

the table, back to Congress, that actually make a difference.

To say that this is a rush to extremism, or to say that this is NEWT GINGRICH's radical Contract With America, simply is not true, and denies reality in this country. This is not a rush to extremism, this is a recognition of what America has so sorely needed for 40 years. We have had real leadership, we have had real change, and we have a real reason to tell America that Congress again works.

If we were so off the beaten path, if we were being so radical, then why would the country's approval rating of Congress storm up from 18 percent to almost 50 percent today, on the 50th day? The reason why is obvious, because we are doing what Americans have elected us to do. We are making a difference.

This is not about ideology, it is about what works, and just wait for the second 50 days. You ain't seen nothing yet.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER FROM H.R. 867

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 867.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York.

There was no objection.

220 MEMBERS OF THE MAJORITY PARTY VOTED TO DENY AMERICANS CONTINUATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I happened to hear the comments of the gentleman before me, about all the things that the new Republican majority has done for the people of America. Last night they had an opportunity to do one of the greatest things they could have done for the people of America, and they did not.

They did not give the people of America the same protection that every Member of Congress has, should we decide to leave Congress, or should the voters decide for us that we should leave.

Mr. Speaker, if a Member of Congress wishes to leave or gets fired by the American people, he can buy back into the House insurance by paying the full cost of the premium. Unfortunately for most Americans, if they lose their job,

member should develop cancer, leukemia, or any other horrible disease, they are then locked to their job for life, because when they go to apply to a new employer for a better job, that employer is going to find out that they have cancer, they have leukemia, or a family member has it, and they will either be told they cannot take the job, or they cannot get insurance at any price.

Mr. Speaker, last night this body, this Contract With America, had the opportunity to change that for 4 million American people; nothing special, just give them the same breaks that you and I have, Mr. Speaker, you and I who have families, you and I who have kids that can get sick.

The same good deal for a Congressman ought to be a good deal for the rest of the people of America, but it was not included in the Contract With America. We did not even give 4 million people the opportunity to just buy their own insurance policy through their former employer. That is wrong.

So for all the talk of accountability, for all the talk of putting people first, the bottom line is that only 4 Members of the majority party voted for the motion to recommit, but 222 of the majority party thumbed their noses at the people of America.

I would really like to hear of any Member of this body on either side of the aisle explain why it is OK for them to have permanent coverage under health insurance, to be able to buy into this policy, pay 100 percent of the cost when you leave, but it is not OK for the people we represent to have that same privilege.

Last night, 220 Members of the majority party, almost all of them, said that is not right, they would not do it. That is not fair, that is not accountable, and that is not putting Congress under the same laws as the American people.

This is going to be a long session. We should be here at least until Thanksgiving. I want to encourage especially the newer Members of the majority party, who are most likely to want to change things, to take a second look at this. Let us try to be as fair to the American people as Congress is to itself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONGRESS, 50 DAYS INTO THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, what a day it was today. Fifty days into the session, and we have had much to rejoice about and celebrate about. Today we had a news conference and talked about some of the things we have accomplished. Today America faces a brighter future because of what we have done in the first 50 days.

We have passed the balanced budget amendment, and not only does that make sense for us as we live our lives out today, but it also makes sense for my children and my grandchildren, who I do not even know yet, because they have not been born, but I know that we are not going to pass on a debt to them.

We are going to keep our spending in line. We are on a plan to balance the budget by the year 2002.

□ 1900

It is a good plan, we are holding to it, and we are doing it because it is important to the people of America. That is why we face a brighter future.

We are also regaining trust in America, because we have changed Congress. We have changed the way we are doing business here in Washington.

On opening day, we required Congress to live under the same laws as the rest of America does. We limited committee chairmanships, we eliminated proxy voting, we in fact changed the way business is done. It is something that has been called for for a long time. And we finally accomplished that in the first 50 days.

We are also now more accountable as a Federal Government than we were 50 days ago. We passed unfunded mandate reform that makes Congress accountable for the actions. When we impose unfunded mandates, we are going to try and eliminate that because we know what they will cost now and we will understand what we are passing on to local governments.

I think it is very evident that Congress is listening more now than it did 50 days ago. We have a crime package that addresses the real true problem. We are not doing midnight basketball, we are not having dance lessons for Federal inmates. What we are doing is block grants to local communities, because they are the ones that can determine best how to spend their money. Do they need new computer systems? Do they need new troopers, new cars

According to the report, how can they match with Federal funds to get more police on the street? It does not make sense.

That is why the crime package that was passed by this Congress is more sensitive to what the real true needs are in America.

We are restoring common sense to Washington. It was very evident in our National Security Revitalization Act. Right now we have made it harder for the President to put U.S. troops under U.N. control. We have had terrible instances of abuse, where miscommunication has cost the lives of American troops overseas and we are going to stop that. We are going to do only our fair share of funding with the U.N. Those are important issues that people in the Fourth District of Kansas have called out for time and time again.

Those were the first 50 days, we have accomplished that and more. Now we are looking forward to the next 50 days. Welfare reform, regulatory and legal reform, our first ever vote on term limits, family tax relief, economic growth tax measures. We have a lot to do.

How are we going to get it done? Well, it is going to require, just like out in America, individual support, individual effort, teamwork, team support, and also the support of the public.

As a Member of the freshman class, I have joined with us and we have formed a group called the New Federalists. The New Federalists believe in limited government. Our goal is to make a smaller, more economical, more friendly government for the people of this Nation. We have developed four teams and those four teams are in the process of trying to eliminate four government agencies. It is not because we dislike bureaucrats or we think that there are some things that should just be totally eliminated. We are trying to find those parts of government which are effective. And we are going to keep those on board. We may put them in different compartments, but to remove the duplication and bureaucracy is a very important issue and a very important message and a very important task.

The four teams are to eliminate the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Energy. I am heading up the task force to do away with the Department of Energy. We have found out in looking through what has been going on through the DOE that it is really a gas guzzler.

work.

In the early 1980's we eliminated the controls, we eliminated the allocation controls, and we in fact removed the crisis. So now it is time to turn the lights out on the Department of Energy. In looking at the Department of Energy, it has reinvented itself so that it can continue as a bureaucracy. Sixty percent of what it does now is a bomb factory and should be in the DOD. Only 20 percent is related to energy issues. There have been widespread contracting abuses that have been uncovered by the GAO. We have one instance in which the security guards at a laboratory in New Mexico are being paid overtime while they exercise in the gymnasium.

Now, most people in America think it is important to be fit and a lot of them work out in gymnasiums but none of them that I know except for these guards get paid overtime to do this. I think this is a travesty and those types of abuses need to be uncovered and they need to be stopped.

But once you start a bureaucracy, it is very difficult to get rid of. So this task force has seven other Congressmen on it. We are going through the different parts of the DOE. We have made assignments, we are making assignments to go and uncover the parts of the bureaucracy that do not work effectively and eliminate them. We are incorporating help from past secretaries. We have former Secretary Don Hodel who has been helping us. We are joining together with upper classmen in Congress to do away with this agency.

There is a new Congress in town. We have a new voice. The first 50 days have proved it. We have made this Government more responsive to the American people. We have made our workings here on the Hill more efficient. We have downsized our staffs and we are doing what I think the American people told us.

In this one respect, we are trading in the gas guzzler of the Department of Energy for a more efficient government.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise before the House floor today to recognize National Engineers Week which is celebrated from February 19 through the 25th. Engineers are hardworking people

What many people do not know is that engineering is our Nation's second largest profession. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 1.8 million engineers in the United States.

National Engineers Week is also celebrated at the time of George Washington's birthday. Many people do not know, but George Washington was also an engineer himself. He was a civil engineer, as a matter of fact. Also he was a land surveyor. And he was considered our Nation's first engineer.

As President, Washington led a growing society toward technical advancements, invention and education. He promoted the construction of roads, canals, docks and ports, and development of manufacturing resources.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Washington led the cornerstone of the construction of this Capitol Hill building right here, the United States Capitol building.

There is no question that America has the best highway system, best water system, best sewer system, best airports, and the best electrical system.

National Engineers Week has been celebrated annually since 1951. It is sponsored by the National Engineers Week Committee, a coalition of 64 engineering societies, corporations and government agencies. This year, the event is being chaired by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Fluor Corp.

In addition, the national finals of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition are held during National Engineers Week.

The competition features seven teams of seventh and eighth grade students presenting their designs, their imagination for cities of the 21st century, using computer simulations and scale models. The teams were selected in regional competitions around the Nation.

I must say that I have personally found engineering to be an intellectually challenging and professionally fulfilling career.

Mr. Speaker, I salute all engineers nationwide who have contributed their ingenuity and their ideas that has made America the best place to live.

EFFECTIVE CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE LIENS AND FULL FAITH AND CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr.