

an economic report for the President. In it, they forecasted how well the economy would perform, and what size the size of the Federal budget deficit would be following President Bush's economic program.

Their most optimistic forecast was for the deficit to be \$201 billion in 1996. Under President Clinton's leadership, the Congressional Budget Office projects the deficit to be \$116 billion in 1996. That's \$85 billion less than the rosier projection President Bush promised. And remember there was not one single Republican vote for the President Clinton deficit reduction plan.

After 3½ years under President Clinton, we have the lowest combined rates of unemployment, inflation, and mortgage rates since the 1960's—which is the biggest tax cut of all for working Americans and retirees on fixed incomes.

And the listen to the words of Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Testifying before the Joint Economic Committee in January 1994, Dr. Greenspan clearly stated what he felt was the cause of the speedup in economic growth:

The actions last year to reduce the federal budget deficit have been instrumental in creating the basis for declining inflation expectations and easing pressures on long-term interest rates. . . . What I argued at the time is that the purpose of getting a lower budget deficit was essentially to improve the long-term outlook, and that if the deficit reduction is credible, then the long-term outlook gets discounted up-front. Indeed, that is precisely what is happening. . . . I think a substantial part of the improvement in economic activity and the low rates of inflation can be directly related to a changing financial expectation that we might finally be coming to grips with this very severe problem.

That was in 1994. He is not crediting shutting down the Government, and holding needed Government services hostage to unfair budget deals, for making financial markets believe that new and better fiscal management was finally in place. Dr. Greenspan was crediting the President's 1993 budget plan with the substantial part of the improvement in economic activity and the low rates of inflation.

While the rest of America that is experiencing steady job growth, increased consumer confidence, and a Federal deficit that has been cut in half, Mr. Dole is contending that he has policies that would have made the economy perform even better. What are these new ideas? In fact, they are not new at all: they are the same policies that ballooned our deficits in the first place. Except for the interest on the debt created during the Reagan and Bush years, our current budget would be running a surplus. So as for retreading these failed policies of the 1980's, in the language of the new generation: "Been there, done that, don't want to go there again."

Still, Mr. Dole promises growth that could generate more jobs. Again, look at the record. President Bush's Council of Economic Advisers predicted that, following President Bush's economic policies, the unemployment rate would be 6.2 percent in 1994 and 5.7 percent in 1995. President Clinton's policies delivered actual unemployment rates of 6.1 percent in 1994 and 5.6 percent in 1995. And while the Bush administration was going to be satisfied with an average unemployment rate of 5.4 percent in 1996, we have already lowered unemployment this year to 5.1 percent.

Americans want to see wages and take-home pay rise. Since January 1993, we at least have seen the 12-year decline in real wages come to a halt. We Democrats fought to lower the tax burden of low-income, working families by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, and raising the wages of low-income workers from the 40-year low in terms of purchasing power that they were experiencing through passage of a minimum wage hike. It was only fair. It was a hard fight. But we Democrats never gave up, and the Republicans finally caved in.

I am proud of the economic record we Democrats have accomplished in the last 4 years. We still have a great deal more to do, but Americans now know we are on the right track. As President Clinton says, we must build a bridge to the future. It is not a toll bridge because it will be a bridge paid for by careful planning. We don't need a bridge to the past, built with IOU's and growing deficits that mortgage our future. We don't need to go back to slow job growth, and fewer opportunities. We need to look forward.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, the community and diversity of the United States have always been our greatest strengths. I rise today to pay tribute to a group whose sense of community is as strong as the country they represent, the Hispanic community of Flint.

A community is more than simply the individual people who belong to it. A community is people volunteering to help their neighbors in times of need, people taking charge and organizing to make that community a better place. The Hispanic community of Flint knows what it takes to be a strong, caring community. But simply knowing is not enough. That's why the Hispanic community has excelled in service and volunteerism to help their community, the United States, grow and succeed.

For this reason the month of September 15 through October 15 has been designated "National Hispanic Heritage Month." In celebration, the Flint Hispanic community holds its annual Hispanic Awards Ceremony on September 14. Members of the Hispanic community who have given selflessly of themselves in the areas of education, labor, leadership, and service will be honored. An additional award will be presented to a veteran, Mr. Aleucion Duran, who exemplifies the highest ideals of service to our country.

This year the Pete Mata Scholarship Award will be presented to Ms. Holly Saultsman, while the Pete Mata Jr. Leadership Award is being presented to Mr. Pete Mata. Dr. Eduardo Lorenzo will receive the Tano Resendez Service Award and Mr. Roel Martinez the Bruno Valdez Arts/Entertainment Award. The Award for Special Recognition will go to Mr. Domingo Berlanga, while the Labor Involvement Award will go to Ms. Estela Mata. For outstanding service in the field of education, the Joe Benavidez Award will be presented to Ms. Janie Rubio while Ms. Lorena Gonzalez will be honored with the Maria Deleary Scholarship Award.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating all of this year's honorees and the Flint Hispanic community as they celebrate the diversity that makes this country great.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA FALK

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure and distinct honor to wish Martha Falk of Darien, CT, a very happy 100th birthday.

Martha's leadership in founding 60 Plus, as well as her continued commitment to Children's Aid, participation in each Memorial Day Parade and devotion to numerous charitable organizations, are an inspiration to us all.

We salute Martha for being such an outstanding, vivacious role model for her peers and the community. Darien is a better place to live and work thanks to Martha's humorous outlook and dedication to improving and enhancing the lives of others.

Martha is a real treasure! She can look back on a long and fulfilling life with the satisfaction of having made a significant contribution and look ahead to the opportunity to add to these precious memories.

I am proud to have Martha Falk as a constituent and wish her continued happiness and success.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Patrick's Church in Wilkes-Barre, PA. St. Patrick's is celebrating its 75th anniversary on September 15, 1996. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in the recognition of this milestone.

Mr. Speaker, in 1921 a group of 400 families formed a new parish called St. Patrick's. The Reverend John Lynott celebrated mass for the group in the Sterling Theater. The theater held the parish for a year before they moved to their own home in a small basement.

In 1929, on the same site, the cornerstone was laid for a new structure which was to become the present St. Patrick's church. The stones of the building had great significance to the members. Reflecting the Irish heritage of many of the parishioners, one stone was brought from Ireland where it was taken from a spot near the grave of St. Patrick. Another stone came from the Vatican Mausoleum in Italy.

Mr. Speaker, in 1930 Bishop Thomas O'Reilly dedicated the new church building for the parish of St. Patrick's. Since then the parish has faithfully ministered to the Irish community in the Wilkes-Barre area for 75 years. Since its humble beginning in 1921, a succession of pastors have provided spiritual guidance to generations of parishioners. As the