

demand for the new coin has reached 200 million in the first month. It took the Susan B. Anthony four years to reach that level.

U.S. Mint Director Philip Diehl says he doesn't mind the controversy as long as the coin is a success. "I'd rather have a noisy success than a quiet failure," he says.

Mr. Diehl says the U.S. Mint got a lukewarm response from most banks when it first approached them about potential demand for the coin last summer. In response, he says, the Mint decided to talk to some retailers about putting the coin into circulation. Only two retailers showed interest: Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Ark., and 7-Eleven Inc., of Dallas. At the same time, the Mint also crafted an agreement with General Mills Inc. to distribute the coin in selected Cheerios boxes—11 million in all—beginning last month.

Because of the logistical difficulties of distributing coins to its stores, 7-Eleven dropped out of the agreement, says Dana Manley, marketing communications manager for the convenience-store chain. However, Wal-Mart was willing to buy 100 million coins and promote them nationally in its stores.

Wal-Mart spokeswoman Laura Pope says the company was excited to work with the Mint. "Our goal is to offer customers something unique that they can only find at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores," she says. Wal-Mart promoted the new coin in a mailing distributed to 90 million customers at the end of January.

The Mint's Wal-Mart strategy seems to have worked, helped by the coin's golden color, to make the new dollar more popular than its Anthony predecessor. Most banks in search of the coin have started referring their customers to Wal-Mart. Even Ms. Baker eventually gave up on her quest to buy coins from the local Wal-Mart for her bank branch.

After two days of buying a few coins at a time (each Wal-Mart has its own policy of how many coins it will give out at one time), her tellers rebelled. "Some employees went out and said, 'I could only get three coins and I'm keeping them,'" she says. "Frankly, now we're telling customers to go to Wal-Mart."

#### CHANGING OUR TAX CODE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we talk a lot here about tax cuts. We talk about tax increases. But we do not often talk about changing our Tax Code. The President's proposal makes 192 separate changes to the Tax Code. The IRS book is about 5 pounds. The code itself is already 3,400 pages of text. That is 1,600 pages longer than the King James version of the Bible, and at least the Bible is large type, but you need a magnifying glass to read the IRS code. There are more than 2000 separate sections of the Code, tens of thousands of subsections, tens of thousands of pages of regulations and interpretive rulings. Now the President wants to add another 192 sections to the code which will surely make up several hundred additional pages of mindless complexity.

As I indicated, the President is proposing more than \$95 billion of new taxes on a wide variety of industries. There are new taxes that are being proposed at a time when the Government is already taking in more than it spends. I wonder if there is any end to

Washington's appetite for more money from the American people.

Regarding especially the President's proposal to impose \$1 billion in new taxes on our mining industry, I guess he is trying to drive it offshore. The President has submitted this proposal every year for at least the past 4 years and I say this proposal is going to meet the same fate it has met every time it has been sent to the hill. It will be killed, and I can promise you that. I can assure you, the same tired, worn-out proposals to add \$13 billion of new taxes to the insurance industry will never again see the light of day. I notice there are other proposals the President has proposed, but I am sure most of my colleagues share my sentiment that we do not need to raise taxes by \$95 billion at this time, when most of what is contained in the tax code should be summarily rejected.

I conclude by saying what we need is tax reform. As a consequence, the President's proposal to add 192 separate sections to the Tax Code hardly is reform.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent my friend, the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, be recognized after I complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF BRADLEY SMITH TO THE FEC

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, the President sent a nomination to the Senate that anyone who cares about the campaign finance laws in this country will find very troubling. I speak of the nomination of Bradley Smith to a 6-year term on the Federal Election Commission. Mr. Smith's views on the federal election laws, as expressed in law review articles, interviews, op-eds, speeches over the past half decade are disturbing, to say the least. He should not be on the regulatory body charged with enforcing and interpreting those very laws.

Today I am placing a very public hold on this nomination. I will object to its consideration on the floor and I ask all of my colleagues who support campaign finance reform to oppose this nomination.

In a 1997 opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal, Mr. Smith wrote the following:

When a law is in need of continual revision to close a series of ever-changing "loopholes," it is probably the law, and not the people, that is in error. The most sensible reform is a simple one: repeal of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

That's right, the man who the President has just nominated to serve on the Federal Election Commission believes the Federal campaign laws

should be repealed. Thomas Jefferson said we should have a revolution in this country every 20 years. He believed that laws should constantly be revised and revisited to make sure they were responsive to the needs of society at any given time. Yet, Mr. Smith sees the need for loophole closing in the federal election laws as evidence that the whole system should be scrapped.

In a policy paper published by the Cato Institute, for whom Mr. Smith has written extensively in recent years, he says the following:

FECA [the Federal Election Campaign Act] and its various state counterparts are profoundly undemocratic and profoundly at odds with the First Amendment.

I wonder how Mr. Smith will reconcile those views with his new position as one of six individuals responsible for enforcing and implementing the statute and any future reforms that the Congress might pass. He has shown such extreme disdain in his writings and public statements for the very law he would be charged to enforce that I simply do not think he should be entrusted with this important responsibility.

It is especially ironic and disheartening that this nomination has been made at a time when the prospects for reform and the legal landscape for those reforms have never looked better. We are all aware that certain Presidential candidates have highlighted campaign finance issues with great success. The public is more aware than ever of the critical need for reform. Campaign finance reform is and will be a major issue in the 2000 Presidential race.

In addition, just a few weeks ago, the Supreme Court issued a ringing reaffirmation of the core holding of the Buckley decision that forms the basis for the reform effort. The Court once again held that Congress has the constitutional power to limit contributions to political campaigns in order to protect the integrity of the political process from corruption or the appearance of corruption. In upholding contribution limits imposed by the Missouri legislature, Justice Souter wrote for the Court:

[T]here is little reason to doubt that sometimes large contributions will work actual corruption of our political system, and no reason to question the existence of a corresponding suspicion among voters.

In my view, the Supreme Court's ruling in the Shrink Missouri case removes all doubt as to whether the Court would uphold the constitutionality of a ban on soft money, which is the centerpiece of the reform bill that has passed the House and is now awaiting Senate action. One hundred twenty-seven legal scholars have written to us that a soft money ban is constitutional, and their analysis is strongly supported by this very recent decision of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith has a wholly different view of the core holding of Buckley, on which the arguments supporting the