

On the humanitarian front this policy reversal would represent a death knell to future efforts on the part of the U.S. to get the U.N. and other countries to cooperate with us in addressing a migration flow where there is belief that some, but not all, the members of that population may be refugees.

This policy reversal is based on a misapprehension that the screening procedures in the region have been basically flawed. The fact is that massive international effort and resources have gone into screening the applicants in this region. Indeed, more effort has been made in southeast Asia to determine whether someone meets the refugee definition than in any other part of the world. The international standard of who is a refugee is incorporated in this review process. This international standard was incorporated in the Refugee Act of 1980 into U.S. law and in turn into the Worldwide Processing Guidelines of the INS.

The implementation of this standard is subjective. In order to protect against errors reviews of problematic cases are possible under current arrangements. If there is reasonable doubt regarding some of the recent decisions a more effective way to address these concerns would be to encourage a re-review of the few cases where there is an issue. It is an overreaction to scuttle the CPA when problems can be worked out within its framework and procedures.

Significant effort has been made to promote voluntary repatriation of those determined not be refugees and to provide monitoring of their situation back in Vietnam once they return. So far as I know, UNHCR has not reported any instances of situations where Vietnamese who have returned have been persecuted or been maltreated. The effects of this provision, of course, would be to cut funds which can support the return, monitoring, and assistance to the Vietnamese who go back either voluntarily or involuntarily.

The intention may be to reserve funds for the resettlement of a larger number of Vietnamese or Laotians. So long, however, as the refugee definition is the standard that is used to adjudicate claims, the reality is going to be that very few of the people in the camps will meet the standard.

While I would be against it, we can, of course, decide, bilaterally, to admit Vietnamese and Laotians under the terms of the Lautenberg Amendment. It is, however, unreasonable to expect that the countries in the region who are adjudicating these claims with UNHCR oversight would be willing to apply this standard to their own review of these cases.

Given strong sentiments in this country to restrict the numbers of new immigrants, my guess is that there would be strong opposition to bringing substantial numbers of Vietnamese and Laotians to the U.S., either as refugees or special humanitarian entrants. It is also unlikely that normal immigration numbers would be allocated to this group as there has been an effort to get Vietnamese to apply for immigration to the U.S. from within Vietnam. If these assumptions are true then the result of this expression of sympathy for the Vietnamese in the camps that have been screened out can be to provide them with a false hope. At best, it could lead to a situation where people who were becoming reconciled to returning to their country would re-commit themselves to remaining in the camps. Worse outcomes could be a renewed flow of boat people and even worse riots or other disruptions and violence in the camps.

As a former official with the Office of Refugee Resettlement during the peak of the Indochinese refugee resettlement program, I cannot personally be accused of lack of sym-

pathy or concern for the plight of the Indochinese. I feel the decisions made around the Comprehensive Plan of Action were the right decisions, both for the countries concerned and the migrants involved. To reverse course now will have negative effects on efforts to address the plight of refugees everywhere.

Thank you for seeking my comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

DENNIS GALLAGHER,
Executive Director.

THE TAX FAIRNESS FOR FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND SMALL BUSINESSES ACT

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 1995

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation that will provide for tax changes to benefit farmers, ranchers, and small businesses. This legislation is entitled the "Tax Fairness for Farmers, Ranchers, and Small Businesses Act."

This bill contains three major changes in Federal tax policy which will help to support farmers and ranchers through bad years, support the entry into business of beginning farmers, ranchers and small businesses, and place family farmers, ranchers and small businesses on a level playing field with their corporate counterparts.

The first change this bill would make is to create a form of income averaging under which farmers and ranchers would be permitted to carry forward any standard deductions and personal exemptions that go unused during a low-income year. This would help farmers and ranchers even out the cycle of ups and downs in agricultural income caused by the weather, giving them increased ability to recover after a devastating year.

Second, this bill would help promote beginning farmers and small businesses, by allowing a one-time capital gains exemption up to \$500,000 for farmers and ranchers over 55 who sell their farm or ranch to a qualified beginning farmer or a lineal descendant, and by allowing a similar exemption for owners of small businesses who sell the business to a lineal descendant. A retiring farmer would therefore have an incentive to sell his land to a beginning farmer, and because of the tax break he would be able to offer that land for sale at a lower price than he otherwise might demand.

Third, this legislation would establish and make permanent a 100-percent deduction of health insurance premiums for self-employed persons. Corporations have the ability to deduct the full cost of their health insurance premiums, and it is only fair for farmers and small business owners to have the same right. It is time for this inequity to end.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and the rest of my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation, and work with me to bring tax fairness to our Nation's family farmers, ranchers, and small business owners.

TRIBUTE TO A 31ST DISTRICT VOLUNTEER

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 1995

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a minute to make a few remarks in recognition of a very special lady. Dorothy Brownell is a remarkable woman. She has a wonderful blend of energy, wit, and commitment. She keeps everyone around her on their toes.

A former school dental hygienist, she officially retired in 1976. I got to know her during her second career—as a volunteer. For more than 7 years, she has been the cornerstone of our Jamestown district office. She could write the book on volunteerism—that is, if she ever slowed down long enough to put pen to paper.

Let me recap just a few of her interests. She has dished up food at a local food bank; is an officer with the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, Foster Grandparents Program, and the United Senior Council; worked with the United Way; has been an ombudsman for long-term care at an area nursing home, and worked on the county Veterans' Listing Program. You'll have to take my word for it—this litany only scratches the surface. Other activities have been sandwiched between trips to Ireland, Italy, and any number of our own States.

Dorothy has been recognized for her efforts. She received the New York State Legislative Achievement Award; was named United Senior Council's 1990 Senior Citizen of the year; received a Certificate of Achievement from Manor Oak Nursing Home and another for her work with Catholic Charities Outreach for the Aging. On top of that, Dorothy took a silver medal for swimming in the 1990 Senior Olympics.

What prompts my remarks today is that Dorothy, at the tender age of 77, is calling it quits. She's launching her second retirement with a train trip across Canada and following up with courses at Elderhostels. To record that she'll be missed is an understatement—but this little lady with the great big heart deserves the very best life has to offer.

SALUTE TO DR. RAYMOND M. OLSON

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 1995

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a selfless community leader and educator who has spent his life helping those around him find strength and guidance through two principal sources—education and religion.

Dr. Raymond M. Olson was born nearly 85 years ago on a farm near Eagle Grove, IA. But those of us who make our homes in Ventura County are grateful for the fact that he found his way out West and has selflessly dedicated himself to improving the lives of the people around him.

In his long, distinguished and varied career, Dr. Olson has served as a teacher, a pastor