-related illnesses.

If anybody deserves to be protected under the terms of a tobacco settlement, it is our nation's veterans, many of whom became addicted to nicotine while in service to our nation.

As the resolution I am introducing today spells out in greater detail, tobacco companies and our federal government facilitated—if not encouraged—cigarette smoking in the military. From the time of the Civil War until 1956, the Army was required by law to provide a cheap and nearly endless supply of tobacco to its enlisted men. The Air Force still has a similar law on the books. Cigarettes have been distributed free of charge to members of the Armed Forces as part of their so-called "C-rations." As many as 75 percent of our World War II veterans began smoking as young adults during the course of their military service.

Labeling requirements warning of the dangers of nicotine and tobacco usage did not become mandatory for products distributed through the military system until 1970, five years after such a requirement was made applicable to the civilian market. Tobacco products are still sold by military exchanges at substantially discounted rates, thus actively encouraging tobacco usage by military personnel and their dependents. "Smoke 'em if you got 'em" has been a watchword of the military culture for years.

Given this historical backdrop, it should hardly be surprising that many veterans developed an addiction to nicotine in large part because our government and the tobacco companies made cigarettes so accessible and easy to smoke during their military service.

But while our public servants have correctly criticized the tobacco companies for preying on millions of Americans with their highly manipulative marketing practices, the Administration's proposed budget leaves the Department of Veterans Affairs and our veterans to fend for themselves in dealing with tobacco-related illnesses that haunt a substantial portion of our nation's veteran population. And while many would agree that millions of Americans were victimized by misleading advertising and deceptive marketing practices that led them down the path to addiction, the Administration's message appears to be that our veterans should have known better.

The resolution I have introduced today attempts to send a message that the Congress is not prepared to leave our veterans behind. The Department of Veterans Affairs should receive substantial amounts from any tobacco settlement so that it will have sufficient funds to meet the needs of our veterans suffering from tobacco-related illnesses.

This resolution has already received support from most major veterans service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), the Fleet Reserve Association, the Blinded Veterans Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

I am also pleased that Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH (R-NJ), the Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, has joined with me to introduce this bipartisan, common sense resolution. Congressman SMITH's leadership on this issue is indicative of his long-standing commitment to our nation's veterans, and I welcome his support.

I urge all Members to join me in co-sponsoring this extremely important resolution.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR CREDIT UNIONS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. LATOURETTE, and I are pleased to announce that support for H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act, continues to grow. Below are the thirty-first through fortieth of the more than 100 editorials and columns from newspapers all across our nation which support giving consumers the right to choose a non-profit, cooperative, credit union for their financial services.

Surveys have consistently shown that consumers strongly support the value and services they receive from their credit unions. That is why the Consumer Federation of America endorses H.R. 1151, the Credit Union Membership Access Act.

A bipartisan group of more than 190 Members from all regions of our country, and all parts of the political spectrum, are now co-sponsoring the Credit Union Membership Access Act. We should pass it quickly so that credit unions can stop worrying about their future and return to serving their members.

[From the Des Moines Register, Mar. 7, 1998]
BANKS VS. CREDIT UNIONS—BOTH SIDES HAVE EXAGGERATED THE THREAT—THERE SHOULD BE A PLACE FOR BOTH

Next week, Iowa Congressman Jim Leach has scheduled hearings on whether Congress should act in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's Feb. 25 ruling regarding credit-union membership. Leach had better wear his hard hat.

The court case is part of an increasingly acrimonious debate as banks battle to prevent credit unions from eating into their market.

The banks, which pay hefty taxes, say credit unions, which don't, have an unfair advantage. That advantage might be acceptable for the classic mom-and-pop credit union, but bankers are alarmed at the growth of huge credit unions like the John Deere Community Credit Union in Waterloo with more than \$385 million in assets and a full array of financial services offered to 77,000 members.

Credit unions, in response, point out that at best they still have a slender 6 percent slice of the total market pie nationally, while banks have 77 percent. In Iowa the ratio is something like 88 to 5. As for the tax disparity, credit unions note that, unlike banks, they have no profits on which to pay taxes. Credit unions return all profits to their members, who pay taxes on their earnings. In fact, some Iowa banks are now switching to that very taxing scheme under a new state law.

Although these issues are not central to the question that prompted Leach's hearing, they are what drove the bankers to bring suit against federally chartered credit unions. The suit challenged recent interpretations of federal law that have allowed credit unions to broaden eligibility for membership.