

prescription drug benefit, and to reduce the number of uninsured in this country. With annual prescription drug cost inflation, any legislation to address the long-neglected need of Medicare seniors for an affordable prescription drug benefit this year will consume at least as much. Additionally, growing State fiscal woes coupled with the increase in the number of uninsured Americans will require a substantial Federal response.

With the threat of war and ongoing economic downturn, it may be difficult to consider new initiatives this year. But we must. The current economic climate is all the more reason to focus attention and resources on covering the uninsured now, when the need is great. In addition, every year that passes without adding a prescription drug benefit to Medicare, seniors continue to suffer, and the cost of adding such a benefit increases substantially. We must make every effort to provide a very real benefit for our Nation's seniors and uninsured, and I urge my colleagues to support a sufficient sum to make these goals a reality this year.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to make a suggestion about how we can work more effectively to get the engine of our economy running on all of its cylinders again.

We have heard a great deal this week about the current state of our economy and whether the President's growth plan, which he released this past Monday, will be effective in putting Americans who have lost their jobs back to work. Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are questioning whether there is a link between high taxes and jobs.

The current debate has featured quotations and commentary from some of the most prominent economists and tax experts in America. Both sides rely on knowledgeable and learned authorities to make their case that the Bush growth plan will or will not be effective in creating jobs. And, as the old saying goes, you can find an expert to prove any point you wish.

But too often, I think we tend to overlook the wisdom of people on the front lines of the U.S. economy. Sometimes these people can provide answers with clarity and common sense.

A few months ago, a small business owner in Moab, UT, Jeffrey Davis, sent me a very heartfelt letter, and his sentiment has stuck in my mind. I want to share it with my colleagues here today.

Moab is a relatively small town in southeastern Utah whose economy is greatly dependent on tourism. Within just a few miles of this town lies some of the most spectacular scenery on Earth. However, the people who make Moab their home face the same economic realities with which everyone else in America deals.

Mr. Davis owns and operates a restaurant in Moab, and over the years he

has tried his hand at a few other retail businesses as well. From his letter, it is obvious he has faced both good times and bad times with his businesses. Unfortunately, the recent trends have not been positive. He currently employs between 13 and 20 people, depending upon the season, and he worries that these people, who depend on him, might find themselves out of a job if conditions do not soon improve. Mr. Davis understands all too well the pressures that face all small business owners.

In his letter to me, Mr. Davis makes a point that is extremely important to the current debate on taxes and jobs—that if high taxes force the small business person to go out of business, the U.S. Government will not get any tax money.

As simple and obvious as that concept sounds, I fear it might be one who is sometimes lost on those of us in Congress. Taxes and other government requirements have a real cost on small businesses in this country, many of which are right at the edge of viability. In the case of businesses in many towns in Utah and around the country, things have been really tough for the past couple of years. The one-two punch of a slowing economy and the greatly reduced travel resulting from the events of September 11 have moved many thousands of small businesses in Utah and around the Nation right to the edge of going out of business. This is especially true of businesses in towns that depend heavily on tourism, such as Moab.

Tax cuts, such as the President is proposing, can make the difference between a small business surviving and it closing its doors. We must keep in mind that a high percentage of small businesses pay taxes at the individual rates.

As we debate the best way to deal with our slow recovery over the next weeks, we will surely hear a great deal more from economists and experts on the macro effect of various plans and how gross domestic product will be affected by enacting one idea or another.

These opinions and analyses are a very much needed and welcome part of the political process. But I urge my colleagues to not forget to also consider the wisdom of those back home in their States, who, like Jeffrey Davis of Moab, UT, face the real world effects of our decisions.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURTLE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Turtle Mountain Community College located on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in my State of North Dakota on its 30th anniversary.

Turtle Mountain Community College was one of the six original tribal col-

leges formed to meet the higher education needs of American Indians. Without the college, the dream of a college education would have been out of reach for so many on the reservation.

It is quite exciting to see how this college has evolved over the past 30 years. The college started from very humble beginnings. On the third floor of an abandoned Catholic convent, with fewer than 60 students and only 3 full-time faculty members, the college offered its first course to those on the reservation. Today, the college has grown to serve over 650 students, with more than 150 courses and 65 full- and part-time faculty members. Additionally, the college serves more than 250 adults who are working to earn their general equivalency degree.

Turtle Mountain Community College was the first tribal college to be granted 10-year accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and was the one of the first to fully integrate traditional culture throughout the curriculum.

By far one of the largest accomplishments for the college was the opening of its new campus building in 1999. The college worked for years to raise the needed funds to construct this facility. Located on a 234-acre site, the 105,000-square-foot facility includes state-of-the-art technology, general classroom space, science and engineering labs, a library, learning resource center, and a gymnasium.

Over 2,000 tribal members have graduated from the college since its creation, a truly commendable accomplishment. Nearly half of the graduates have gone on to other institutions to earn a 4-year degree. Last spring, the college graduated the first group of students to earn a bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

For the past 30 years, the college has also played a critical role in reservation life, supporting tribal business development, worker training to meet the needs of local industries, and year-round activities for elementary, middle, and high school students.

I congratulate the college, its faculty, and students on this momentous occasion and wish them much success in the next 30 years.●

ARTHUR ASHE

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, Arthur Ashe said: "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost." This is more than an eloquent definition of heroism; it was how Arthur Ashe lived his life.

Ashe emerged from segregated Richmond, VA, to become one of the finest individuals to play the game of tennis. He shattered barrier after barrier and showed the world that anyone who worked hard enough and trained could rise to the top. Ashe's triumphs began in Maryland in 1957 when he was the