

(6) Stability so people can plan for the future

SIX POINTS OF POLICY

- (1) A single tax rate
- (2) A generous personal exemption to remove the burden on those least able to pay
- (3) Lower tax rates for America's families
- (4) Payroll tax deductibility for workers
- (5) Ending biases against work, saving, and investment
- (6) Making the new tax system hard to change

TIME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are busy talking about flat taxes and sales taxes and reducing the tax on interest and dividends. What we should all be talking about is lowering the tax on labor and job skills and increasing it on pollutants.

Global warming is happening. Those who lived through the snow storms of early January may want to laugh. Do not. The following article from the January 10, 1996, New York Times by two environmental experts points out that the recent blizzards are what we should come to expect as the environment changes.

I have introduced legislation to remove tax subsidies on the extraction of polluting fuels and minerals. I am preparing legislation to move to the next step and gradually increase taxes on pollutants that contribute to global warming and the degradation of the environment. The money raised from these taxes can be used to fund lower taxes on wages and incomes, so that the average citizen is not hurt by these environmental taxes and so that our whole economy can begin to work for the long-term health of the world environment.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 10, 1996]

BAD WEATHER? JUST WAIT

(By John Harte and Daniel Lashof)

As the Northeast bowed before an extraordinary blizzard, southern Californians basked in record-breaking heat. Some speculated that this freakish weather was further evidence of long-term global climate change. But focusing on individual events would be a mistake. Unusual weather conditions have always been normal.

This does not mean that global climate change is not occurring. A United Nations scientific panel recently concluded for the first time that global warming had begun and would intensify because of rising levels of heat-trapping gases emitted by burning coal, oil and natural gas. The magnitude of the change is uncertain, but over the next 100 years, the panel estimated, the planet's average surface temperature is expected to rise by 1.4 to 6.3 degrees Fahrenheit.

The important news about this projected rise is not going to break the way it does for dramatic weather. Continued warming is likely to result in a gradual parching of soil in many regions of the world, possibly leading to declining crop yields even as the global population rises. When does this trend become "news"?

Sea levels will also rise, slowly inundating Asian farmland, entire islands in the South Pacific and coastal cities and harbors throughout the world. Coral reefs will die in the warmer oceans, and grasslands will give

way to desert shrubs that can survive on less water, reducing food for grazing animals.

Producers of coal and oil, as well as some economists, say that we should learn to live with these changes because doing so will be far cheaper than reducing carbon dioxide emissions enough to halt global warming.

Leaving aside the fact that such conclusions ignore potential social and ecological disruption that is difficult to put in monetary terms, a growing body of research and experience indicates that reducing emissions sufficiently is not only possible but makes economic sense. Although the challenge is greater in rapidly developing countries where energy demands are rising most, industrialized nations can lead the way in reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

The cost of solving environmental problems has routinely been overestimated. Take the ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons. Ten years ago, the chemical industry and other "experts" said that finding an economic alternative to these substances would be impossible. Yet once the industry was forced to find substitutes for them, under international agreements beginning in 1987, it managed to phase them out completely in two-thirds the time allowed for just a 50 percent cut, in many cases at a profit.

Or consider the shift in fuel economy standards. Before minimum standards were established in 1975, the automobile industry claimed that doubling fuel efficiency, as required, would force everyone to drive compact cars. Ten years later, the standard had been achieved, while the average size of a car had hardly changed.

Why were these estimates so far off? In part, opponents of the new regulations wanted to stimulate political opposition. But independent economists often made similar projections, apparently forgetting that political pressure spurs technological innovation. For this reason, some economists believe that the costs of stemming global warming will continue to fall—but only if the pressure to change exists.

So far, the United States, with all its wealth and technology, has not made a serious commitment to reduce emissions. Only if we unleash our ingenuity to find solutions can we expect poorer countries to follow suit.

CARL SHAFFER HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 1996

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an honor that is being bestowed upon my close personal friend Mr. Carl T. Shaffer. Carl is a farmer who resides in my congressional district who has been selected as "Master Farmer of the Year" by Penn State University and Pennsylvania Farmer Magazine.

Carl Shaffer is the owner and operator of a 1,000 acre vegetable farm in Columbia County, PA. The farm's average annual crop production totals include 600 acres of corn, 20 acres of oats, 60 acres of wheat, 30 acres of carrots, and 300 acres of snap beans. I have visited his farm on numerous occasions and have been greatly impressed by its yields, which have been produced under approved conservation plans.

I am proud to tell my colleagues that Carl's leadership is not confined to the boundaries of his farm, but extends to many agricultural ad-

visory boards and organizations. Carl currently serves as the state committee chair for the consolidated farm services agency, and as a board member of the agricultural advisory board for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, Carl is president of the board of directors of the Agricultural Awareness Foundation of Pennsylvania, and a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Board of Directors. He has also served on the boards of the Pennsylvania Vegetable Marketing and Research Program, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, and the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association. Locally, Carl was the president of the Columbia County Farmer's Bureau and the Columbia County Crop Improvement Association.

Mr. Speaker, Carl Shaffer is not only an extremely involved activist on agricultural issues, he is an outstanding member of his community. He is an active member of the Mifflinville Methodist Church and the 4H Horse and Pony Club. An ardent Democrat, Carl served on the Columbia County Democratic Committee Executive Board and as a member of the Penn-Ag Democrats.

Every year, Penn State University and Pennsylvania Farmer Magazine join together to honor outstanding farmers and confer upon them the degree of "Master Farmer." The outstanding men and women who have been honored with this recognition have not only made significant contribution to the agricultural industry, but have also worked for the betterment of the society in which they live. Knowing of the special qualities that one must possess to be honored with this award, I believe that Carl Shaffer is a perfect candidate for Master Farmer of the Year.

I have known Carl for many years and I have had the pleasure to work with him on many occasions. His good stewardship extends far beyond his farm. He has given of himself to his community and continues to work for the welfare of his neighbors. Not only is Carl a competent and aggressive problem-solver, he is a warm and caring individual. When I need well-thought-out advice on agricultural issues, I call upon Carl for his astute understanding of complex policy matters.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor for me to pay tribute to a man who has worked to provide so much to so many people. Carl Shaffer truly deserves this honor. I am confident that Carl will continue working on behalf of his fellow farmers and I warmly congratulate him on being named "Master Farmer of the Year."

HEADWATERS FOREST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 22, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Headwaters Forest in Humboldt County, CA, is one of the world's largest stands of privately owned ancient redwoods; however, this beautiful forest is in imminent danger of destruction. The Pacific Lumber Co., directed by Charles Hurwitz, has already logged thousands of acres and has indicated a desire to log some of the forest's last remaining 2,000-year-old giant redwoods.

Presently, Mr. Hurwitz, is the subject of two Federal lawsuits totaling approximately \$650