

pot or the mixed salad analogy, the underlying truth of the matter remains: We are a nation of immigrants. As the grandson of immigrants, I have seen firsthand how difficult it can be to assimilate into a new society while still remembering your roots. The community of Peruvian-Americans in my district has succeeded in doing just that. For their immeasurable contributions to the richness of our society, I applaud all of the legal immigrants who collectively make up the fabric of these United States. We are all unique individuals, but we truly are also one Nation under God.

AN ADDITIONAL TOOL FOR TRYING TO REFORM CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, recent communications between the Department of Labor and California show we have another problem to correct in restoring power to the States. Bluntly, the Department is saying California has to pay unemployment benefits to certain criminals being released from prison.

Current Federal law requires employers to pay Federal employment [FUTA] taxes on work performed by their employees. This includes prison inmates who work for private companies through innovative work programs established in several States, including California. Today, some 200 people in California prisons are employed in jobs provided under agreements between the State and private businesses. However, FUTA taxes do not have to be paid for work by prisoners employed in prison operations such as the laundry or cabinet shop.

Since FUTA taxes are paid on behalf of some prisoners, the U.S. Department of Labor ruled that these prisoners must be paid unemployment benefits upon their release from their job—essentially, when they are released from prison. Failure to comply is serious: California employers, for example, would lose tax credits worth \$1.7 billion for FUTA taxes they pay on other workers if the California program is disqualified.

Why does Labor take this position? The Federal unemployment insurance program only permits denial of employment benefits in three cases: if the worker's income exceeds certain limits; the claim is fraudulent; or the employee was fired for misconduct. Since prisoners lose their jobs when paroled or released from prison, they do not fit the exceptions.

California voters established the Joint Venture Program in 1990, creating a private work program for prison inmates. Criminals' wages are used to compensate victims, offset incarceration costs, and set-aside funds—20 percent—for the inmate's support upon his or her release from prison. In 1996, California voters overwhelmingly passed an initiative (Proposition 194) that denies unemployment benefits to criminals participating in the Joint Venture Program.

The Department of Labor decision would force California either to pay out unemployment benefits to released prisoners or to eliminate a program that has been successful in helping criminals transition back into the work

force. Allowing employees to lose \$1.7 billion in credits for taxes they pay on the services of ordinary working people is not an option, needless to say.

Legislation I am introducing today would change the law to treat all prison inmates who participate in work programs the same: Their services would be exempt from the FUTA tax. This would effectively deny unemployment benefits to released prisoners and prohibit the Department of Labor from placing such a ridiculous requirement on the States. The bill's enactment would give States an additional tool to use in trying to reform criminal behavior and I hope my colleagues will agree to its adoption in the near future.

TRIBUTE TO IRVING GEORGE LIEBERFARB

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Irving George Lieberfarb, a distinguished American from Lake Worth, FL, who recently passed away.

Mr. Lieberfarb was a worthy and admirable individual whose absence is a tragic loss to his family and his community. He was very active in the B'nai B'rith movement, and his synagogue Petach Tikva Congregation, on behalf of many worthy causes. It was Mr. Lieberfarb who brought to my attention the matter of Varian Fry, an American who had saved thousands of Jewish lives during World War II, but had never been honored. In 1939 Mr. Fry had requested the State Department allow him to secure the passage of Jewish refugees suffering under the Nazi regime. The Government responded by reluctantly offering merely 200 visas, and eventually put an end to his work by forcing him to return to America. When he criticized the U.S. immigration policy, upon his return, the Government shunned him and refused to recognize his noble deeds.

I had read Mr. Lieberfarb's article about Varian Fry and was disturbed that the actions of this man were ignored for so long. Therefore, I introduced H.R. 3352, legislation to award the congressional gold medal of honor to Varian Fry's family in honor of his great accomplishments. Mr. Lieberfarb's efforts for this cause alone exhibits his concern for righteousness and justice. It was an honor to have known him.

For this reason, I also wish to insert in the RECORD the kind words submitted by his family to the New York Times, on Friday, June 28, 1996.

Irving George Lieberfarb, of Lakewood Florida, died on June 26, 1996, Beloved husband of Irene, father of Jay and Richard. Loving grandfather of Suzanne and Julie. Brother of Mae Zeller, Daniel, and Eddie. Loving uncle of many nephews and nieces. Always thinking how much he could do for his family.

We will never forget your positive influence and always concern for the special interest of the many friends and relations. With love and gratitude, your niece and nephews, Warren, Bonnie, Monte and Jim.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEEP RIVER, CT FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Deep River, CT fire department which serves the community of Deep River with selflessness, energy, and commitment each and every day.

The first organizational meeting of the Deep River fire department was held in March 1896. Since that time, the department has grown to its present size of nearly 40 persons, receives over 200 calls each year, and has at its disposal a fleet of four pumper trucks, one emergency truck, one brush truck, and one fire boat. The Deep River fire department has also expanded to two stations which serve the local community: The fire department headquarters at the center of Deep River and a smaller station in the Winthrop section of town.

The Deep River fire department has served the community faithfully, often demonstrating real ingenuity in its work to keep the community safe. In Deep River, CT, Mr. Speaker, the only fire hydrants are located in town. The department, though, serves not only the town, but many rural areas as well. In those rural areas, using vast amounts of fire hose, the department employs a combination of skill and improvisation to obtain water from nearby streams and ponds, offering rural residents the same level of emergency service as is enjoyed by those who reside in town.

On September 29 of this year, the Deep River fire department will continue the celebration of its 100th anniversary with a community parade. At this parade, the national flag fire truck will make its way to Deep River, a further honor to this most deserving department.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members of the House of Representatives join me today in recognizing the accomplishments and achievements of the Deep River fire department on its 100th anniversary, and offering our best wishes for another 100 years of distinguished service and generous sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE EISENBERG-KEEFER AND MEL KEEFER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 1996

Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer and Mel Keefer for their extraordinary charitable activities.

Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer, president and administrator of the Ben B. and Joyce E. Eisenberg Foundation, is a leader in efforts to improve the quality of life of the elderly, youth, and cancer victims.

In 1993, she established the Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer Breast Center at St. John's Hospital and Health Center, a comprehensive center for the study and treatment of breast cancer that sees 10,000 patients each year.