

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our children, let us hope the Democrats end this partisan charade and tell the truth about the Republican school lunch proposal—increased funding, more meals for the children who need them, and fewer Federal bureaucrats micromanaging our lives.

MEXICO DOES NOT DESERVE COMMENDATION FOR THEIR WAR AGAINST DRUGS

(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, 2 out of every 3 tons of cocaine that comes into America comes from Mexico and through Mexico. Brown Mexico heroin is as plentiful in American cities at times as jelly beans. Three assassinations in Mexico were recently now attributed to the drug cartel down there in Mexico.

It has gotten so bad Mexicans are running across the border with backpacks full of cocaine and heroin, and guess what, the administration commended Mexico for their war against drugs.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Commending Mexico for their war against drugs is like commending Iran for their record on terrorism. I think NAFTA has taken on a whole new meaning. It now should be known as the "Narcotics Anonymous Federal Treatment Administration," and believe me, we need it.

I think the truth is, I remember when the administration gave a pat on the back to Gen. Manuel Noriega for his efforts on drugs. Think about that one a while.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to discuss an interesting story about the Endangered Species Act. As the Resources Committee begins to hold hearings on this issue, it is imperative that important facts about endangered species and biodiversity be known. The ESA is vital to maintaining our natural resources and to maintaining our quality of life.

I would like to illustrate this by discussing an endangered plant called the Lake Placid scrub mint which is found in only 300 acres in Central Florida. Scientists discovered that insects were not eating this rare plant. With further analysis, scientists found the plant contained a strong natural insect repellent called trans-pulegol, as powerful as any known insect repellent. The possibilities for agriculture are enormous.

Scientists also discovered a symbiotic fungus growing on the plant

which had evolved only in association with this plant and therefore, was an extremely rare fungus. More analysis found this fungus produced an agent which had strong antifungal properties, with potential for pharmaceutical uses.

What are the real-life implications of discovering such agents in rare plants? Curing an array of diseases.

The \$79 billion pharmaceutical industry relies on natural resources for 40 percent of its prescriptions. Rare plants and animals may very well hold the key to curing the common cold, AIDS, and cancer.

URGING MEMBERS TO COSPONSOR LEGISLATION TO OPEN FEDERAL HEALTH CARE CHOICES TO SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYEES AND TO SELF-EMPLOYED AMERICANS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, to revise and extend her remarks, and to include extraneous matter.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am wearing this blue ribbon because the Girl Scouts today are asking everyone to be the best that they can be, and to take some kind of a pledge to try and make our communities better.

One of the things I would hope Members would do would be to seriously consider cosponsoring the bill I have, because I think it would make Americans' lives better. What would it do? I have a bill that would allow anyone who works for a small employer or who is self-employed to be able to bid off the same Federal menu of health care choices we as Members of Congress get to, the President gets to, and Federal employees get to.

Boy, would that give people some choices and put them in a large pool where their premiums would be much more reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD this editorial in Roll Call this week talking about how the Speaker of the House has put on the payroll once a year for \$100 his fundraiser, so she could have access to that health care.

Let us avoid this. Let us let everyone have it, and let us move on.

The editorial referred to is as follows:

THE \$100 A YEAR CLUB

Her fundraising services were worth \$16,000 to Rep. Newt Gingrich's (R-Ga) campaign between 1990 and 1993; helping Gingrich's Congressional staff learn how to answer constituent mail brought Nancy Bocskor a measly \$100 a year. So, why did she bother? The hundred bucks Bocskor earned on Gingrich's payroll enabled her to maintain her participation in the federal employees' health care plan—a far cheaper and better alternative than buying private insurance (Roll Call, March 9). Nothing wrong with that, says Gingrich spokesman Tony Blankley. It's all legitimate under the rules. The question, Blankley says, "is whether the procedures should be changed, if somebody thinks they are not correct." Well, we do. Bocskor is a political fundraising consultant, not a real Hill employee. She shouldn't gain access to official benefits just because she performed a

minor—though politically valuable—service to Gingrich. Neither should anybody else in the \$100 a year club.

ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN SPECIAL ORDER ON TIMBER SALVAGE

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, time permitting, I will be giving a very important special order on timber salvage, an issue that is vital to my district and the West.

I will explain at length the necessity of salvage and the benefits to the environment, economy, and Federal budget.

I invite everyone to watch in preparation for tomorrow's debate. We will be embarking on a course that brings our timber policy back to sanity.

For too long we have fought battles against those whose idea of preservation is pickling our national forests and putting them on a shelf with a do not disturb sign. It is time to wake up and change this destructive mentality.

Tonight, I, along with several of my colleagues, will try to dispel some of these myths. I am looking forward to this opportunity and encourage as many as can to join me.

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REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one more plea for reason and justice in the fiscal decisionmaking process of the 104th Congress. Mr. Speaker, through the rescission process, to immediately cut the Summer Youth Employment Program is a reckless and barbaric act. First, planned school lunch cuts and now the overnight zero in the budget for summer teenage employment. This savage cut again dramatically demonstrates the Republican contempt for the work ethic. We say we want the poor to work and then we wipe out the Jobs Program for teenagers. Instead of saving money by compounding the sense of hopelessness among our youth, let's save money by cutting the *Sea Wolf* submarine; let us cut the CIA and the intelligence budget from \$28 to \$14 billion.

If we cut farm price supports in half we could save \$8 billion. If we discontinue the unnecessary manufacture of the F-22 fighter plane we could save \$17 billion over the next 6 years. Using reason and a sense of justice there are effective cuts that can be made to reduce the Federal budget. But the hi-tech barbarian approach is a dishonest approach, an overwhelming bully power approach. Fiscal decisionmaking

in the 104th Congress is now so lopsided that it is becoming a form of legalized corruption. Let us please stop the madness now.

THE NEW SALT II

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a nuclear moratorium, a moratorium on the thermo-nuclear rhetoric spouted by the Democratic White House and those who continue to defend the failed welfare state and skyrocketing deficits.

We talk of transforming the poor. They hold up children. We want to end subsidized illegitimacy. They hold up children. We talk about giving more flexibility to the States. And they hold up children.

Mr. Speaker, have they no shame? Children cannot and should not be used as political shields. We have the moral obligation to our children to reduce the deficit and reform welfare. It is because we care about saving the future for our children and grandchildren, and it is because we know that our children do matter that we are taking on the difficult tasks of cutting the Federal bureaucracy. We are willing to make the difficult decisions.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to sign the new SALT II treaty. S. Stop the rhetoric. A. Assume responsibility. L. Limit the bureaucracy. T. Tackle the problem. The nuclear rhetoric must end.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

(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, hearing about salt, I can only think of child nutrition. I can only think of our School Lunch Programs. I can only think about what we have heard from the people who are supporting and who are committed to one thing and one thing only, and, that is, this Republican contract.

They hate it when we stand up here, those of us who are fighting for our working families, and remind them that a cut is a cut if it does not meet the need. The need is what the goal is here, the need of our children to have a hot meal at school because that may be the only place they get it.

If you raise by 4.5 percent the money that is being spent, that is still not an increase if the need has gone up by more. If you cap that increase at 4.5 percent and the need does in fact go up by more, you are taking food from the mouths of our children. That is not what the voters have sent us here to do.

TAYLOR-DICKS EMERGENCY TIMBER SALVAGE AMENDMENT

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, much of our national forests in the West are sick and dying. Drought, disease, insects, and fire are killing our forest in epidemic proportions. Some forests are already 60 and 70 percent dead. We must restore the health of our forests before it is too late. The best way to do this is to remove the source of sickness as soon as possible. Insects and disease cannot kill living trees if we remove the infested trees from the forest. Dead brittle trees cannot become the kindling for wildfire if we extract them from overstocked timber stands. Mr. Speaker, if we really want to preserve our forests, then we must act now. The Taylor-Dicks emergency timber salvage amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill before the House this week will curb the death cycle in our forest. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this crucially important amendment.

REPUBLICAN RESCISSIONS PACKAGE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Contract With America is not with middle class America. It is a contract to help well-to-do and corporate America. The middle-class hard-working people of this country are going to be paying for Republican tax cuts for the wealthy.

Here are the facts. Republicans will cut funding for every American who wants to choose educational television programs. Republicans will cut funding for veterans, for medical equipment that vets need even though more veterans need medical help. Republicans will cut funding for students by cutting drug-free schools, summer jobs for youth, academic scholarships, a total of \$1.7 billion in education cuts.

Mr. Speaker, it is virtually certain that none of these cuts will go for deficit reduction.

Mr. Speaker, instead the savings will go to finance a capital gains tax cut, 76 percent that will go to people with incomes of \$100,000 or more.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a contract with middle-class America.

REPUBLICANS CARE ABOUT CHILDREN

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, we just heard more baloney. The principal tax cut in the Contract With America is a \$500 per child tax credit. If that is a tax break for the rich, then our friends on

the other side of the aisle are sadly misinformed.

They can continue the scare tactics, the distortions, the out-and-out hysteria. It is time we told the truth. Republicans care about children and our numbers prove it.

We are growing School Lunch Programs by 4.5 percent per year for the next 5 years. By the year 2000, we will be spending \$1 billion more on the School-Based Nutrition Program than today.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Republicans care about children and our numbers prove it. The American public should ask who the Democrats care about when they oppose a 4.5-percent spending increase for school lunches and \$1 billion more by the year 2000.

Do they care about a School Lunch Program that is closer to home? Do they care about our children and their future or do they care about some Federal bureaucrats?

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA AND THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have a Contract With America. Unfortunately, they do not seem to care whether it violates this contract with America, the Constitution of the United States.

This contract with America, the Constitution, took another hit last week. They called it tort reform but what they did was federalize all the legal standards, and that, my friends, is contrary to the commerce clause and the 10th amendment to the Constitution.

Let's strike out another provision in the Constitution, punch it out again, punch it out again, my Republican colleagues. Your Constitution is going down the drain. Punch it out again.

MARCH MADNESS

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

Mr. HOKE. It is the commerce clause, the commerce clause is the part of the Constitution that gives the mandate to the Congress to do what we did last week.

Mr. Speaker, March madness usually refers to that time of year when all college basketball fans glue themselves to the television and become transformed into screaming, raving hoops fanatics. However, this year March madness has taken on a few new connotations.

March madness could refer to the wild distortions that the bitter defenders of big Government the liberal Democrats, are spreading about the Republican welfare plan. March madness could refer to the scare tactics and the false hysteria Democrats have ignited among the poor children in America