

Just last year it seemed that the Tax Code maybe would not be reformed at all. Now, this year, it is not a question of whether it is going to be reformed, but just when and how. We look forward to making sure that we have a taxpayer-friendly Code in the future.

URGING SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE BLM

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, National Park rangers and BLM rangers and other Federal law enforcement officers are daily subjected to threats of violence and danger. The men and women who protect our resources and our citizens deserve our respect and our support, whether they wear the uniform in the streets of our cities or in the desolate back woods of our public lands. However, we see a Bureau of Land Management law enforcement ranger in Montana responding to knife assaults, a BLM ranger in California coming upon a drug deal that is turning into a shootout, guns are fired at BLM vehicles in New Mexico, and the list of violent incidents are growing; 29 homicides, 110 cases of arson, 166 weapons violations, and hundreds of more serious offenses on BLM land every year.

That is why Americans are shocked to hear about Members of this House calling for the disarming of law enforcement officials or suggesting that those who violate public laws have an irrational fear of their government.

Now they are getting very specific. The Chairman of the House Committee on Resources, in a letter to the Committee on Appropriations, has called for zero funding of BLM resources protection of law enforcement and huge cuts in law enforcement in the Forest Service. The Members of this House should stand with law enforcement.

URGING A "YES" VOTE ON THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, today the House resumes work on legislation designed to take our Nation's foreign affairs operations out of the dark days of the cold war and into the sunshine of the 21st century.

H.R. 1561—the American Overseas Interests Act—recognizes that we won the cold war. It reorganizes our foreign affairs agencies, cuts spending, and refocuses our resources to priorities that support American interests.

The bill eliminates three agencies that our cold war victory has rendered obsolete—the Agency for International

Development, the U.S. Information Agency, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

It cuts spending by nearly \$3 billion over 2 years—and by \$21 billion over 7 years—while supporting our allies and punishing our opponents.

A vote in favor of this bill is a vote to downsize the Federal Government and to cut foreign aid. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on final passage of the American Overseas Interests Act.

BREAKING THE PUBLIC TRUST—MAKING MONEY IN THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

(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, the Republicans won the elections last November and they promised no more business as usual, and were they ever right. The ethical standards that have been adopted by the Republicans in this House are at the lowest level I have ever seen.

Lobbyists writing legislation, Members letting outside groups send out partisan political mailings on their office stationary and, of course, at the center of it all, the Speaker of the House and his infamous book deal.

Now, in the latest chapter, the Speaker has ignored the ethics committee and signed his contract with Rupert Murdoch. He has even launched a nationwide book tour. This, despite saying he would wait for the ethics committee to approve the deal, which they have not.

They cut school lunches, they cut Medicare, they cut students' college loans, while the Speaker joins the club of millionaires.

For Republicans, it is no more business as usual, it is time for making money.

CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAMS A PRIORITY IN FOREIGN AID BUDGET

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 966, the James P. Grant World Summit for Children Implementation Act. As we revise our foreign aid priorities it is critical that we not reduce spending for cost-effective programs like child survival that provide benefits to children throughout the world.

Spending for kids' programs must continue to be a priority in our foreign aid budget. Minimum Federal investments in child survival, basic education, and micronutrient programs has had a dramatic impact in improving the lives and well-being of children in underdeveloped countries. In 1980, for example, over 5 million kids died

from vaccine preventable diseases. Because of our investments in child survival programs such as immunization and oral rehydration therapy we are saving millions of children's lives each year.

Nearly 13 million children worldwide die each year, 35,000 per day, due to largely preventable diseases and malnutrition. These miserable conditions create a cycle of poverty and hopelessness that can be broken through proven, cost-effective child survival strategies.

Last year, we provided \$280 million for child survival program activities and increased funding for these activities is desperately needed. While it is clear that overall foreign aid levels will be reduced this year, it is essential that the committees dealing with foreign affairs ensure continued U.S. participation in child survival. The World Summit for Children Implementation Act, a bill which I have sponsored with my good friend and leading hunger advocate, TONY HALL, maintains and increases our investment in child survival, basic education, micronutrient programs, and UNICEF. Congress needs to keep its commitment to these cost-effective child development assistance programs and I plan on working with my colleagues to see that these priorities are incorporated into foreign affairs legislation.

ABSENCE OF APPROVAL BY ETHICS COMMITTEE REVIVES TALK OF OUTSIDE COUNSEL ON SPEAKER'S BOOK DEAL

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Speaker GINGRICH promised to get approval for his book deal from the Ethics Committee before signing the contract. Now, the Speaker has embarked on a nationwide book tour, so the Ethics Committee must have given its OK, right? Wrong.

In fact, the Ethics Committee did not get a chance to rule on the propriety of the Speaker's multimillion-dollar book contract, before it received a letter from Mr. GINGRICH's lawyer saying that Mr. GINGRICH was going ahead with the deal. The letter reads: "We will assume that Mr. GINGRICH's book publishing complies with House rules."

But, the chairwoman and the ranking member of the committee quickly wrote back to Mr. GINGRICH's lawyer saying: "You should make no such assumption." This advice was ignored.

The Speaker never received approval from the Ethics Committee on his book contract, as he promised. Mr. GINGRICH's wanton disregard of the Ethics Committee makes the case for an outside counsel to investigate the other charges pending against him. The Speaker will be unable to ignore the ruling of an outside counsel in the way

that he has ignored the Ethics Committee.

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RESCISSION BILL VETO WILL AFFECT DISASTER VICTIMS

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is threatening to veto the Republican rescission bill. This rescission bill will actually pay for emergency spending by cutting money out of the current year's budget. Responsible, commonsense action like this was seldom adopted when liberals controlled Congress.

The rescission bill provides \$6.7 billion in disaster assistance to victims in 40 States, including victims in Oklahoma City, flood victims in Missouri and Kentucky, and earthquake victims in California. These victims need assistance, but the President is trying to stop the money by playing politics.

We know he is upset because we reduced funding for his AmeriCorps. But, Mr. President, don't veto this bill. It provides relief money and it is paid for. Be a compassionate President and don't make the victims of these disasters wait any longer for help.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIGGS). The Chair would remind Members that they must address their remarks to the Chair and not address their remarks to the President.

RECOGNIZING CHANDA RUBIN, PROFESSIONAL TENNIS PLAYER

(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, today I take special pride in recognizing a very outstanding constituent of mine. She is a 19-year-old professional tennis player from Lafayette, LA. I speak of no other than Chanda Rubin, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Edward D. Rubin.

I am proud to say that Chanda Rubin just completed her best ever grand slam performance at the French Open. Although Chanda fell short to the defending champion in the quarterfinals yesterday, she proved to be a tough fighter. Her courage has touched the lives of many individuals, particularly young people, across this Nation. I commend Chanda for her hard work and I wish her the best of luck in the future.

BIPARTISAN COMMISSION ON FUTURE OF MEDICARE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, just prior to the Memorial Day recess, I introduced legislation to establish a bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare. The goal of the Commission would be to find commonsense solutions to reforming and strengthening our Medicare system. It would be patterned after the Pepper Commission that was developed to preserve Social Security. My colleagues, you should have received a "Dear Colleague" letter outlining this bill.

The Commission would submit to Congress a report that would contain its findings and recommendations regarding patterns of spending under the Medicare Program, long-term solvency of the Hospital Trust Fund, need to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse, and administration of the current program.

I believe we can all work together in a bipartisan manner. We can then preserve, protect, and strengthen the Medicare system to ensure that our seniors will have access to this program well into the 21st century.

KILLING THE AMERICAN DREAM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest another one of the Republican plans to kill the American dream.

I am speaking of the budget that was rammed through last week. This budget gutted the Student Loan Program, taking away the hopes and dreams of young Americans who will not be able to go to college. The budget plan is bad. The Republicans have betrayed the future of America by getting rid of student loans in order to cut taxes for their rich friends.

To finance this despicable tax cut for the rich, they have sold out the young people of America. There are some great kids in Alabama and elsewhere in this fantastic country who now will never be able to reach their full potential. We have enticed them and lured them to sleep with dreams of a bright future, and the Republicans have turned those dreams into nightmares.

Wake up, Alabama. Wake up, America.

SUPPORT THE AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, when the House resumes debate today on H.R. 1561, the American Overseas Interests Act, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will remind us that President Clinton doesn't like this bill and has said he will veto it.

Of course Bill Clinton doesn't like this bill. It kills three Federal agencies

and cuts spending by \$3 billion in the next 2 years. It is not his style to support such cuts.

But it also focuses on vital American interests by supporting peace and stability in the Middle East. This bill is about getting nuclear weapons out of Russia and the other former Soviet States—and locking in the gains of the cold war by supporting nations that want to join NATO.

It recognizes our enemies by cutting off aid to countries that supply weapons to terrorist states—that give aid to Cuba—or that consistently vote against us in the United Nations.

So what if Bill Clinton is threatening to veto the American Overseas Interests Act? We should still support it. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on final passage.

MEDICARE CUTS

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, under the guise of saving Medicare, the majority would make funding cuts that would have the effect of reducing benefits to Medicare recipients—and these funding cuts would be used to fund tax cuts that would primarily benefit the wealthy.

This fiscal trickery will not fool the American people.

We often hear of class warfare. Well, this majority has just given us generational warfare with its policies that make school children compete for school lunch funding with seniors on fixed incomes, whose Medicare funding in turn must compete with tax cuts for wealthy middle-aged citizens.

In this generational warfare the weapons are not missile launches but school lunches, and not stealth bombers but stealth tax cuts. And the greatest irony is that the generation that won World War II is now at risk with generational warfare being waged by this majority.

We can do better, and we can do it without pitting the American people against each other.

THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T GET IT

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, isn't it ironic that the first bill the President lost increased spending by \$17 billion, and the first bill he is going to veto cuts spending by almost \$17 billion.

Where has the President been for the past 2 years? The mandate from the people in the last election was clear—cut spending first. Gone are the days where out-of-control spending habits are the norm. This new Congress is showing that Washington must act responsibly to balance the budget. And