

and tourism creates a \$63 billion business, and that it is the Nation's second largest employer?

Last year in Wisconsin, for example, tourism brought in some \$6 billion. That is more than \$17 million a day, and it creates jobs for some 128,000 workers. In my district, people vacationing or traveling for business spent \$700 million and created 18,000 new jobs. And that is true of just about every single congressional district in America.

Restaurants, hotels, service stations, gift shops, rental services, and taverns all rely on the tourism dollar. We in Congress need to recognize this industry for the jobs and prosperity it creates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Members to call my office to sign on as original co-sponsors on far-reaching travel and tourism legislation that I will be introducing.

U.S. TRADE POLICY SEES NO CHANGE, AMERICAN JOBS STILL THREATENED

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, everybody was cheering because the Trade Representative finally stood up to those Chinese dictators. Not for long. At this moment they are negotiating a \$8 billion energy deal with China. Beam me up, John Wayne is rolling over in his grave.

When will we learn, Congress, that from Nixon to Clinton this policy of engagement is nothing more than a policy of surrender that is killing the American workers. I say enough is enough. No more wimp-outs, no more deals, no more promises. Congress should strip China of its most-favored-nation trade status or Congress has no anatomy at all.

Mr. Speaker, the last I heard, it was still Uncle Sam. Let us not treat him like Uncle Sucker anymore.

THE ONGOING RECORD OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I hope the American people listening note the contrast between what the Democrats are talking—trivial, mean-spirited nonsense—and what we are talking about—the important issues facing America. It is a pity that they have nothing worthwhile to say.

If there is one thing the American people appreciate is hard work. After all, we are a nation built on hard work.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to report that the statistics are in, and this January was the most productive since before 1981. Let's compare some average numbers for the first January in

each Congress from 1981 to 1993 with the January just ended.

Number of hours in session—1981-93: 28. This Congress: 115.

Number of votes—1981-93: 9.3. This Congress: 79.

Number of committee/subcommittee sessions—1981-93: 25.4. This Congress: 155.

Number of measures reported out of committee—1981-93: 1.6. This Congress: 14.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers speak for themselves. This has been the most productive Congress in recent history.

SUPPORT URGED FOR RAISING THE MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE

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

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the President on recommending a minimum wage increase for the hard-working people of this country.

There are people who wake up every single morning in this country, go to work every day, and at the end of the day they are still poor, not because they are lazy but because we need to raise the minimum wage.

It is an absolute shame, Mr. Speaker, that there are people who walk into this Chamber making \$550 a day and tell people who are making a mere \$680 a month that they are not entitled to a cost-of-living adjustment. I find that to be absolutely outrageous at best.

Mr. Speaker, we have not raised the minimum wage since April 1991; according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are an estimated 11 million workers who earn the minimum wage, two-thirds of which are adults.

Sixty percent are women, many are heads of the households.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, what better way to get people off of the welfare rolls, than by giving them a chance to be on a payroll that pays a decent wage.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand up for the working people in the country and vote "yes" to a minimum wage increase, so that people can get paid for the hard work that they do every single day of their life.

THE HOUSE SETS A NEW RECORD FOR PRODUCTIVITY

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

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, correct me if I am wrong, but was it not Casey Stengel who often said, "You could look it up"?

Well, you could look it up, Mr. Speaker. When we have our 100th vote sometime today, we will have set a new record for productivity. Not only have we had 100 votes earlier than any other

Congress in the last 15 years, but we have also had more votes.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it has been hard work. But look at what we have to show: A balanced budget amendment, a line-item veto, an unfunded mandates bill, and maybe most important, a reformed Congress that is restoring the faith of the American people in their Government. After 40 years of one-party rule, this is no small achievement. It comes from working hard and keeping promises.

Today we will keep another promise when we continue work on the crime package. So far we have provided restitution for victims of crime. By the close of business today, we will have put an end to technical loopholes and established an effective death penalty.

Mr. Speaker, it is all part of the real change America wants.

MANDATORY BINDING ARBITRATION RECOMMENDED TO SETTLE THE BASEBALL STRIKE

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, big league ball players, managers, league owners, play ball.

In the last Congress, last September, I introduced a mandatory binding arbitration bill to try to save this year's season for the national pastime. I re-introduced that bill in this Congress last month.

I have been working with the President and the Secretary of Labor, and the President is writing and will send up this week his preference for binding arbitration, and I will be introducing that. Let us hope that the leadership of this House will play ball with the President. Let us save the 1995 baseball season.

SUPPORT URGED FOR BILL TO LIMIT FEDERAL APPEALS FOR CONVICTED FELONS

(Mr. WHITE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, in 1982, in my district, a man named Charles Campbell slit the throat of an 8-year-old girl, her mother, and a next-door neighbor. He was convicted by a county jury, and under elaborate procedures designed to give him every benefit of the doubt, he was sentenced to the death penalty by a separate jury. Yet last April, 12 years after his sentence, the sentence had still not been carried out.

Why? He had spent his time in five separate appeals, three Federal appeals, trying to evade his sentence. None of the appeals had any merit, and he was finally executed last May.

Mr. Speaker, none of us is happy when a criminal has to be executed, but the present system makes a mockery not only of the death penalty but

of our entire system of criminal justice. We have to be clear that when we impose a sentence, we are going to carry it out, and that is why I hope every Member of this House will give serious consideration to the bill we will consider this afternoon that will limit the number of Federal appeals for convicted criminals.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, there has been much rhetoric in this House about helping working families. Yet that rhetoric rings hollow when there is vocal opposition to raising the minimum wage.

Where I come from, if you work full time making only \$4.25 an hour, you are living in poverty. The current minimum wage offers little incentive to go off welfare and find a job.

Some say that increasing the minimum wage will cost jobs, but study after study shows that is just not true. The minimum wage is at its lowest real level in 40 years. But some in the majority seem out of touch with just how little the minimum wage buys.

If I were to propose that Members of Congress make only \$4.25 an hour, people would call that proposal ridiculous. It is ridiculous. Members of Congress cannot live on \$4.25 an hour, and neither can anyone else.

Have a heart, raise the minimum wage.

□ 1140

SUPPORT H.R. 729

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week the State of North Carolina executed Kermit Smith for the brutal kidnaping, rape, and murder of a college cheerleader in 1980. Because of the burdensome appeals process, the case dragged on for 14 years, going before 46 judges and the U.S. Supreme Court 5 times. The victim's family suffered each and every time the case was brought up for review.

Why must we penalize the victims and their families? Haven't they gone through enough. Honest taxpaying citizens question why criminals spend an average of 15 years on death row appealing their cases. They question the enormous cost of the appeals process. They question the amount of time courts spend hearing these cases, while in turn ignoring other pressing matters.

We, as Members of Congress, have the obligation and responsibility to streamline this process for the victims' families and the law-abiding citizen. The Effective Death Penalty Act is a step in the right direction. It sets time

limits for the appeals process. We must support H.R. 729.

TRUTH NEEDED ABOUT SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, well, we have another issue boiling out there. It is the issue of the appointment of the Surgeon General, and this issue is about credibility, credibility, credibility, credibility.

This is how the story goes so far. The Surgeon General has the administration supply information to the chairwoman of the Senate committee which will hear the confirmation. That information is that he had only performed one abortion.

Later in the day that is revised by the nominee, who says, "Well, it was not really one. I think it was less than a dozen."

Now all of a sudden out there it was not one, it was not a dozen, it is 700.

What is the truth? I am very concerned that we will get a Surgeon General nominee out there who is going to draw away and distract from the real issues of health care in this country and make the focus his credibility. If he is not telling the truth, if the administration is not giving us the truth, he ought to step out and let somebody else in.

APPOINT OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE GOPAC

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, according to the Los Angeles Times a Wisconsin couple gave \$700,000 to GOPAC between 1985 and 1993. That is a lot of money.

The cornerstone of Federal election law is disclosure, full disclosure. Within the past 5 years, GOPAC has raised more than \$7 million. The American people should know where this money came from, did these donors get anything in return, and are there any conflicts of interest?

Mr. Speaker, these are important questions, but we cannot get answers because GOPAC refuses to provide a list of its past contributors and how much they contributed. What we know is that many of GOPAC's current donors have issues pending before the Congress. In light of these potential conflicts of interest, an outside counsel should be appointed to investigate these matters.

The time has come for the House of Representatives, especially the new majority, to live up to their own rhetoric and call for an outside counsel to investigate where GOPAC's money has come from and how it has been used. The American people deserve to know.

A NEW CONGRESS

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, the eyes of the American people are on the House of Representatives, and for a change they like what they are seeking. Recent polls show that the job approval rating for Congress has more than doubled since we began work in January, and the operative word is "work."

The 104th Congress is working hard, keeping its promises, and making real changes. Congress matters again. The House of the people is getting on with the business of the people at a pace unprecedented in modern history.

But make no mistake, we are not confusing effort with results. Here are some of the things we have done: We have reformed the rules of Congress; we passed a balanced budget amendment; we passed the line-item veto; we passed the unfunded mandates restriction; and we are well on the way to passage of a vastly improved crime bill.

This is a new Congress, Mr. Speaker, a can-do Congress that is worthy of the people that we were sent here to serve.

MINIMUM WAGE NOT TIED TO MEXICO

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the Republicans talk about how they want us to be able to work, because I take that to mean that they will not try to bottle up the President's thoughtful, compassionate proposal to raise the minimum wage.

Now, I was a little concerned when I read the Speaker's opposition to it. I was especially puzzled when I saw that he said that one reason we could not afford to raise the minimum wage of American workers to a living wage, and it is well below that now, is that wages are so low in Mexico.

I am puzzled because when we were dealing with the question of an American guarantee for Mexican loans, many of us on the Democratic side felt that we should address in that context wages in Mexico, and we made the point that we wanted to insist on mechanisms in Mexico that would no longer arbitrarily depress the wages of Mexican workers, but allow them to rise. We were told that that was really none of our business.

But now the Speaker tells us that precisely because Mexican wages are so low, he cannot support giving American workers \$5.15 an hour. This is validation of the point we made with regard to Mexico, and it is further argument for raising the American minimum wage.