

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, it is time to raise the minimum wage. Today the minimum wage is \$4.25 an hour. It has not been changed in 4 years.

That means a person working full-time, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, will earn less than \$9,000, and has not seen a raise in 4 years of work.

Families cannot live on that. No one can raise a child on that.

There is a lot of talk about work, not welfare. But if a full-time, minimum-wage worker cannot even earn enough to reach the poverty line, work will not be a real alternative to welfare.

Millions of Americans are working hard, trying desperately to make ends meet, but still falling farther behind. That is not fair.

We must reward work, help families help themselves. The minimum wage must be raised to a livable wage.

LINE-ITEM VETO

(Mr. PORTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of the unfunded mandate reform bill and the balanced budget amendment, we are actually starting to change the way Washington works. We are laying the groundwork for a new era of accountability. The next important step is the line-item veto.

For too long Congress has sent the White House jumpacked, all-encompassing spending bills. This has meant the President has had to choose between signing unnecessary spending into law or shutting down the Government.

Every year questionable projects and tax benefits are included and buried in spending and tax bills. Let me give you a few examples. We have all heard them: \$500,000 to build the Lawrence Welk museum in North Dakota. Hundreds of millions to stockpile helium for the military, when we already have enough helium in storage to meet the entire world's needs for helium for the next 10 years; \$11.5 million for power plant modernization at the soon-to-be-closed Philadelphia Naval Shipyard; and \$25 million for an Arctic region supercomputer at the University of Alaska to study how to trap energy from the aurora borealis.

The line-item veto is needed because it would allow the President flexibility to weed out and strike other wasteful spending items in an otherwise good bill.

THE MINIMUM WAGE AND FAMILY VALUES

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. speaker, now this is the Republican Party you remember.

The Republican Party and Speaker GINGRICH oppose raising the minimum wage so hard-working Americans can earn a decent living. The same Republican Party which reveres family values, refuses a minimum-wage increase to the working mother trying to help her kids.

The same Republican Party which promises a tax cut for those earning \$200,000 a year, denies 45 cents an hour to workers trying to feed their families. And the same Republicans who promise welfare reform and would rather build orphanages than create a minimum wage so people can lift themselves off of the dole.

The Grand Old Party. A lot of new faces and high-flying rhetoric, and even a new contract, but the same Republican insensitivity to the needs of average people.

A HOT 2 YEARS

(Mr. DORNAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, these are going to be 2 very difficult years, and I am going to try and save my thunder for outside the Halls of this Chamber and for New Hampshire and Iowa and other places. But I think every American should read the front page story of the Washington Post today on Mr. Clinton. It goes into A-4, and opens up, rips off, every tragic scab and scar from the 1992 campaign. Bob Woodward's book "Agenda" on page 287 has Mr. Clinton yelling, it says, "——— you" at a U.S. Senator, BOB KERREY, a Medal of Honor winner.

I am telling all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I saw George Stephanopoulos coming out of DICK GEPHARDT'S office the night before last. We know DICK has been in the press the last 2 days. Mr. Clinton is not going to be the nominee of your party. I believe it is going to be a Medal of Honor winner named BOB KERREY. That is going to create a lot of problems for our side.

Let us have a civil debate here. But when the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] gets up and hits my party, I have every right to say read "The Agenda," read "First in His Class," read the front page of the Post today. It is going to be a hot 2 years.

RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of President Clinton's proposal to raise the minimum wage by just 45 cents an hour over each of the next 2 years. Those of you watching today need to notice that while we Democrats are talking about helping working families, speaker after speaker on the other side stands silent

on the increase in the minimum wage. They speak of anything but. That is because with inflation, the minimum wage has decreased almost 50 cents since 1991, and is currently only three-quarters of what it was in 1979.

How can we encourage people to get off of welfare when we do not provide them a decent wage? How can we say that we reward work over welfare when we do not provide the means by which an individual can achieve this goal?

Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Clinton's efforts, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this proposed increase.

DON'T LINK OUR SOVEREIGNTY TO MEXICO

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, is it in our best interest to link the economic security of this country to markets controlled by a nation with a record of bankruptcies and devaluations?

In fact is it proper to do free trade with a country that has a history of these devaluations, repudiations of debts and a country that lacks real democratic reforms? Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about President Clinton's decision to bail out Mexico.

Let us face the facts—Mexico's political system has not been reformed as rapidly as its economy, and therein lies the problem.

Government corruption continues, particularly in the form of bribes and kickbacks for government projects and there is a large black market. There is no middle class and most of the wealth is controlled by a few families.

Mexico's average inflation rate from 1980 to 1991 was 66.5 percent. There is a high level of regulation and there needs more privatization of government businesses.

If we are to rely on back door bail-outs for countries that have this economic history, then I question the New World Economic Order.

Mr. Speaker, the President should not link our economic sovereignty to a nation that does not have sound economic and political policies.

TIME TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, now I have heard it all. Now I have heard everything. At his press conference today Speaker GINGRICH was asked about the minimum wage. He was asked if he plans to support a minimum-wage increase. You know what he said? He said we cannot raise the minimum wage. We can't raise it above \$4.25. And do you know why? He said because of the problems with the Mexican economy. He

said we can't raise wages here while the wages are going down in Mexico.

Does the Speaker really believe that we should base our pay raises in America on what is happening in Mexico? That Mexico should be our benchmark for wages? That 58 cents an hour should be our standard? That is two quarters, one nickel, and three pennies, held together by a bunch of tape. Why does he want to continue to keep the American worker down?

Mr. Speaker, it is time we stand up for working people in this country. It is time we reward people for their hard work. It is time we raise the minimum wage.

TAX CUTS NEEDED, NOT MINIMUM-WAGE INCREASE

(Mr. LONGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the minimum wage. In the last year I have been talking about the fact that in my State of Maine if I go out to a store to buy a pack of cigarettes, I will pay three taxes. If I go out and buy a can of beer, I will pay four taxes. But if I do the right thing and go out and create a job for a working person at the minimum wage in this country, I am going to pay or manage nine different taxes.

I am tired of the nonsense we are hearing about the minimum wage and how we can increase it and how we are going to do wonderful things for people. I want to focus on the fact that those nine taxes at the minimum wage exceed \$1 an hour.

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I think that is outrageous. When I talk to young people in my district, it is bad enough that many of them feel that with the payroll tax burden that is on their jobs, they are more likely to see a UFO than to get a Social Security check when they retire. It is bad enough that they are worried about whether they are going to even receive any benefits whatsoever, now they are going to be losing their jobs.

The issue is not what is going on in the private sector. The issue is a government that is taking \$1 an hour out of the minimum wage. I think that is the real issue, and that is where the focus needs to be in the rest of this session.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, nothing speaks more clearly to the need for an increase in the minimum wage than the plight of poor children in America. Earlier this week, the National Center for Children in Poverty released a study that should trouble all of us. The study shows that one in every four

children under the age of 6 in our country was living in poverty in 1992. That number is twice what it was in 1972 and includes an increase of 1 million children in the 5 years between 1987 and 1992.

Three of every five of these children have working parents, but they make the minimum wage. And it is not a living wage. Working parents are trying to provide a decent life for their children.

We have heard our colleagues talk about the fact that if someone works full-time minimum wage, they make \$8,400 a year, nearly 50 percent below the poverty line.

We have a moral responsibility to give those working parents and their children a fighting chance by giving them a living wage. The American people agree. In December, the Wall Street Journal-NCB poll showed 75 to 20 the American people favored an increase in the minimum wage. In January the L.A. Times reported 72 percent.

In 1989, when we took up this vote, 382 Members of this House, including 135 Republicans, voted for the increase in the minimum wage.

Let us do it again.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORKILDSEN). As previously announced, the House has completed 20 1-minutes per side. Additional 1-minutes will occur after the close of business today.

REPORT ON HAITI—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

1. In December 1990, the Haitian people elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide as their President by an overwhelming margin in a free and fair election. The United States praised Haiti's success in peacefully implementing its democratic constitutional system and provided significant political and economic support to the new government. The Haitian military abruptly interrupted the consolidation of Haiti's new democracy when, in September 1991, it illegally and violently ousted President Aristide from office and drove him into exile.

2. The United States, on its own and with the Organization of American States (OAS), immediately imposed sanctions against the illegal regime. Upon the recommendation of the legitimate government of President Aristide and of the OAS, the United Nations Security Council imposed incrementally a universal embargo on

Haiti, beginning June 16, 1993, with trade restrictions on certain strategic commodities. The United States actively supported the efforts of the OAS and the United Nations to restore democracy to Haiti and to bring about President Aristide's return by facilitating negotiations between the Haitian parties. The United States and the international community also offered material assistance within the context of an eventual negotiated settlement of the Haitian crisis to support the return to democracy, build constitutional structures, and foster economic well-being.

The continued defiance of the will of the international community by the illegal regime led to an intensification of bilateral and multilateral economic sanctions against Haiti in May 1994. The U.N. Security Council on May 6 adopted Resolution 917, imposing comprehensive trade sanctions and other measures on Haiti. This was followed by a succession of unilateral U.S. sanctions designed to isolate the illegal regime. To augment embargo enforcement, the United States and other countries entered into a cooperative endeavor with the Dominican Republic to monitor that country's enforcement of sanctions along its land border and in its coastal waters.

Defying coordinated international efforts, the illegal military regime in Haiti remained intransigent for some time. Internal repression continued to worsen, exemplified by the expulsion in July 1994 of the U.N./O.A.S.-sponsored International Civilian Mission (ICM) human rights observers. Responding to the threat to peace and security in the region, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 940 on July 31, 1994, authorizing the formation of a multinational force to use all necessary means to facilitate the departure from Haiti of the military leadership and the return of legitimate authorities including President Aristide.

In the succeeding weeks, the international community under U.S. leadership assembled a multinational coalition force to carry out this mandate. At my request, former President Carter, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sam Nunn, and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell went to Haiti on September 16 to meet with the *de facto* Haitian leadership. The threat of imminent military intervention combined with determined diplomacy achieved agreement in Port-au-Prince on September 18 for the *de facto* leaders to relinquish power by October 15. United States forces in the vanguard of the multinational coalition force drawn from 26 countries began a peaceful deployment in Haiti on September 19 and the military leaders have since relinquished power.

In a spirit of reconciliation and reconstruction, on September 25 President Aristide called for the immediate easing of sanctions so that the work of