

It's no wonder he forgot it. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that the budget plan submitted by the White House this week would force taxpayers born after 1993 to bear an 84-percent average lifetime tax rate.

If that is not bad enough, the real reason why this figure was not included in the President's budget is because this year, despite administration promises, this tax rate is 2-percent higher than it was last year. The tax rate rises along with the deficit.

No wonder they chose to forget it. Perhaps they were troubled by what one of their own economists said: "Levying such high net taxes on future Americans is not only unconscionable, it's also economically unfeasible."

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget will rob future generations of their hard earned money, not to mention their cradle and all.

MOST AMERICANS FAVOR A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, we hear daily updates on the Contract With America.

But my colleagues omit the fact that this contract was built by pollsters and consultants. It was designed for easy popularity, not for the American people.

Well, their consultants must have forgotten to ask about minimum wage.

Because when NBC News asked the American people, 78 percent said they favored an increase.

I guess 78 percent of America was not around when our opponents took their poll.

I think I know who they missed.

They missed the 78 percent who carry around something other than the contract in their back pocket.

They missed the 78 percent who instead carry a lunch pail to their work site, who carry their children to day care, who carry a bus token so they can get to work, who carry a Medicare card for their health care.

So the next time our Speaker waves around a piece of paper and a hole puncher, remember that until we honor the hard work of every person in our Nation with a decent, livable minimum wage, all he is waving is an exclusive contract with some of America.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT INTERVENE IN THE BASEBALL STRIKE

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, the President sent a message to the House last evening asking Congress to pass legislation to establish a 3-person panel to arbitrate the baseball strike.

I say there is no role for Congress in the baseball strike. But I do have a

suggestion. How about we get the millionaire owners and the millionaire players to sit around a table and talk to one another so the average person can go see a baseball game?

This is ridiculous for Congress to be involved when we have all of these high-paid people who are supposed to be pretty smart and they can sit down and solve this thing. Congress should not be involved. I do not agree with the President on this.

Have them sit down at a table and solve it all so that all of the average folks out there can watch baseball this spring and this summer.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REDIRECT FOREIGN AID TO AMERICANS

(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, Congress borrows money from Japan and Germany and then Congress pays interest on that borrowed money to Japan and Germany. Then Congress takes that borrowed money and gives it back to Japan and Germany to protect them.

Now we give money, our borrowed money to Germany to protect them from an invasion from Russia. But then we give money to Russia so that Russia does not have to invade Germany.

If any of this makes sense, beam me up. The only good thing about it, evidently, is that the Russians could not overwhelm the Capitol Police.

But the bottom line is we borrow money to help everybody all over the world, but we cannot come up with money to help our own people. I have a little bill, H.R. 782. It would take \$5 billion of foreign aid and transfer it to revenue sharing for cities and counties.

I think Members should take a look at that, Democrats at least.

CURING THE CRIME EPIDEMIC

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, if there were a disease in this country that affected Americans of all races, ages, and sexes, a disease of epidemic proportions that touched the lives of each American citizen every single day, an epidemic that took over America's streets and literally held our citizens hostage in their homes—if there were a disease such as this in our country, wouldn't this Congress do everything in its power to find a cure?

Mr. Speaker, there is such a disease in this America today—the epidemic of crime—and the American people are crying out for a cure. Republicans are working hard to find a cure. Our crime bill answers the citizens' pleas by forcing criminals to pay and pay dearly for their crimes. It's time that the crimi-

nal element in this country takes responsibility and blame for spreading the disease of crime. It's time to stop punishing the victim and start punishing the criminal.

Mr. Speaker, this crime bill is the best cure for the epidemic of crime in America. I urge my colleagues in this Congress to give the American people a cure that is tough and effective. Give them a real crime bill.

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THE NAFTA ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, incredible as it may seem, certain promoters still claim NAFTA to be a success.

Eighteen thousand United States workers have already lost their jobs to Mexico with thousands more surely to be lost as more plants relocate to that cheap wage environment.

Our trade advantage with Mexico wiped out last year, and red ink is ahead of us as far as we can see.

A 50-percent peso devaluation in Mexico will dry up our consumer market for exports down there, and the \$47 billion taxpayer backed bailout of Mexico and its Wall Street friends.

Tuesday's New York Times tells the story of Tracy Bartrom of Indiana. A former maintenance worker for Magnatek in Huntington, IN, she recalled a meeting she had in Mexico as she trained her replacement worker. Through a translator, she asked how much he was paid. He told her \$1 an hour. And for him, the job is certainly not desirable as strong fumes cause nausea and vomiting.

The true story of NAFTA needs to be told, but it will never get the coverage that the O.J. Simpson trial gets on U.S. television.

COMMON SENSE AND YOUR TAX DOLLARS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, last week Congressman KOLBE and I introduced the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act.

The American people are frustrated with dependency-fostering federal welfare programs. They realize that the War on Poverty has failed and are demanding real welfare reform.

Our bill turns the reins of welfare reform over to the people who pay the Federal Government's bills—the American taxpayers. We would allow each American to direct up to ten percent of their Federal taxes to charities engaged in fighting poverty instead of sending that money to Washington.

We believe that giving taxpayers the freedom to determine how their welfare dollars are spent will spur interest in antipoverty efforts and enhance the role of private charities. Replacing traditional self-help networks with Government checks has failed.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Federal Government to step aside and allow caring individuals and community based organizations to begin attacking poverty in a meaningful way.

I urge my colleagues to take another bold step to change the way Government works and to cosponsor the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE TO A DECENT LEVEL

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the same old story still applies: The harder working Americans work the farther they fall behind. That is why it is so important to raise the minimum wage to a decent level.

The Republican response to this problem is to argue that trickle down proposals will create better paying jobs.

But corporate welfare does not lift all boats equally.

Business Week has pointed this out in an article called "Plumper Profits, Skimpier Paychecks."

According to this article, only 81 percent of corporate incomes go to salaries and benefits,

The lowest since 1969.

Corporate America needs to adopt a new social contract with its workers, and so does the Republican Party.

The first step is to support a fair and livable wage for all Americans.

SUPPORT THE VIOLENT CRIMINAL INCARCERATION ACT

(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, yesterday, I spoke about Kermit Smith, the individual who spent 14 years on death row for the brutal kidnaping, rape, and murder of a college cheerleader in North Carolina. However, I forgot to mention that he was on parole during the time of the murder. Two years prior, he was convicted of a violent crime and spent 1 year and 8 months in prison—less than 50 percent of his sentence.

According to the Justice Department, a violent criminal serves roughly 42 percent of his prison term which breaks down to an average of 24 months in jail.

The American people are fed up with this. Congress needs to send a strong message to criminals. We must increase the amount of time spent in prison. Criminals must receive harsh

punishments, not merely a slap on the wrist.

The Violent Criminal Incarceration Act does exactly this. It allows States to strengthen its sentencing policies by providing grants to expand prisons. Let us work together to put these violent criminals away and end the revolving door policy at our prisons.

SUPPORT SLAUGHTER AMENDMENT TO H.R. 667

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, how many more headlines like these do we have to read, and how many more times do we have to hear about a sexual predator who was released from jail and then terrorized new victims?

Just yesterday, the New York Times and the New York Post reported another instance of where a paroled rapist returned to his former tactics. According to the reports, the New York police had just arrested Johnny Rosado for 8 rapes in 1 month. He had been out of jail for a year. All that time he was visiting his parole officer and attending required rape counseling sessions.

But the parole officer and the counseling provided no protection for 8 victims, women between the ages of 16 and 28.

What is worse, Mr. Speaker, is the parole officers in the State of New York did not want to let Johnny Rosado go free at all. He was denied parole four times before being released on good behavior because there were no women or children to rape in prison.

The State parole board told reporters, "Under our law, he was held as long as he could be. There was nothing we could do."

If that is the best we can do, Mr. Speaker, we need a new law. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment to H.R. 667 later today so that States will not allow second-time sex offenders to go free to pounce again.

THREE-FIFTHS MAJORITY PROTECTION AGAINST TAXATION

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, the tax-and-spend Democrats are at it again. They are suing us Republicans, do you believe it, to overturn our rules change that requires a three-fifths majority vote to raise taxes. Can you believe it? These Democrats will stoop to anything to continue their hell-bent-for-leather ways of taxing and spending this Nation into bankruptcy.

Mr. Speaker, you tell them for me, it is not going to work. Article I, section 5 of the Constitution, read it, clearly gives us the right to set the rules of this House.

The three-fifths majority vote to raise taxes will stand as a hindrance to any Democrat attempt to foist more

taxes on the American people. There ain't going to be any more.

BIPARTISAN APPROACH NEEDED FOR WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the key test of any welfare reform is how quickly and how effectively people on welfare move into work. The main objective must be not to penalize children but help put to work their custodial parent and hold both of their parents responsible for their welfare.

According to press reports, Republicans are unveiling their welfare reform plan this morning. I have two major concerns, among others. One is that it appears that the Republican proposal will be strong on punishing children and will be weak on getting their parents into work.

Washington, our responsibility is more than just doing this, punting, paying, and then praying.

I favor State flexibility, but this must be within a new partnership with the States.

A second concern I have is the lack of bipartisanship. The Republicans are making the same mistake as the Democrats did on health reform, going it alone. As we on the Human Resources Subcommittee begin to mark up the bill next week, I hope there will be a more bipartisan approach. Welfare reform deserves it.

THIS CONGRESS IS DOING THE BUSINESS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in a long time, Congress is setting records that it can be proud of, and records apparently the American people are proud of, too, by the result of a poll that was released last week indicating that the approval rating of Congress has doubled in the last month.

In only 36 days, the House has gone from being a do-nothing Congress to being a can-do Congress. We are working hard to keep our promise to produce real changes, and we are moving forward at a record pace.

In the first 36 days, this Congress has spent more hours in session, taken more votes on the floor, held more committee meetings, and reported more legislation than any previous Congress in at least 15 years. We have passed seven major bills, and contrary to the sniping that you might hear from the other side and the impression that it might create, every single one has been passed with broad, broad bipartisan support including, in some cases, every single Democrat as well as every single Republican voting in favor of those bills.