

I have received the amount of 6,027\$ which represents the total of all pay and allowances due me upon the termination of my employment.

HA VAN CAU (F)
(Signature of Employee)

CAUTION REGARDING TOBACCO LEGISLATION IS URGED

(Mr. HEFNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, there is legislation in both bodies of this Congress that would place an excise tax which I think is very punitive and does not serve the purpose that I believe that we should be doing.

I do not believe that anyone wants to support children smoking. Certainly from the time I was a small child, my father always talked to me about how not to smoke; that it was not good for my health. I do not think there is any argument about that.

But we have farmers all over this country that depend upon tobacco for their livelihood, and they have made investments, they have borrowed money against the allotments on their farms. So any legislation that passes this House should take into consideration the hardships that it could put on the hundreds of thousands of farmers all over this country that depend on tobacco for their livelihood.

I would urge every Member of this House to be very cautious before we enter into any legislation that affects the tobacco farmer.

PUNITIVE PROPOSALS REGARDING TOBACCO LEGISLATION IS AF- FRONT TO FAIRNESS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I plead for sanity in this tobacco debate. The punitive proposals before Congress are an affront to fairness.

These proposed tax increases will devastate farmers who have done absolutely nothing wrong. Excise tax increases are regressive and fall hardest on the people who can least afford to pay. These tax increases could be as much as \$900. They would wipe out the child tax credit that was passed last year and take two-thirds of the tax relief we have put in place for HOPE scholarships, and it is one of the largest tax increases ever. I was not elected to raise taxes on the 50 million people in America.

If we can protect farmers, and we certainly ought to stop children from smoking and provide the opportunity for that, and have a balanced agreement that reduces the litigation, protects farmers, and curbs teen smoking, I can support a responsible increase in prices. However, responsibility and balance has been abandoned. Tobacco liti-

gation is no longer about responsibly reducing teen smoking, it is about punishment, and we must return to sanity and a fair debate on this bill and stop this shameful political posturing.

HEFTY AND REGRESSIVE TAX BILL BEING PUSHED

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, if any legislative body in the world should stand up for families, it is the United States Congress.

Suddenly, in a mad rush to pursue political agendas, this body has nearly forgotten a certain group of families who, since the very beginning days of this Nation, have known for generations tobacco production as a way of life; a way of life that pays their bills, that helps build their communities' schools and hospitals and roads, and provides a way for thousands of hard working farmers throughout the Southeast to support their families.

Just a short while ago those farmers left their fields, after a full day of tending their crops, and right now, at this moment, they are wondering if they have any future.

Suddenly a hefty and regressive tax is being pushed that will hit hardest those in low- and middle-income brackets. Will families be first or last in this tax-and-spend agenda that will destroy the livelihood of honest working people?

May God help this body if it turns its back on the farmers, their families and their communities.

THE CLINTON NOMINEE FOR AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, James Hormel, President Clinton's nominee for the ambassadorship of Luxembourg, is a businessman, a diplomat, a former dean of the University of Chicago law school, a one-time delegate to the United Nations' Human Rights Commission and a philanthropist.

He has wide bipartisan support from Senators JOSEPH BIDEN to ORRIN HATCH, as well as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and even Alice Turner, Hormel's ex-wife. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has also approved his nomination. But he has not been able to get through the other body in terms of confirmation. And the reason is, Mr. Speaker, Hormel is gay.

I say it is time now to treat Americans as Americans, to end the vicious discrimination against gays and lesbians in this Nation. That is why we must pass the Employment Non-discrimination Act to eliminate dis-

crimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, no one is asking for any more benefits than any other citizen of the United States. We all are created equal. This is a shame and a travesty that this qualified gentleman cannot be approved and affirmed to be the ambassador of Luxembourg. We need to end discrimination now against gays and lesbians.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each until midnight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER AND GRANTING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Arkansas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MICHAEL X. HARRINGTON

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding law enforcement official who the public could always count on. Port Authority Police Captain Michael X. Harrington holds a record that would make even Cal Ripken envious. While the Baltimore Orioles shortstop was honored for playing 16 years without calling in sick, he has a long way to go to match Captain Harrington.

On May 15, Captain Michael Harrington retired from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey after 43 years of service without ever missing a day of work.

When Captain Harrington began walking a beat for the Port Authority, Cal Ripken was not even born, the Dodgers were in Brooklyn, and there were just 48 States.

During his career, Captain Harrington outlasted eight U.S. Presidents, the Soviet Union, the Cold War and numerous fads, from coonskin caps to mood rings.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that Captain Harrington never missed a day's work is even more remarkable when we consider some of the obstacles he had to overcome. He found his way to work through blizzards, floods, hurricanes, blackouts and even riots. He did not let colds, or fevers above 102, injuries he sustained on the job, or even a broken wrist prevent him from doing his duty.

Throughout his distinguished career, Michael Harrington rose from patrolman to the rank of captain. Along the way he received numerous awards and commendations.

Through the years, he was commanding officer of a number of Port Authority transportation facilities, including the Lincoln Tunnel, the Holland Tunnel, the George Washington Bridge, Newark International Airport, and PATH.

At one point, he was in the incredibly demanding role of serving as commander of the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels, as well as the George Washington Bridge, all at the same time.

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When we ask Captain Harrington who instilled in him the importance of hard work, he will tell us it was his father. Cornelius Harrington worked for more than 40 years as an operating engineer for Standard Oil of New Jersey; and, like his son, he never missed a day of work.

There is far more behind Captain Harrington's exceptional career than just an example of his father's setting. His uncompromising devotion to his job is a tribute to his own sense of duty to the public and the unwavering support of his wife of more than 40 years, Illene.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure I speak for all Members of the House when I thank Captain Harrington for his 4 decades of service to the community and wish him all the best in his retirement years. I cannot think of anyone who is more deserving of a relaxing and an enjoyable retirement.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the month of May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month.

Teen pregnancy is a condition that can be prevented. But prevention is difficult for most Americans.

Parents must stop thinking that we cannot talk about sexual topics until children are older because kids are too young or will be too embarrassed.

Conversations need to start early because teens start early, TV starts early, and society starts early.

It is easier to find televised debates on abortion, gun control or affirmative action than it is to find a discussion about teen pregnancy prevention.

Our society likes issues that can be squeezed into ideological formats between commercial breaks. For many years the teen pregnancy prevention debate fit nicely into that televised ideological format.

There is no easy answer. Abstinence only was held by some. Abstinence is indeed the first and the best position for teens. Others thought contraceptive education was the major answer.

While this debate went on, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the pregnancy rates contin-

ued to rise and people on both sides of this debate grew weary.

Many thoughtful leaders engaged and developed new programs that combine strong emphasis on abstinence, especially for teen 16 and younger, with counseling on contraception.

Teens need the knowledge and skills to avoid sex if they are not ready . . . they need to know that it is okay to say no.

And teens who are sexually active need knowledge on how to use contraception to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Recent studies confirm that it is important for teens to hear both messages . . . abstinence and contraception . . . which is known as a dual message.

The idea is that teaching clear values is essential to helping teens avoid early sexual activity and pregnancy; but contraceptive advice is needed as a backup.

I agree with University of Maryland professor William Galston who said: "contraceptive technique without values gets you no where, but values without a safety net is a risky business."

According to the May 1, 1998 report just released, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, teen birth rates declined substantially nationwide between 1991 and 1996.

These recent declines reverse the 24 percent rise in the teen birth rate from 1986 through 1991. The report, which focused solely on teenage childbearing, between 1991 and 1996, reveals that teen birth rates declined for white, black, American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic women between ages 15 and 19.

The latest state by state data, from 1995 shows that teen birth rates have declined in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The preliminary U.S. teen birth rate for 1996 was down 4 percent from 1995 and 12 percent from 1991.

This shows that our concerted effort to reduce teen pregnancy is succeeding.

The federal government, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen pregnancy, the private sector, parents and caregivers are all helping send the same message:

Don't become a parent until you are truly ready to support a child.

However, teen birth rates are higher today than in the mid 1980s, when the rate was at its lowest point.

It is critical that our nation continue to take a clear stand against teen pregnancy.

We have to instill in the total population that this is a problem to be solved by the whole community.

Mr. Speaker, we must all be engaged in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO IRVING E. ROGERS, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to one of the Nation's great newspaper publishers, Irving E. Rogers, Jr., who passed away this morning at age 68. Mr. Rogers and his family have owned the Eagle-Trib-

une in Lawrence, Massachusetts, for 100 years, and it remains one of the last local family-owned newspapers in America.

Mr. Rogers was a successful businessman, a tireless advocate for his readers and his community, a generous philanthropist, a devoted friend and, above all, a dedicated family man. His passing will be mourned by all those who have benefited from his wisdom, good works, and adherence to the highest standards of journalism. The people of Greater Lawrence and the Merrimack Valley and the institutions that make it a great place to raise a family and run a business have lost a true champion and a giant of a man.

Born in Lawrence in 1929 and raised in North Andover, Mr. Rogers was educated at the Admiral Billard Academy in New London, Connecticut; Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont; and the Bentley School of Accounting in Boston before joining the family newspaper business. He was the third generation of the Rogers family to run the Eagle-Tribune.

After 22 years as general manager of the newspaper, he was named publisher on August 29, 1982, by his late father Irving E. Rogers, Sr. This was 40 years to the day after the senior Rogers had been named publisher by his father, Scottish immigrant Alexander H. Rogers, who bought the two newspapers that became the Eagle-Tribune in 1898.

Today, Mr. Rogers' son, Irving E. "Chip" Rogers, III, carries on the family's proud tradition for a fourth generation of the newspaper's general manager. It is not an accident the Eagle-Tribune has been recognized as one of the best regional newspapers in the country. This is the result of Mr. Rogers' commitment to excellence in journalism and in maintaining the Eagle-Tribune as a family-owned newspaper that knows and cares about its community and covers it aggressively and fairly.

He received the highest honor in journalism when the Eagle-Tribune won in 1988 the Pulitzer Prize for general news reporting for its probe of the Massachusetts prison furlough program. Under his leadership, the newspaper was also a finalist for two other Pulitzer Prizes during this decade for an exposé on corruption by former hockey czar R. Alan Eagleson and coverage of the devastating fire that destroyed Malden Mills and the heroic effort to rebuild the plant in the heart of Lawrence's poorest neighborhood. The Eagle-Tribune has also been named New England Newspaper of the Year 13 times.

While winning awards every year for quality reporting and public service, Mr. Rogers was also making business decisions that allowed the Eagle-Tribune to remain in family hands at a time when publications across the country were being taken over by chains and corporations. He purchased the Andover Townsman, moved into New Hampshire when he bought the