

personal resources to charitable causes penalty-free.

Under my proposal, a person who has reached age 59½ will be allowed to move assets penalty-free from an IRA directly to charity or into a qualifying deferred charitable gift plan—e.g. charitable remainder trust, pooled income funds and gift annuities. In the latter case the donor would be able to receive an income stream from the retirement plan assets that would be taxed according to normal rules for those giving methods. Upon the death of the individual or the individual's spouse, the remainder would be transferred to charity.

Recent studies show that assets of qualified retirement plans comprise a substantial part of the net worth of many professionals. The IRA Rollover to Charity Act lifts current law disincentives to this important source of charitable giving. IRA assets represent untaxed income and cannot be withdrawn without being subject to taxation in full at the time of withdrawal. As a result, if an IRA is transferred into a charitable remainder trust, donors are required to recognize all such income. Therefore, absent the changes called for in the legislation, the donor will have taxable income in the year the gift is funded.

Mr. President, this bill will unleash an enormous resource for charities servicing cultural, educational, environmental, health-related, religious and humanitarian purposes. If passed, the bill could be a huge asset for charitable organizations and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.●

ROBERT B. SLOANE

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, January 4 of this year marked the eightieth birthday of a constituent, Robert B. Sloane. This Friday, March 13, Bob Sloane's friends and family will gather to celebrate his entry into his ninth decade. Having recently earned the title of septuagenarian, I wish him hearty congratulations on this senescent achievement.

Bob Sloane was born in Brooklyn, NY and has always been a resident of our fair state. He was graduated from New York University's School of Dentistry at the age of 21 and spent the next two years living on Roosevelt Island as a resident.

And then began World War II. Bob Sloane entered what was then the United States Army Air Force serving for four years both at home and in the South Pacific. While stationed on the island of Guam, he received orders to construct a fence around the periphery of the camp. In charge of a number of young men he instructed them to build the fence in the hard, coral ground of the island. The fence was a disaster, toppled by a tap from his commanding officer. And down came the single line order signed by the commanding general: Captain Robert B. Sloane is hereby immediately relieved of his duty as

utility officer for this command. Bob Sloane's skills were clearly that of an oral surgeon and not a constructor of embattlements.

He left the U.S. Army Air Force in 1945 having attained the rank of captain and returned to civilian life. He spent the next four decades ministering to the oral health of the residents of the state of New York and raising his four children.

Bob Sloane is now well into his second career as a painter. He has been the subject of a number of shows and wields his brush at classes at the National Academy of Design, School of Fine Art as well at his studios in New York City and Warwick, NY.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to join with Bob Sloane's family and friends in wishing him a very happy eightieth birthday.●

THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHALDEAN-DETROIT TIMES

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an important event which is taking place in the State of Michigan. The Chaldean-Detroit Times is celebrating eight years of service and dedication to the Detroit Arab community. At this time, this publication should be recognized for its commitment to strengthening the Chaldean community and cultural understanding.

Friends and readers of the Chaldean-Detroit Times will gather for a banquet in celebration of its eight years of commitment to the community. This event will take place on the evening of Friday, March 20, 1998 at the Southfield Manor in Southfield, Michigan. Each of the individuals in attendance deserve special recognition for their support of the Chaldean-Detroit Times and the Chaldean community.

I commend the Chaldean-Detroit Times on its 8th Anniversary and send my best wishes to Amir Denha and to the entire Chaldean community of Detroit.●

THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE'S UPRISING

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the concerned citizens in Chicago and around the world who have taken part in activities to commemorate the 39th Anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising of 1959.

Since China's brutal invasion of Tibet in 1949, Chinese rule has brought oppression and misery to a proud people whose national history extends back 2,000 years. Tibet functioned fully as an independent nation-state from 1911 until 1951, when China imposed its notorious so-called "17-Point Agreement on the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet," forcing the Tibetan government to acknowledge Chinese sovereignty.

As China consolidated its power during the 1950s, refusing to permit even the regional autonomy permitted

under the treaty, Tibetan resistance grew. It came to a head in the People's Uprising, which was suppressed by the Red Army at the cost of thousands of civilian lives. The Dalai Lama, Tibet's head of state and the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, was forced into exile in India, where he has been campaigning for the freedom of Tibet ever since.

The International Campaign for Tibet estimates that, during the 20 years following the uprising, some 1.2 million Tibetans, about one fifth of the country's population, perished due to China's policies. Many more were imprisoned, went into exile, or disappeared. More than 6,000 monasteries, temples and other cultural and historic buildings were destroyed. The Chinese occupation of Tibet stands as a monument to the worst excesses of Communist tyranny.

The U.S. Department of State and international human rights organizations continue to document acts of repression by Chinese authorities in Tibet even today. According to reports cited in the State Department's Human Rights Report for 1997, "Chinese government authorities continued to commit serious human rights abuses in Tibet, including instances of torture, arbitrary arrest, detention without public trial, and long detention of Tibetan nationalists for peacefully expressing their political views. Tight controls on religion and on other fundamental freedoms continued and in some cases intensified."

Amnesty International cited "grossly unfair trials, widespread torture and ill-treatment in police cells, prisons and labor camps," and concluded that "despite some legal changes, Chinese legislation still allowed more than 200,000 to be detained in 1997 without charge or trial for 're-education through labor.'"

The Chinese government's claims of success in its recent economic development policies in Tibet are also misleading; the favorable economic and tax policies have disproportionately benefited ethnic Chinese residents rather than native Tibetans. Consequently, these policies "have attracted growing numbers of ethnic Han and Hui immigrants from other parts of China, that are competing with—and in some cases displacing—Tibetan enterprises and labor," according to the U.S. State Department.

The United States must not allow China to use Tibet's geographic and political isolation to obscure our view of the situation. The fate of Tibet and its people also must not be sacrificed to diplomatic expediency in a short-sighted effort to improve U.S. relations with China. If the Chinese government wishes to join the community of responsible nations, it must act responsibly. It must improve its human rights performance and resume negotiations on Tibet's future. We in Congress should call upon the Administration to introduce a resolution dealing with the serious human rights abuses in China and

Tibet at the March 16 meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

As the Dalai Lama has said, "Brute force, no matter how strongly applied, can never subdue the basic human desire for freedom and dignity. It is not enough, as communist systems have assumed, merely to provide people with food, shelter and clothing. The deeper human nature needs to breathe the precious air of liberty." It is time the government of China paid heed to his wise words.●

CLAWSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE "BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR"

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Tamara Van Wormer Tazzia, winner of the Clawson, Michigan Chamber of Commerce "Business Person of the Year" Award. Ms. Tazzia is the owner and manager of the Tri-Centre Business Complex in Clawson and has been very active in the Clawson Chamber of Commerce, serving as a board member, for the past five years. This month she will take over as president of the Chamber.

In addition to her involvement in the Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Tazzia has an impressive list of accomplishments. Ms. Tazzia has over ten years experience in property management and eighteen years of entrepreneurial business experience. She is a past vice-president of the National Association of Women Business Owners and past president of both the Troy Toastmasters and Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club.

Ms. Tazzia will be honored at the Clawson Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner Saturday, March 21, 1998. I congratulate Ms. Tazzia on her award and commend her for her involvement in her community.●

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE NEWTON

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and perhaps the most recognizable Nevadan the world-over, Wayne Newton, for reaching his incredible fiftieth year in show business.

Wayne Newton has reached amazing goals in an industry in which success can be short lived. Before most Americans had heard of Elvis Presley or the Beatles, Wayne Newton released a best-selling record, sung for the President of the United States, and toured with the Grand Old Opry road show.

In a half-century, Wayne Newton has performed live for an astonishing fifteen million people and that number continues to grow each year. Tens of millions around the world have also enjoyed his talents through the radio, television, and movies.

Wayne's musical genius was recognized early in life. At the age of six, the precocious youngster was already dazzling audiences as the star of a radio show, which aired before he went

to school each morning. During his adolescent years, he entertained us through the new medium of television, performing regularly on our favorite variety shows. Americans quickly discovered Wayne's irresistible stage presence, enchanting voice, and charming smile.

While still a teenager, he headlined a Las Vegas show and became one of the area's most popular attractions. Indeed, over the years, millions of tourists flocked to the Silver State to enjoy the sunny climate, scrumptious buffets, spectacular lights, magnificent resorts, and, to be sure, the singular magic of Wayne Newton. Wayne's nickname, Mr. Las Vegas, is richly deserved, and, as his career has grown and met with amazing success, so has that great city.

At the age of 21, his single "Danke Schoen" made music history. Many of his songs have topped the charts, and there are too many to mention here, but some of my favorites include "Heart," "Summer Wind," and "Red Roses for a Blue Lady."

Wayne Newton's gifts extend well beyond his extraordinary showmanship and musical talent. For example, he has distinguished himself as a skilled actor, having been featured in ten films, and countless television and cable programs.

Many Americans are aware that Wayne Newton has earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, but how many know that he has been awarded the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, Founder's Award of St. Jude's hospital, the VFW's Hall of Fame Award, the American Legion's Exceptional Citizen Award and the Humanitarian Award of the American Cancer Society's Research Center—just to name a few? After fifty years before the public eye, Wayne Newton has become one of the world's most prolific entertainers, but he has always found time and energy to devote to scores of worthy causes.

Wayne Newton's career is the stuff of legend. I am confident there will be many more years in which visitors to Las Vegas will be mesmerized by this amazing performer. It is hard to imagine anyone reaching greater heights of success, but certainly, if anyone could, it's Mr. Las Vegas. However, to me the greatest attribute of Wayne Newton is the quality of his friendship. He is above all my good friend.●

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION HONOREE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise before you today to recognize Wesley A. Jones, of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Jones, has been honored by the Michigan Council of Deliberation Scholarship Foundation, an organization of which he is a member.

Mr. Jones is being honored as an outstanding individual for his many business and civic contributions. Cur-

rently, Mr. Jones serves as Deputy for the Orient for Michigan. In addition, he serves as Deputy for Michigan for the United Supreme Council and is active in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction and USA Inc. Mr. Jones should be commended for his community activism as well. He serves as an active member of his church, treasurer of the Grand Rapids Urban League Board of Directors and Chair of the Minority Business Committee of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. His activity extends even beyond these organizations. Mr. Jones, an engineer and businessman is a father of six and grandfather of eight. It is quite apparent that Mr. Jones selflessly and freely gives of his time.

I am pleased to recognize the good work of Wesley A. Jones. He has been rightfully honored by the Michigan Council of Deliberation Scholarship Foundation.●

RESTORING DIPLOMATIC READINESS

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in the coming weeks, the Committee on the Budget will begin consideration of the concurrent budget resolution for Fiscal Year 1999. I would like to take a few minutes today to discuss the continuing need for our government to provide sufficient resources for international affairs. Since becoming the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Foreign Relations, I have focused special attention on this question, because I believe that adequate funding for these programs is essential to our national interest.

With the collapse of communism and the dissolution of the Soviet empire, the United States has emerged as the world's sole remaining superpower. With that position comes a responsibility to take a leading role in international affairs. Around the globe, American leadership is essential to preserving stability and security, and advancing prosperity and economic opportunity.

The United States cannot remain an effective world leader without devoting sufficient resources to diplomatic readiness. Just as we need to maintain and train robust military forces in order to protect our security, we need a well-trained and well-equipped diplomatic corps to advance our nation's numerous international interests. Indeed, with the reductions in our military presence overseas in the last decade, it is all the more important that we maintain a robust diplomatic presence around the globe, and that our diplomats, who work on the front line of our national defense, have the resources necessary to do their jobs.

It is sometimes said that, in the modern information age, embassies and the diplomats who staff them are no longer relevant. The assertion is, in my view, absurd. While modern technology has eased communications and travel