

anticompetitive conditions which would complicate an Open Skies agreement with the United Kingdom. He never talked with anyone from the Department of Transportation.

Fourth, more than 4 years after having any representation of British Airways, having had no financial interest in his former law firm's representation of British Airways, having had no contact with British Airways in any official capacity even to this day, and conforming to the letter and spirit of the ethics requirements, he has continued to act, as he has throughout his public career, with the highest ethical standards. Indeed, he continues meeting the highest standards and has now decided to go beyond anything required and recuse himself from further involvement on this issue until DOT makes its administrative finding.

Fifth, this is confirmed by the following statement which was approved by the highest ethics official in the State Department:

Under Secretary Eizenstat's recent discussions with EU officials regarding the British Airways-American Airlines alliance were fully consistent with Government ethical guidelines and regulations.

No law or regulation requires recusal in this case. Government ethics rules require that an official not participate in a matter only in two instances: when the official has a financial interest in the matter or when the matter involves in certain cases a former client whom the official represented within the last year. Neither instance applies here: Under Secretary Eizenstat does not have a financial interest in this matter; he last represented British Airways 4 year ago.

Under Secretary Eizenstat's 1993 statement of recusal on British Airways, referred to in the JOC [Journal of Commerce] article, resulted from his representation of the British Airways on a matter unrelated to the AA/BA [American Airlines/British Airways] alliance. The recusal was limited to the period when he served as U.S. Ambassador to the EU, a position that he no longer holds. Neither the law, the Congress, nor Government ethics officials required that he continue this recusal when he assumed his present position as Under Secretary.

His current recusal provides as follows: "Finally, I will recuse myself from participation on a case-by-case basis in any particular matter in which, in my judgment, it is desirable for me to do so in order to avoid the possible appearance of impropriety, despite the lack of any actual conflict." Both Under Secretary Eizenstat and Department ethics officials have believed that the Under Secretary need not recuse himself under this provision from discussions with the EU on the AA/BA alliance because 4 years have passed since he represented BA and because his representation of BA was on a different issue than the pending area.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor and privilege of representing California's 17th Congressional District and,

on behalf of all the residents of the central coast, I would like to commend to my colleagues' attention the 25th anniversary of Monterey-Salinas Transit.

The Monterey Peninsula Public Transit System Joint Powers Agency was formed by the cities of Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside, and the County of Monterey on October 1, 1997. As the predecessor of Monterey-Salinas Transit, it served the Monterey Peninsula area, later expanded to provide service to the cities of Marina, Salinas, and Watsonville, now serving all of Northern Monterey County.

I am proud to claim that my district has been among the first in the country to promote community livability and sustainable development initiatives that enhance the quality of life for all its citizens. Monterey-Salinas Transit recognizes the benefit of sustainable development and the need to utilize clean technologies. One-quarter of the bus fleet is powered by clean natural gas [CNG] and future plans call for the total MST fleet and support vehicles to be fueled with CNG, a much more environmentally friendly source of fuel.

It is the foresight of the MST member jurisdictions that has enabled the transit service to be on the cutting edge of technology and service, with ridership of some 4 million passengers each year, including a paratransit van service for disabled customers, and a waterfront area visitor express service for tourists. As we stand on the threshold of the 21st century, I am pleased to commend Monterey-Salinas Transit for providing 25 years of exemplary public service to the central coast of California, and ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to wish them well on the next 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELO VOLPE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the most enthusiastic person I have ever met, Angelo Volpe, the president of Tennessee Technological University.

Angelo Volpe is a distinguished scholar and scientist that any university would be proud to have as a president. During Dr. Volpe's 10 years tenure as the president of Tennessee Tech, he has brought energy and a level of enthusiasm that is contagious to the entire community. As the founder of Sharing the Vision, a university-wide fundraising campaign, President Volpe has made the dream of college a reality for many students who could not afford tuition. He not only recognizes the value of a university education, but also acknowledges the need for a campus that meets a wide range of student needs. During his tenure, President Volpe has overseen the creation of a new library and a recreation and fitness center. These additions have greatly expanded student resources and added to the stature of the university.

Angelo Volpe's strong chemistry background is also an asset to the university. He came to Tennessee Tech from East Carolina University and I know they must still feel the loss of this talented and visionary man. His pursuit of scientific knowledge has made him a member in

good standing in such organizations as the American Chemical Society, the Tennessee Academy of Science, and a past president of the Tennessee College Association.

Although a Brooklyn native, Dr. Volpe has adjusted perfectly to southern life and has made Cookeville, TN his home. He is a tireless leader in the field of education and a prominent member of the Cookeville community and the Rotary Club. But no man is an island. Dr. Volpe has had the support and advice of his able wife, Jennette. Jennette has a Ph.D. in psychology and has been invaluable in assisting her husband with his duties as president of Tennessee Tech. They are active members of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and in the local community.

I am grateful that President Volpe will continue to lead Tennessee Tech into the 21st century. I know that with Dr. Volpe at the helm, this university will continue to prosper. He has given of his time, expertise, and energy to make Tennessee Tech an outstanding university and in turn, I would like for us to recognize his accomplishments today and wish him luck in the coming years.

REFORMING THE INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a series of letters between myself and the White House on the subject of reforming the Internal Revenue Service.

The correspondence sadly demonstrates how removed from the concerns of the American people the White House appears on this important topic. Last week, the entire country saw ordinary taxpayers as well as IRS agents and managers offer dramatic testimony on many of the outrageous practices of the agency. Apparently, the White House staff were the only people in the country not to be concerned about this abusive behavior.

I hope that the White House will join with millions of American citizens and commit to reforming the IRS immediately.

THE SPEAKER,

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 29, 1997.

President WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I was gravely disturbed to read the comments in the press today from your top economic advisor, Gene Sperling, on the subject of reforming the IRS.

Americans have watched with horror in recent weeks as hearings in the Senate and House have uncovered dozens of documented instances of gross incompetence, harassment, and abuse of authority by agents of the IRS. According to the testimony of past and current IRS employees—some of whom were forced to disguise their voices and hide their faces for fear of retaliation—it has been standard practice within the agency to target poor individuals who could not afford to fight and to measure agents' performance on the number and amount of seizures they make.