

to \$200,000. The legislation did not pass, but I am afraid that some Members of Congress may try again this year to accomplish that goal. That would be disastrous.

Recently I wrote people in Washington to ask their opinion on lowering the estate tax exemption. Almost everyone who responded opposed this tax hike. Many of the respondents owned or worked on family farms or ranches and were very worried that lowering the estate tax exemption would jeopardize their livelihood. They felt their farms or ranches would have to be sold off in order to pay the higher taxes.

Mr. President, the average farm in Washington State is 421 acres. Most are relatively small operations working on the very thinnest of margins. They cannot afford a huge increase in taxes when a farm or ranch passes on to the next generation.

We have heard for many years about the dwindling number of small family farms and ranches and we have worked very hard to keep these hardworking people in business. Lowering the estate tax exemption will do just the opposite.

It means that the families who have scrimped and saved all their lives to build a productive business, to build something they could pass on to their children, could find themselves in a terrible situation. Their children would be served a huge tax bill by the IRS and have to sell off assets or land in order to pay the bill. Worse, it could mean bankruptcy for many of the State's family farms and ranches. These are the real life consequences of this proposal.

We must do all we can to protect the property of those who have scrimped and saved in order to carve out a little share of the American dream for themselves and their children, whether it's a rancher, a farmer, a small businessman, a retired teacher. These people have worked very hard their entire lives to create something they can pass on to their children, to leave them a legacy. It is incomprehensible that some would try and take that away by reducing the exemption. I oppose the lowering of the estate tax exemption and I will continue to fight any attempts to do so.

U.S. WEST

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, on May 17, U.S. West and Time Warner announced a strategic partnership to create an information superhighway to deliver interactive communications, entertainment and information to the home.

The purposes of the partnership is to provide consumers with immediate access to movies, programming, video games, computer data bases and services, which I hope will also include a significant amount of education and training information.

The new partnership is in many ways simply the manifestation of develop-

ments which have been evolving as the telecommunications, computer, software and related industries have converged. It is simply a market recognition that in the electronic age, the structure of the industry is going to be different. It brings together U.S. West's telecommunications expertise, including the switching capabilities which it—and the other regional bells—enjoy, and the cable infrastructure and programming capabilities of Time Warner. It is but a harbinger of things to come.

Ironically enough, Mr. President, my constituents in Nebraska—which U.S. West serves—do not stand to benefit, at least in the near term, from this new arrangement. Because of the 1984 Cable Act, U.S. West could not have entered into a partnership with a cable company in its service area. Additionally, restrictions in the modified final judgment [MFJ] continue to hamper the regional bells both in region and outside their service area.

But, that is only one of the longer term regulatory issues which are beginning to surface as a result of this alliance and other agreements which we can expect in the near future.

It is only the beginning of questions about local service competition and long distance connections.

Earlier this week, I commented on the Ameritech filing which seeks a number of changes in the way both local and long distance services are provided. I urged the FCC to review carefully the Ameritech proposal. I think it is important that the FCC do so.

But I also believe that it is time to begin a more comprehensive review of telecommunications and related policy. The world market for telecommunications, computer and related industries have been estimated by John Scully of Apple Computer at \$3.5 trillion by the year 2002. In the knowledge or information age, those who succeed are likely to be those who know how to access and use information. Technology offers opportunity but it also forces adjustment. Benefit will not naturally accrue to all. I do not believe that the Government should pick winners and losers. I do not believe that the Government should do what the private sector can do. But, I do believe that Government needs to provide the investment and regulatory environment which will allow the United States to participate fully in the multimedia world. And I believe there are equities, such as universal service and educational and public service offerings, which must be preserved.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD WHITE

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Kentucky's outstanding citizens, who has shown how much can be accomplished through hard work and dedication to a lifelong dream.

Harold White has been a pioneer in Kentucky's lumber industry from the

age of 19, when he sold lumber from the bed of an old truck. Today, Harold White Lumber, Inc. employs 85 employees and sales volume has exceed \$9,400,000. Recently, Harold was named 1993 Exporter of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration, an outstanding accomplishment.

Harold White began Harold White Lumber, Inc. in 1968 with four employees, one truck, and one forklift. At that time, a majority of the lumber was shipped to the Carolina furniture belt. Following a severe recession in the lumber industry, domestic furniture production came to a virtual standstill. Harold saw the need for diversification in the industry and recognized the potential of export markets could play in the lumber industry. In 1978, Harold constructed his first set of dry kilns so that the company could enter the export markets with kiln dried lumber. This foresight has allowed export sales to account for almost 80 percent of the company's sales. Hard work, a benevolent attitude, and good decision making has resulted in one of the largest small businesses in eastern Kentucky.

Helping Harold in the lumber business is his wife, Barbara, and their five children. In addition to running an excellent business, Harold and his family are also very involved in community-oriented projects. Following Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Harold sent supplies and trained individuals for the relief effort. Harold has sponsored several less-fortunate students at his alma mater, the National Hardwood Lumber Grading School in Memphis, TN. He was a charter member of the Kentucky World Trade Center, which assists other businesses in becoming competitive on a global market. Harold is also a founding member of the Kentucky Forest Industries Association which tackles environmental concerns as well as assisting in different aspects of the industry.

I congratulate Harold White for being a successful businessman and also being a kind and generous man to his community and others.

LEAVE SOCIAL SECURITY ALONE

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, we have heard a lot of talk recently about taxes, spending cuts, and balancing the Federal budget. While most of us agree on the goal of reducing the deficit and achieving a balanced Federal budget, we do not necessarily agree on how to accomplish those goals.

Unfortunately, some Senators, House Members, and even our President have decided that we should tap into the Social Security system to raise necessary revenues. That is wrong.

Initially, the President floated a proposal to limit COLA's on Social Security as a way to reduce the deficit. I spoke out against this, along with some of my colleagues, on the Senate floor and the President chose not to pursue this policy. We hardly had time

to breathe a sigh of relief when the President announced he would seek a 70 percent tax hike on Social Security. As if the tax hike was not bad enough by itself, the President also announced that the money raised by this tax hike on Social Security will go into the general fund, not back into the Social Security system.

I was very alarmed by this proposal because I felt it would unfairly impact our seniors. Recently, I wrote to people in Washington and asked them what they thought about limiting COLA's and taxing Social Security. Almost unanimously, they opposed these efforts. And even among those few who supported the tax hike on Social Security, most felt it should kick in at a much higher income level than is currently proposed.

The people who wrote back said, and I believe, that the Social Security system should not be used for anything but what it was intended for, to provide retirement benefits for America's seniors. We should not be cutting benefits when the system has a \$300 billion surplus, and we should not be taxing these benefits to fund other programs. The new proposal by the Clinton administration to tax Social Security and use that money for the general fund is unacceptable.

Social Security is solvent, it runs a surplus. But because it is one of the few Government programs that actually is working, some people regard it as a cash cow. I am very worried, as are the people in Washington, that attempts to tax or tinker with Social Security will jeopardize its solvency.

I have heard from the people of Washington State and they have spoken loud and clear: "Leave Social Security alone." I agree with them 100 percent and will fight any attempts to tax, cut, or tamper in any way with Social Security.

LINCOLN SCHOOL CELEBRATES EARTH WEEK

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, the fourth grade class at Lincoln School in Miles City, MT, celebrated Earth Week. Students Ben Wemmer, Tara Larimore, Stephanie Laney, Ivy Bartz, and Megan Bundy wrote to me to explain what they learned about the importance of taking care of the Earth. Discussions on various environmental topics and picking up garbage were among the many activities scheduled to commemorate the week.

This program, and similar environmental education programs are very important. They represent a significant step toward heightening our Nation's awareness of environmental issues. By teaching our children about recycling, rain forests, and pollution—and the effect that each has on our environment—our children will learn how to be responsible stewards of the planet. What could be more important than

that? These young people are our future.

TRIBUTE TO WICKLIFFE

• Mr. MCGONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the town of Wickliffe in Ballard County.

Wickliffe is a small town overlooking two of the world's mightiest rivers. Nestled on a hillside, Wickliffe is located at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

The people of Wickliffe thrive on their city's smalltown hospitality and rural charm. Wickliffe's 300 homes and smattering of businesses do not even have street addresses. The residents take pride in the strong sense of community. Wickliffe is a tightknit community where citizens go out of their way to help friends and neighbors.

One of the popular attractions to Wickliffe is the 2,600-acre Ballard County Wildlife Management Area. A few miles upriver, this is the winter home for tens of thousands of ducks and Canadian geese. This area attracts more than 19,000 hunters from nearly every State each year.

Wickliffe has a slow-paced lifestyle, but it is planning for the future. There is a new park in Wickliffe and plans to develop waterfront property for industry are in the works. Growth will occur in Wickliffe, but not at the expense of losing the smalltown qualities that make it so unique and enjoyable.

A applaud Wickliffe's efforts to preserve simple living and smalltown values, making it one of Kentucky's finest towns.

Mr. President, I ask that a recent article from Louisville's Courier-Journal be submitted in today's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Courier-Journal, April 19, 1993]

WICKLIFFE: IT'S A NICE TOWN WHERE YOU NEED NOT LOCK YOUR DOORS WHEN YOU GO OUT

(By James Malone)

Logic suggests there should be a city with a fast-paced, sophisticated lifestyle at the confluence of two of the world's mightiest rivers, the Ohio and the Mississippi.

Instead, nestled on a hillside overlooking the water, there is Wickliffe—an idyllic town whose 300 homes and a smattering of businesses don't even have street addresses. There were no street signs until the mid-1990s.

It's a community where the postman doesn't ring twice.

"He doesn't ring at all," said Wickliffe Postmaster Ted Roberts. That's because nearly everyone rents one of 596 post office boxes. The Community is too small for home delivery.

Roberts, one of Wickliffe's few African Americans, calls it a nice town.

"I've had opportunities to leave but I have chosen to stay because the people here are wonderful," he said. "They pull together to help anyone that needs it."

Apple cider is the strongest legal drink and hot races in the Democratic primary are on the lips of early risers at the Coffee Shop, a downtown institution for the breakfast crowd in the western end of Ballard County.

Lori Farham, who owns the Coffee Shop, said it's a rare day when she doesn't know the names of every one of her customers. "You'd be surprised at how many walk back to the kitchen and get their own food," she said.

Many residents will confide that they are none the worse off when they forget to lock their doors.

"Seldom anything bad happens here," said Teresa Sullivan, editor of the weekly Advance Yeoman newspaper.

Wickliffe probably would be a lot smaller than the 861 who stood up to be counted in the 1990 census were it not for a profound change in the late 1980s. That's when West Virginia Pulp and Paper Corp., now called Westvaco, built an \$80 million paper mill along the Mississippi just south of town.

Westvaco's presence is subtle but overwhelming. Though the plant's stench sometimes wafts over the town, its high-paying jobs and benefits pump more than \$38 million a year into an otherwise lackluster economy.

Ballard County is home for about 200 of Westvaco's 678 employees, including the mayors of Wickliffe and Barlow, the town just up U.S. 60 from Wickliffe. The average hourly wage is \$17.50.

The mill is built on 2,008 acres and the company owns some 230,000 acres of timberland, most of it in Western Kentucky and Tennessee. Westvaco's investment has grown to \$1 billion, said Sandra Jones, a plant spokeswoman.

You can see Westvaco's finished product by reading National Geographic magazine. The mill started producing the glossy paper after a \$170 million addition that went on line in 1990. Westvaco also produces about 75 percent of the paper on which those annoying little subscription offers that fall out of magazines are printed.

The mill is what brought Wickliffe Mayor Sylvio L. Mayolo to town.

"Not many people around here with a name like that," he quips.

Mayolo, a West Virginia native, is Westvaco's quality control superintendent and came with the mill in 1988. He looked at Paducah and other towns but he and his wife liked Wickliffe the moment they saw it.

"This is not your New York City, rush type of living," Mayolo said.

Mayolo is Wickliffe's biggest booster, showing off a new park and explaining plans to develop waterfront property for industry. He's proud of the recent improvement in the city's fire-safety rating, giving homes and shops a break on insurance rates. He says the city, along with Ballard County, is preparing to give everyone a house number.

The most important issue facing the community is stemming the exodus of young people, says Mayolo.

He and others are at a loss to explain why Wickliffe can't seem to grow or even maintain its population, which is down some 200 from the 1960s.

Ironically, while Westvaco spends millions to control noxious odors, a fledgling Wickliffe business is making a name of its own creating fragrances.

A visitor might have a hard time finding the manufacturing arm of Hillhouse Naturals Farm. It's on Ky. 268 east of town, but has no sign and doesn't cater to the walk-in trade.

Full-time farmers for 25 years, owners Shelly and Peggy Batts started the venture about six years ago, and today they ship dried flowers, fruits, herbs and potpourri all over the country and as far away as Japan.

Locals will tell you that jobs are hard to find. The husbands of the women who work at the Coffee Shop all work out of town.

"Around here, you work for the river, Westvaco or farm or go somewhere else."