

If we continue working at this pace and with this rate of success, this will be the most productive 100 days in the entire history of the U.S. Congress. We are proving Congress can make a difference. This Congress can rise above partisanship. This Congress can do the business of the people.

□ 1020

RAISE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the President's initiative to raise the Federal minimum wage. This is an initiative that will benefit millions of American workers throughout the Nation.

The President's proposal for a moderate 90 cent increase in 2 years is needed since workers at the minimum wage level have actually seen their real incomes decrease in the last decades. For example, in 1968, the minimum wage was the equivalent of about \$6.30 per hour in 1994 dollars.

Real wages and the purchasing power of millions of families have become stagnant. We must maintain the incentives that reward hard work. The minimum wage is one such incentive.

When I was Governor of Puerto Rico, I took the bold and unprecedented step of asking the Federal Government to extend minimum wage laws to Puerto Rico, where at the time they did not apply. Special interests and many corporations complained and objected to the move. They lobbied hard against it predicting economic havoc and job displacement.

Such bleak scenarios did not materialize. In fact, the minimum wage has been a blessing for the 3.7 million American citizens of Puerto Rico. It raised the standard of living of thousands of working class families, took tens of thousands of working families out of welfare and brought added dignity to their daily endeavors at their job sites.

Both sides of the aisle should seek every instrument to promote and assure a decent standard of living for all Americans. The President's move is a wise one, based on solid economic policy and common sense.

I urge our colleagues to support raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour over the next 2 years, it is the right thing to do. Millions of hard working Americans who deserve better economic opportunities will appreciate our leadership.

WITHDRAW YOUR NOMINATION, DR. FOSTER

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, credibility, credibility, credibility. Here was the story yesterday: The nominee for the Surgeon General of the United States of America advised the White House, the U.S. Senate, that he had performed only one abortion. Within hours he changed his story and gave a written statement that in fact it was less than 12 abortions. Then the pro-life group, some pro-life group came out and said it looked more, based on an excerpt from testimony of this gentleman from years back that it was 700 abortions. That was the story yesterday.

Today, last night or last night's news makes today's story. It was not 1, it was not 12, it is now 39.

The issue is not abortion. The issue is credibility. Where is the credibility of this nominee for Surgeon General? Can he devote the time necessary for rural health and other key issues?

It sound like another story of, "I didn't inhale."

Do yourself a favor, do your country a favor, "Withdraw, your nomination, Dr. Foster."

LIVABLE WAGE ACT

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, there has been much talk about reforming welfare; about getting people off the Government dole and on to the pay-rolls.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if we expect people to work, these jobs should at least provide a livable wage.

While it is true that the economy is growing, the deficit is falling and unemployment is declining, many American are still finding it difficult to make ends meet.

The current minimum wage is \$4.25 an hour, or \$8,500 a year. You tell, me, Mr. Speaker, how can one person live off such an income, much less a family?

The President has introduced a proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour. I would take that one step further.

I have introduced a bill, H.R. 768, the Livable Wage Act, which would raise the minimum wage to \$5.30 an hour by the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, if we truly want welfare reform let us put the Livable Wage Act into law.

VIOLENT CRIMINAL INCARCERATION ACT

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Violent Criminal Incarceration Act. In support, I will cite three statistics. Two-thirds of all violent crimes are committed by 7 percent of criminals; 51 percent of violent criminals are released within 2 years. We have 65 murders a day; 30

percent of all murders are committed by people on probation, parole, or bail. Mr. Speaker, we are abdicating our responsibility to protect society. By passing this act, we provide States with the incentive to keep violent criminals in prison, and we provide the support for them to do so. We cannot expect to deter crime in this country if we do not have serious punishment. This bill makes a real change in how we attack the problem of crime in America. If we cannot do this much to protect society, then we have no business being here.

WE NEED MORE COPS ON THE BEAT

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was able to call mayors and police chiefs of over 40 small communities in my district. I told them they would be getting a grant to hire a cop because of last year's crime bill, the Anti-Crime Act of 1994. Some will get two, and one will get even three.

Chief MacDonald, in Townsend, said it would help him and his small town. And in Williamstown, at the other end of my district, Chief Kennedy said he would assign a cop where kids gather and make trouble.

Mr. Speaker, we agreed, Democrats and Republicans, on one thing during last year's crime bill debate: We need more cops on the beat.

So why does the Republican contract cut funds for new police? That is right, the block grant shell game in the Republican contract would cut funds for community policing.

That means less money to help us feel more safe in our neighborhoods, and it kills the chances for small town police chiefs to get the cops that they need.

This is not smart, this is not savings. Wake up, America, "Don't fall for the shell game."

IT IS TIME FOR DR. FOSTER TO STEP ASIDE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's nominee for Surgeon General, Dr. Henry Foster, is having a hard time remembering how many babies he has aborted. Last week, he said it was around a dozen. Yesterday, he thought it was more like 39. Now, to some folks who think that abortion is not such a big deal, I guess it would be easy to forget a few unborn babies here and there. But to those of us who put a higher value on human life, Dr. Foster's latest revelations are very disturbing.

It's time for Dr. Foster to step aside. His evolving revelations of the last few days have destroyed his credibility

with this Congress and with the American people. Should his nomination remain in place, the debate will only become more acrimonious. And, frankly, after the embarrassing reign of Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders, this country deserves better.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Foster should do the right thing and withdraw his name from consideration immediately. And, if he chooses not to, President Clinton should do the right thing and withdraw it for him.

I WILL NOT BE SILENCED

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my Republican colleagues from Georgia that I will not be intimidated. I will not be cowed and I will not be silenced.

Yesterday's Atlanta Constitution reported that Republican members of our delegation are threatening retribution against me and another member of our delegation because of our calls for an outside counsel to investigate Speaker GINGRICH. According to the article the Atlanta Federal Center, the King Historic Site and even funding for the 1996 Olympic Games may be jeopardized because we have dared to speak out.

My Republican colleagues should have more courage. Do they really think they can silence me with their threats. If they want to confront me, they should take me head on, man to man. The nerve, the gall, Mr. Speaker, to hold the people of Atlanta, the citizens of Georgia, and the athletes of the world hostage in their attempt to silence the legitimate calls for an investigation of Speaker GINGRICH.

Is there nothing this new Republican majority will not do to silence the voices of dissent? Well, Mr. Speaker, I will not be silenced, I will not be intimidated. We need an outside counsel to investigate this Speaker and we need one right now.

WE NEED WELFARE REFORM NOW

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

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to wish the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska] a happy birthday today.

Mr. Speaker, every day there are dreadful examples of why it is so important to take cash out of our welfare system and replace it with a debit card.

In Chicago, 20 people were living in a 2-bedroom apartment, 5 families used the address to qualify for welfare. Thus, \$4,500 in welfare benefits were going to the adults in the apartment.

□ 1030

All five adults were alleged drug abusers. The adults were using the children to feed their drug habits.

Their children were being abused, and we, the taxpayers, were inadvertently assisting.

Mr. Speaker, it is our welfare system that helps create this problem. A welfare debit card instead of cash payments will help prevent child abuse, help us with our war on drugs, and, finally, give the taxpayers an accounting of their hard-earned tax dollars.

I encourage my colleagues to join the bipartisan supported welfare debit card bill.

MORE IMPORTANT NEWS THAN SHREDDING THE FOURTH AMENDMENT?

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives concluded a long and heated debate on the exclusionary rule. It was not on the evening news. I mean who knows or cares about obscure legal arguments? There was more important news: The OJ trial, 10 minutes on the pitiful howls of the dog, the baseball strike. Well, after all, the actions taken here on the floor only shredded the fourth amendment to the Constitution:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause supported by oath or affirmation particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things to be seized.

America, bar your doors, they do not need warrants anymore.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY INCENTIVE ACT

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, today, I join with my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER] to introduce the Child Care Availability Incentive Act, a bill that will increase access to affordable, quality child care for America's working families.

Today, few parents have the luxury of foregoing an income to stay at home with their children. There has been a dramatic rise in single-parent households, and dual-income families have become the norm. Unfortunately, the supply of child care has not kept up with the demand, and the care that is available is often inadequate.

Our bill addresses this crisis by offering tax incentives to businesses to provide licensed, on-site or site-adjacent care to their employees. Both the employer and the employee benefit from this approach. Child care convenient to the workplace increases productivity, improves worker morale, and cuts down on absenteeism and provides for better overall employment relations.

The Child Care Availability Incentive Act does not create another Government program or offer a new Federal mandate. Instead, it provides a simple way Government can encourage business to address a growing societal need.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this urgently needed legislation.

SUPPORT THE CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY INCENTIVE ACT

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a cosponsor with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] to address a serious concern facing single-parent households and dual-income families, finding affordable, safe, and educational child care. The Child Care Availability Incentive Act which we are introducing helps to solve this very problem.

We can all share stories of constituents who grapple with the problem of child care. With the high cost of care, many single mothers receive a higher income on welfare than from working. Our bill would provide tax credits to businesses which offer on-site child care services to their employees.

Studies have shown that onsite care increases worker productivity and combines high quality care. According to a study released last week, 40 percent of centers for infants and toddlers provide mediocre to poor care. Seventy-six percent of these studies showed that health and safety needs are met, but growth and developmental needs are not.

I encourage my colleagues to support in a bipartisan was this very constructive legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 862

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I introduced a piece of legislation yesterday, H.R. 862, that is really going to help Bill Clinton. Our distinguished colleague and leader of the minority, the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO], is here. He may appreciate this. This may be a first, Mr. Speaker.

The show "Nightline" last night showed a very nice man and probably a very good doctor, Dr. Henry Foster, trying to get himself out of the position he described of the inside-the-beltway climate of speaking before really researching something, and he tells us now that he has performed 89 abortions, not the 700, but it still has given him such a truthfulness problem that here is how we solve the problem:

We roll the job back into Health and Human Services. The Assistant Secretary of Health, prior to President Ronald Reagan, always wore both hats.