not tax themselves as planned, we could end up with the same educational disparities as the present system.

House Bill 537 is generally good, but some of the aforementioned taxes could be eased by a couple of things: I propose to fix some of the problems of the bill by taxing heavily products totally unnecessary to Vermonters. We could put a larger tax on tobacco products, all lottery tickets and games, alcoholic beverages and even candy. I understand that in 537 there is going to be broad-based taxes on things like rooms, meals and gasoline, but a heavy tax on the mentioned products ought to generate a lot of additional revenue to ease the other taxes.

Also for revenue a higher tax should be put on inheritances and trust funds, but not for inherited agricultural land. With the revenue from these taxes we could put forth the money to fixing some of the problems with the bill. We could allow a residential tax for maybe up to six acres of land and reduce the monetary need for the local income tax by pouring some of the revenue into the state pool for block grants.

Other revenue could go to reducing the non-residential tax so businesses and non-residents won't move out or be discouraged from coming here. This can make our state attractive to prospective businesses which if they moved in could stimulate our economy.

Lawmakers need to move slowly and do this reform correctly. We definitely do not want as equally a poor system that will just have to be overhauled again in another couple of years. We should run statistic tests and implement the reform gradually to see how it evolves and works—I know the revenue from alcohol, tobacco and other products fluctuates—to examine the amount of the income the proposed taxes do indeed generate.

Lastly, politics should be left out of this bill. It is important to remember that the bill is for the kids and justice in funding education and remember that a good education makes for the best economic climate.

I think that everyone has made this bill so complicated, I didn't touch on a lot of the nitty-gritty complications of it and I think they get lost in all those complications, so if you just think about it sensibly and make it simple. As I mentioned in my presentation that people who earn more should pay more. The progressive tax format I believe works for property but I think and I do like House 527, I just think there are things that might be made better partly because they made it so complicated.

You can get into a whole other topic because sure, the federal government subsidizes or whatever education and you get into issues like how much—I mean if you look at the pie chart of what they spend each year, they spend five to ten percent on education and then you get into issues of how much they spend on defense and the military as opposed to education.

The present system basically there was a lawsuit that stemmed out of this whole thing and it is actually been a problem for a number of years. Matter of fact, in 1987 Madaline Kunin said years ago that the quality of education that a child in Vermont receives depends on where he or she resides, she just said it straight out, and people all the way back to the 70's and before. The problem—but it is being forced that the legislature has to do something and something has to be done because of the Supreme Court decision stemming from a lawsuit or whatever, the case of Amanda Brigham, and they ruled last February that it was unconstitutional and that they should totally—that it is going to be totally overhauled and the legislature should do it as fast as they can.

Some property-rich towns were spending twice as much, say between eight and $11,000 for people for education while other property-poor towns under the present and all funding systems were paying half that, 3,000, 4,000, $5,000 for people.

Thank you for your time, Congressman Sanders.

RECOGNITION OF TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to bring to the attention of my colleagues several distinguished teachers from the 19th Congressional District of Texas. My home district extends from the Panhandle of Texas through the South Plains to the Permian Basin, and encompasses various cultures, personalities, and dreams. I am pleased to recognize these recipients of the Teacher of the Year Award who enable our students to understand and learn from each other, and strive to achieve their goals.

Good teachers nurture our country's best hope for tomorrow, her children. Their perseverance and dedication challenge and shape students to dream, and to work hard to make those dreams come true. Unfortunately, educators toil with little public thanks or appreciation, even though their efforts are essential to a strong future. These teachers, in particular, go beyond the call of duty and wholeheartedly devote themselves to this important mission.

It is my pleasure to present to you the 19th District of Texas' Teachers of the Year: Ms. Dee Ann Liles and Ms. Kathleen McDowell, Sunray ISD; Ms. Candace Dyer, Farwell ISD; Mr. W.W. ''Bear'' Mills and Ms. Rebecca T. Watson, Midland ISD; Ms. Narelle Horton, Bushland ISD; Ms. Ann Green, Hartley ISD; Ms. Julie Harris and Ms. Laura Landes, Amarillo ISD; Ms. Pam Perrin, Vega ISD; Ms. Connie Gilbert and Ms. Janie Rendon, Hereford ISD; Ms. Clarice Andres, Slaton ISD; Ms. Sonya Wilson and Dr. David LeMaster, Odessa ISD; and Ms. Jan Morris and Ms. Shelli Stegall, Odessa ISD.

As a former teacher, I know firsthand the importance of a quality education; however, it is outstanding teachers like these who strive for excellence, knowing the worth of this goal. I thank these educators for all they do for our children and our Nation.

THE PROMISE OF CONSERVATISM

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, in these trying times when many of our leaders appear to be second guessing our moral and political underpinnings, I commend to my colleagues' reading an address by former U.S. Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming entitled, ''The Promise of Conservatism.'' It is one of the best descriptions of the crossroads at which we find ourselves:

THE PROMISE OF CONSERVATISM, AN ADDRESS BY MALCOLM WALLOP

Before this audience of conservatives, most of whom are Republicans, I would enjoy setting forth a conservative agenda for the Republican Party. I would like to think that you could then put whatever insights I might give you to work for the Republican Party. But I'm afraid that the most useful insight I can give you is that the Republican Party seems well on the way to denying its conservative birthright, and that with every passing day you and I are becoming strangers to it.

The party's leadership seems determined to follow the disastrous example of the Canadian conservative party, which became afraid to challenge the socialists except with empty rhetoric, and which was entirely wiped out at the polls. But that's all right. Parties are born when they take up important tasks, and die when they let them drop. We cannot control the destiny of the Republican Party. We can control the destiny of the American conservative movement—and conservatism is a permanent fixture of American life, because the American people always need some shield against overweening government.

But I want to impress upon you that the character of conservatism is not written in the stars. It is subject to change for the better or the worse. It could just as easily come to resemble more the small and mean minded thing we see nowadays in Europe than the conservatism of Reagan, Goldwater, Coolidge, Lincoln, Clay, the Adamses, and Washington. My task here today is to help clarify the difference between the kind of conservatism that made this country great and a Republican Party so fearful of the shadow of principle that it is cowering before Bill Clinton. I suggest to you that Bill Clinton and all his works are examples of the difference between government as it has been practiced since the New Deal and the way of life established by the Founding Fathers. The exposure of President Clinton's conversion of power into money is giving the conservative movement a historic opportunity to instruct itself and the country about the consequences of discretionary government power. The conservative movement dare not let it pass because it makes our point: Big government is corrupting America. It deprives us of freedom, makes us poorer, sows strife among us, undermines our families, and debases our souls.

Let's first address the Republican default, then turn to the practical, everyday mission of American conservatism: to cut back the extent and power of government.

From the time of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party has been a party of principle. The Democratic Party lives now as it has lived for most of its history as a brokerage house for government favors. Lots of people make a living out of being Democrats. The teachers' unions, the government workers' unions, the abortion industry, and a host of well connected businesses, the kind who get the U.S. government to set up deals for them abroad or to tailor regulations for them—they make a living out of being Democrats. Very few people make a living out of being Republicans. Today, many of our party's leaders envy the Democrats' vast network of patronage, and they have begun using Republican presidential victories in the '80s and congressional victories in the '90s to try to set up shop like the Democrats.

In front of us all during the last campaign and now with the new Congress, Republican leaders are running away from the issues.

Nowhere was this clearer than in California, where the California Civil Rights Initiative, a reaffirmation of equality before the law, withstood a titanic campaign against it. It won by ten points, yet our Republican candidate, down by double digits, waited till the final week to associate himself with the issue, and then weakly. The Republican leadership's unwillingness to ride a horse that