

crimes committed with stolen weapons, all of that would go away, because if everybody had this type of weapon, you could steal it, but so what? It would be like a rock, it would not do you any good.

□ 1415

The tremendous number of gun accidents in the home with children, or with despondent teens or whatever finding the family gun, again, those would go away, because it would only work for the family member who was the owner. And, of course, the law enforcement thing was what we really, really put all of our force into.

So Sandia Labs, the National Institute of Justice, and law enforcement officers across the country have all been working to make sure that this gun is every bit as workable as the gun they have today. It cannot be some fancy-schmantzy thing that only works in a perfect climate, in a perfect temperature, with or without gloves, whatever.

This works all the way across the board. It works with a tiny little chip. I got to be ring bearer at this event. It could work with a ring. It can work with something in the watch. It can work with a chip in the hand. It can work any number of ways that sets this off, so that it would work in a certain radius around the person but be absolutely not able to be reprogrammed or worked by someone else unless they had mega, megacomputers that could rewrite the codes.

So my dream would be that we see more of these types of actions. Because while maybe many of the people who support me would like to see a gun-free world, and while many of the people who support the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF] would like to have no restrictions, we know that there are going to be guns around and that law enforcement is going to need them. So why do we not use whatever we have got to make them as safe, as accident-free and as valueless if anyone steals them as possible. That is today what we did in the safe gun. I would hope we would see that as a model for future action.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is bleeding to death. It is losing more money than it ever has before. In 1995 the President's Medicare trustees said that Medicare would be bankrupt by 2002. This year we hear that it is bleeding to death even faster and it is going to be bankrupt by 2000.

In 1993 President Clinton understood that fact and so he proposed that Medicare spending's rate of increase go to 6.9 percent. In 1995 we understood that, so we proposed a 7.1-percent increase.

We were absolutely savaged by a minority that was so desperate to get back into control that the truth meant absolutely nothing and they shamelessly demagogued on this issue.

In fact, let me give you a few quotes, not from Republican publications but from publications that have consistently supported the Democratic Party. The Washington Post accused the Democratic minority of shameless demagoguery. Those are their words, not mine.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for a parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. I do not yield.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will not yield for that purpose. The gentleman may proceed.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. I was concerned about the words "shameless demagoguery." I think those are words we could have taken down, and I do not really want to do that. But I think that is a very strong word.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Reclaiming my time, they are not my words, they are the words of the Washington Post. If you wish to try to take them down, you can, but I am not addressing one person, I am addressing what the Washington Post accused Democrats of doing. They accused them of shameless demagoguery.

An adviser to the President, Matthew Miller, wrote in the Washington Post and in the New Republican, "The President has taken the low road on Medicare in such a way that only political pundits could call it standing tall."

The New Republican, a traditionally liberal publication, said that "The Democrats' demagoguery on Medicare is even worse than we suspected."

Mr. Speaker, why do I bring this up? Nobody has talked about Medicare in a year. It is because they have been cowed down because they are afraid of hearing more lies in this Chamber. I bring it up because everybody on the Democratic side of the aisle recognizes, like everybody on the Republican side of the aisle, that Medicare is going broke and nobody is doing anything about it. Nobody. When we tried to do something last year, when the President tried to do something in 1993, they were attacked.

Now, I give you the past as prolog. David Broder had a column in the Washington Post this weekend talking to future chairmen if the Democrats were to take power. Let us hear what one such chairman said on Medicare, the same chairman-to-be who called us Nazis. You want to talk about taking down words. Called us Nazis for trying to save Medicare. And this is what he said about Medicare. His committee, and I will not give his name, whose committee has main jurisdiction said, "The people who have made out best in the last 20 years are the old folks. They

have their pensions, Social Security and health care. The explosion in these programs has to be dramatically reduced."

Mr. Speaker, I harken back to the McCarthy hearings, when at the end of the McCarthy hearings in the dramatic conclusion, the question was asked, "Have you no shame, sir? Have you no shame?"

I would recommend to any Democrat that comes into the well and stands behind this podium and attacks any efforts to curb spending in Medicare, we suggested 7.1 percent last year and your chairman knows what is going to happen to Medicare next year regardless of who is elected. We are going to have to save it. We cannot afford demagoguery. I have got a 93-year-old grandmother, I have got two parents that are eligible for it, and we have got to put the political gamesmanship behind us. What we have done now by irresponsible actions last year is we have cowed politicians in this election year from talking about it. Bob Dole does not talk about it, Bill Clinton does not talk about it, while Rome is burning. We have got to grow up.

EDUCATION IS THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we do have to be real when we deal with financial questions, with investment questions, and what America is going to be like in the future.

President Clinton talked about a bridge to the future. Every one of my constituents believes that the bridge to the future is education. Almost every American believes that one of the reasons we have opportunity in America is because we have educational access for every American.

This year, however, when we passed the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill out of the House, we cut education very substantially. Democrats wanted to add education funds at the subcommittee makeup. I offered an amendment to add \$2.1 billion so that we would not lose Head Start slots, we would not lose Chapter 1 slots, we would not lose Goals 2000 dollars for investment in education.

Today there was an article in the Post written by David Broder, one of Washington's most respected columnists and political observers. It is entitled, "Empower Qualified Teachers." His point is that we are not spending sufficient sums on education.

I want to quickly add that I do not believe that money is the only answer or particularly the answer to solving the educational problems that confront our Nation. Nor, however, do I delude myself—nor should we delude the public—that not spending money, not paying teachers properly, not having Head Start slots, not having Chapter 1 slots,

not doing Goals 2000, not having objectives that will empower our young people to be competitive in a world marketplace, that not doing those things will enhance education in America.

We came to the subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations and I offered the amendment to essentially keep education even. Even then it would fall behind the very sharply growing numbers of students in our school systems. There are more students in school in America today than ever before in history.

And what did we do in the House of Representatives when we passed the education bill? We sounded retreat. Terrel Bell, the Secretary of Education under Ronald Reagan, did a report on the status of education. The result of that was "A Nation At Risk," in which the Reagan administration said that we were at risk of becoming a nation of mediocrity because our education system was not up to speed.

Very frankly, in the Subcommittee on Labor-HHS appropriations, by a straight party-line vote, the Republicans rejected increasing education. When the bill came to the House floor, which is the process, subcommittee, full committee, and House floor, DAVID OBEY, the ranking member of our committee, again offered my amendment. He said, "My friends, on both sides of the aisle, let us not abandon our children," because they are our bridge to the future.

On an almost straight party-line vote, that amendment was again rejected, notwithstanding the fact that I had a chart that showed that education funding was going down in an era when student population was going up.

Mr. Speaker, that legislation then went to the Senate. And just yesterday, having, I presume, read the polls and figured out what the American public really wants, and talking not about their policies and principles of 1995 but their policies of 1996, Senate Republicans now suggested adding \$2.3 billion to education. That is \$200 million more than I suggested was necessary to keep education even, that DAVID OBEY suggested was necessary to keep kids from falling through the cracks.

I am pleased that the Senate has seen the light. I hope that the Republicans in the House have done their homework and that this amendment will be accepted when this bill again comes to the floor of the House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas on December 6, 1995, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct agreed to appoint an outside counsel to conduct an independent, nonpartisan investigation of allegations of ethical misconduct by Speaker NEWT GINGRICH;

Whereas, after an eight-month investigation, that outside counsel has submitted an extensive document containing the results of his inquiry;

Whereas the report of the outside counsel cost the taxpayers \$500,000;

Whereas the public has a right—and Members of Congress have a responsibility—to examine the work of the outside counsel and reach an independent judgment concerning the merits of the charges against the Speaker;

Whereas these charges have been before the Ethics Committee for more than two years;

Whereas a failure of the Committee to release the outside counsel's report before the adjournment of the 104th Congress will seriously undermine the credibility of the Ethics Committee and the integrity of the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall immediately release to the public the outside counsel's report on Speaker NEWT GINGRICH, including any conclusions, recommendations, attachments, exhibits or accompanying material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days. The Chair will announce that designation at a later time.

A determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at that later time.

□ 1430

WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Senator Dole, at the Republican National Convention, blamed teachers for the failure of our educational system. Senator Dole attacked teachers and particularly teacher unions and associations.

I stand today to note that Senator Dole's logic disturbs me. Teachers in our schools are now required to do much more with much less, and they do not deserve this kind of treatment. Many resent this attack, because they work hard, day and night, to prepare our children for the future.

In last Saturday's edition of the Houston Chronicle there were several letters from teachers responding to Senator Dole's comments, and I want to read some of their remarks. Senator Dole was talking about unions or associations, and you cannot attack an association without attacking the members. The members, again, are the ones

who are providing that opportunity for our children to be citizens, educated citizens for our tomorrow.

JoNell Parker of Humble, TX, wrote, "In referring to public funding of private schools, Bob Dole said in his acceptance speech before the Nation on August 15th, 'There is no reason why those who live on any street in America should not have the same right as the person who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the right to send their child to the school of your choice.' As a teacher and a member of the teachers' association whom Dole attacked, I have to admit I agree with the right to choose. I just don't believe I should have to pay for his choice. Public support of religious indoctrination is unconstitutional. Taking tax money from public schools and giving it to private, for-profit institutions is financially unsound and elitist at best."

In a letter to the editor that same day, Judy Hoya of Houston, TX, said, "Bob Dole's attack on teachers' unions in his acceptance speech tried to place the blame for the problems facing our schools on the people who are trying to solve them," and I will repeat, he is placing "the blame for the problems on the people trying to solve them" when you attack the classroom teachers. "Bob Dole is out of touch with the educational mainstream. He would be far wiser to join with the 80 percent of the teachers who are in the unions to help solve problems in our schools."

Martha Barrett of Kingwood, TX, remarked, "What a way to launch a Presidential campaign, attack teachers and kids in American schools. Bob Dole said in his acceptance speech that 'Teachers unions nominated Bill Clinton in 1992. They are funding his reelection campaign now and they, his most reliable supporters, know he will maintain the status quo.'"

Ms. Barrett of Kingwood continued, "I don't speak for all teachers, but I personally feel much better about a Presidential candidate supported and funded by teachers than one supported by tobacco interest."

Finally, Sherry Mutula of the Pasadena Education Association stated in Pasadena, TX, "I would like to set Bob Dole straight on the errors in his acceptance speech. Attacking America's schools and teachers, he said, 'Not for nothing are we the biggest educational spenders and among the lowest educational achievers of the leading industrial nations.'" He was wrong according to Ms. Mutula. "America does not lead the industrial nations in education spending for K-12 public education. We are not even close. Of the top 17, America ranks 12th."

"The American people have been named the most productive workers in the world. Know where 90 percent of those workers were educated, Bob Dole? In the public schools of America."

The 21st century will bring new challenges for our young people, and we have an obligation to educate them to