

which seem only to increase while layoffs grow and worker pay stagnates. Many of our constituents may be surprised to learn, however, that our Government allows corporations generous tax deductions for corporate pay. Meanwhile, the lowest paid worker in the company could be earning the minimum wage and be below the poverty level.

In granting such tax deductions, our Government is implicitly encouraging this type of excessive compensation. I believe that in giving business this tax deduction, we should expect something in return. This is why I introduced the Income Equity Act, H.R. 620. My bill would restrict the amount of executive pay that is tax deductible by linking the tax deduction of those who make the most at a company with the salaries of those who make the least. H.R. 620 would limit the tax deductibility of executive pay to 25 times that of the lowest paid full-time worker. For example, if the lowest paid worker in a company is a janitor who is paid \$10,000 per year, then any amount of salary paid to the CEO above \$250,000 would no longer be tax deductible as a cost of doing business.

My bill will not restrict the freedom of companies to pay its workers and executives as they please. H.R. 620 will, however, send a strong message that companies should look out for those at the bottom as well as those at the top of the income ladder. H.R. 620 would also raise the minimum wage from the current \$4.25 to \$6.50 per hour, making up for the loss in buying power the minimum wage has experienced.

The Income Equity Act would be an important first step in crafting Government policies that encourage responsible corporate citizenship. I do not seek to burden businesses, but they must realize that we all have roles to play in bridging the income gap. Today, I ask your support for the Income Equity Act, which is just one piece of what must be a comprehensive plan to restore working Americans' faith in our economy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, due to a snow emergency in my district that began early March 19, 1996, I was unable to return to Washington, DC, until late evening on March 20, 1996. As a result of this unforeseen delay, I missed the vote on passage of House Concurrent Resolution 48. Had I been able to be here for these votes I would have voted "yea" on roll No. 70.

STEVEN REDDINGTON'S WINNING ESSAY

HON. MICHAEL PATRICK FLANAGAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, the winner of the first annual Fifth Congressional District essay contest is Steven Reddington, a student in the Saint Priscilla School at 7001 West

Addison Street in Chicago. The principal of the school, Sister Joyce Roehl, is to be commended for allowing her students to participate in the contest.

Evidently, Steven Reddington has learned the lessons of his English faculty adviser, Ms. Corinne Schade, well. The contest asked students to write about an American invention of the student's choosing and describe how that invention impacted society. Over 100 schools in the Fifth District were invited to participate in the essay contest and my office received an overwhelming response. Out of all the essays received, Steven's was the only one that was written from the perspective of the inventor. He chose to write about Thomas Edison and his electric light bulb. Steven entitled his imaginative and inventive essay, "The Quest for Light."

I urge my colleagues to read Steven's essay. If you do, you will find a fine example of creative writing by a young man who may well make a mark in American literature in the 21st century. Steven Reddington's essay follows:

THE QUEST FOR LIGHT

(By Steven Reddington)

As the sun begins to set, the light in my laboratory grows too faint to work any longer. I must put away my work until tomorrow. Out on the street the arc lamps are lit to burn until the sun rises again. I have thought long about finding an artificial light, and each day my endless research takes me closer to my goal.

How the world would change with my invention. I can only imagine what it would be like to have light twenty-four hours a day. Life in the home would change dramatically. There would be no more going to bed when the room became too dark for seeing. Now I could read the morning newspaper in the evening while my children study or play games. One day would be so much longer. The economy would flourish. Factories could run all day and night producing more goods and employing new workers. In turn these workers would have more money to spend, and more time to spend it. This would open up a whole new world of nightly entertainment for people to enjoy. Now we could attend social gatherings and church services that before would only take place during daylight hours.

Picture what Grand Central Station would be like with thousands of glowing lights as passengers board the midnight trains to Boston. Hospitals could care for the sick, and perform life saving operations without the use of dim light given off by oil burning lamps. Fires from these type of lamps would no longer be a concern. All the lives and homes that would be spared if a new source of light could be produced. The benefits and use to humanity would certainly be worth all the painstaking hours of work that I have dedicated to this project. As I've always said, "One-percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration!"

It is now October of 1874, I believe I have finally realized my dream. At my laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, I have before me a glass tube with a wire thread inside of it. Next, electricity flows through a wire and into the glass tube. The wire thread glows with heat, and the room is illuminated with a soft light. As I gaze with pride, I understand the effects this will have on the future of our everyday lives.

Now if I could give it the proper name. Maybe I should call it the Thomas Edison, or perhaps the Edison Bulb. No, I have it! I'll call it the light bulb. That would be a most fitting name!

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. WILLIAM JOHN NICHOLS, U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 28, 1996

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication, public service, and patriotism of Lt. Col. William John Nichols, U.S. Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement after a career of faithful service to our Nation. Col. John Nichols' strong commitment to excellence will leave a lasting impact on the vitality of our modern warfighters, commanding admiration and respect from his military colleagues and Members of Congress.

Colonel Nichols, a 1977 graduate of Cornell University and the Reserve Officer Training Corps, is serving his last day of a 15-month assignment as the special assistant for space, command, control, communications, and intelligence, and special operations programs, with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

Colonel Nichols' first duty assignment was to the 6931st Electronic Security Squadron, Iraklion Air Station, Crete, Greece, as a flight commander, from April 1978 through July 1980. John was then sent to Osan Air Base, Korea, where he headed intelligence collection operations in support of U.S. Forces in Korea. He was also responsible for U-2 intelligence collection operations during this 1-year remote assignment. In August 1981, John was reassigned to Headquarters Electronic Security Command in San Antonio, TX, where he managed tactical intelligence collection assets. Next Colonel Nichols was assigned to 13th Air Force at Clark Air Base, Philippines, from January 1983 to October 1984, where he was responsible for electronic combat programs throughout the Pacific region. In this capacity, John orchestrated the first ever involvement of electronic combat and intelligence assets into Cope Thunder air combat training exercises.

Colonel Nichols was next assigned as detachment commander for the 6947th Electronic Security Squadron in Key West, FL, where he led a 70-person intelligence operation providing key support to operations in the Caribbean Basin. After almost 3 years in this position John was assigned to RAF Mildenhall, England, in July 1987 as the operations officer for the 6988th Electronic Security Squadron. In this job he led a 200-person RC-135 airborne reconnaissance operation in support of theater and national intelligence collection requirements. In July 1990, he was reassigned to Air University in Alabama where he was a distinguished graduate and top performer at Air Command Staff College and where he earned a master of airpower art and science degree as a student in the first class of the School of Advanced Airpower Studies.

In July 1992, Colonel Nichols was assigned to the intelligence staff at Headquarters U.S. Air Force in the Pentagon. He quickly moved to the Air Force Secretariat where he was assigned to the Office of Legislative Affairs. After serving for a year and a half in this capacity he moved to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs where he ably represented the Department of Defense on important intelligence issues until his retirement today. John's support of the Congress and in particular to the House Permanent Select