

table. After 4 months of silence and no apparent plan of his own to balance the budget, he has issued a completely irresponsible veto threat. Should he win the veto battle, any chance at a early start on deficit reduction this year will be eliminated.

What is more unconscionable than his lack of action on the issue, is his timing. He is attempting desperately to reassert the relevancy of his presidency by playing politics with the rescissions bill. This politicizing threatens to jeopardize the expeditious funding of emergency disaster aid to the victims in California and Oklahoma. The \$7.2 billion in emergency appropriations are paid for by cutting wasteful spending elsewhere in the budget. And we did not add more to the taxpayers tab, something virtually unheard of in Washington.

The reasoning for his veto threat is pork in the bill, yet this bill slashes \$16.4 billion in spending by eliminating unauthorized programs, consolidating duplicative programs, cutting unspent funds piling up from one year to the next and eliminating funding for wasteful, ineffective programs. Where's the pork? This bill eliminates funding from legislation signed by the President himself. The pork he says we failed to target is the pork he sanctioned.

The President seems to have forgotten the will of the American people. Last November, the citizens of this country voted for change. His lack of attention to the budget and spending cuts continues the status quo and dims the future of our children.

#### MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER EXPANSION ACT OF 1995

### HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 1995*

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation which will save taxpayer money, reduce theft and fraud of Federal payments and make the Government run more efficiently. I am proud to join Representatives STENY HOYER, BILL CLINGER, PETER VISCLOSKEY, and STEPHEN HORN in introducing the Mandatory Electronic Funds Transfer Expansion Act of 1995.

Under this legislation, recurring Federal payments such as Federal salaries and pensions would be issued by electronic funds transfer [EFT] instead of paper checks. The Department of the Treasury's Financial Management Service, the Federal Government's primary disburser, has testified that it costs the Federal Government 43 cents to issue a paper check. But an electronic funds transfer costs just 1.5 cents, saving the Government over 41 cents for nearly every salary or retirement check it issues.

The Government is already realizing savings from the use of EFT. Of the 841 million payments issued by FMS, 49 percent were disbursed electronically. But we can realize additional savings, while making salaries and benefits more convenient for recipients. The savings add up quickly, into the millions of dollars. The extensive use of EFT will reduce Federal spending and diminish the opportunity for theft and fraud.

#### THE HOMELESS AND COMMUNITY COOPERATION ACT OF 1995

### HON. LINDA SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 1995*

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the "Community and Homeless Cooperation Act of 1995" which will amend the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act.

The Act was originally designed to make under-utilized or unutilized Federal buildings available for sheltering our Nation's homeless. In Olympia, one of the largest cities in my district, there were plans to make a vacant and dilapidated Federal building into a large shelter for the homeless yet over 30 percent of the beds for the homeless in Olympia's existing shelters went unused. Common sense would dictate that we didn't need another shelter, we needed additional resources for outreach and services for existing shelters.

Recently, Thurston County commissioners in my home State of Washington pointed out to me in a recent letter, "With the current 'use it or lose it rule', a social service agency has a difficult time saying "no" to a free building—even one requiring extensive and expensive upgrades." My legislation will allow these buildings to be sold and a portion of the money used to help existing shelters meet their daily funding needs while the remainder will be returned to the Federal treasury exclusively to reduce the deficit. And, for the first time in the 7-year life of this legislation, the homeless and the community will have a voice in the selection of buildings to be used. As the Olympian, newspaper stated, " \* \* \* location of these services is key."

The Community and Homeless Cooperation Act of 1995 gives a city and its homeless a sense of community and cooperation in determining what is in their best interest. Through community forums to determine building placement or through making proceeds from sales of these buildings available to increase homeless assistance services on Main Street, we empower the people on Main Street, homeless and homeowner alike.

#### TRIBUTE TO AMBROSE JOSEPH (JOE) MANLEY

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 24, 1995*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Ambrose Joseph (Joe) Manley. On Friday, June 2, 1995, Joe, along with his friends and family, will celebrate his retirement from the Northwest Indiana District Council of Carpenters, Merrillville Union Local No. 1005. This testimonial dinner will take place at the Radisson Hotel celebrity ballroom in Merrillville, IN.

Joe has dedicated a substantial portion of his life to the betterment of union members and the community of northwest Indiana, as well as the entire State.

Joe's distinguished career in the labor movement has made his community and Na-

tion a better place in which to live. For the past 20 years, Joe has aspired as an important figure in Local No. 1005. Joe has held several position throughout his tenure, but none as important as business manager, a position from which he retired on Dec. 31, 1994.

Moreover, Joe fought for union rights in several other capacities. Joe has been active as past president of the Indiana State Council of Carpenters and past vice-president of the State of Indiana AFL-CIO. These positions have allowed him to fully exercise his fight for labor rights.

As a result of Joe's caring and nurturing nature, he has been spreading his goodwill throughout northwest Indiana by serving on several boards over the past years. Joe is well known in the Indiana State Democratic Party where he was once the vice chairman. During his reign as vice chairman, he was chosen to be a delegate for the State of Indiana to the 1992 National Democratic Convention. Furthermore, Joe served as a past Admiral of the Pirates for Tradewinds Rehabilitation Center. Currently, Joe is a board member for the Arthritis Foundation, Hoosier Boys Town, and the Northwest Indiana Forum, Inc. Joe also is a member of the Hammond Times editorial board.

On this special day, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. Joe's large circle of family and friends can be proud of the contributions this prominent individual has made. His work in the labor movement has made America Work. Those in the movement will miss Joe's dedication and sincerity. Fortunately, the community as a whole will continue to profit from his unselfish involvement to make northwest Indiana a better place in which to live and work. I sincerely wish Joe a long, happy, and productive retirement.

#### OUR NATION'S FLAG

### HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 1995*

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I testified before the House Judiciary Committee on an amendment I am proposing to protect our Nation's flag. This matter is very dear to my heart and to the hearts of many Americans. The American flag always brings our nation together, rich or poor, in good times or bad. This symbol is recognized the world over for the good that we have done and will do as long as we have this flag. Do we, as Americans, really believe that the passage of this amendment to protect our national symbol will, in any way, harm or detract from, the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution? I say no, this amendment does not remove rights, it restores them.

I can recall scenes I have seen from Civil War battles where Union soldiers would drop their weapon and pick the Stars and Stripes off the ground from a fallen comrade who had been killed holding up these colors for America. Mr. Speaker, now is our time to pick up the American flag and treat it with the greatest amount of reverence.

I would like to draw your attention to the remarks of one American who has picked up the flag and who is carrying and protecting our flag for many Americans. Ron James, an ex-