

Unfortunately, the current occupant of the White House does not seem that interested in cutting taxes or balancing the budget. In fact, he would rather feed the Clinton crunch with higher taxes and more Washington spending.

Mr. Speaker, the differences could not be clearer. Bill Clinton wants higher taxes and higher spending. House Republicans want lower taxes and less spending. Which do you think is the cure for the Clinton crunch?

GOP EXTREMIST AGENDA WRONG APPROACH

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, our constituents are worried about jobs. They see downsizing in their communities. They are concerned about wages because the economy continues to be a problem for many Americans. But the answer is not the GOP extremist agenda that basically protects the rich and the powerful but threatens the health, safety, and security of America's working families.

The Republican leadership over the last year has been putting forth this extremist agenda at the expense of the middle class, at the expense of the average working American. They have tried to put into place tax breaks for large corporations and for wealthy Americans. They have tried to cut taxes, or they have tried to eliminate tax credits, the earned income tax credits for working Americans at the lower end of the income spectrum.

At the same time, you see the President suggesting that we do things to help the average working American. The President has talked about tax cuts for families. He has talked about doing things for education, such as your ability to deduct tuition that you pay for your student, your children that are in college. It really is terrible that we continue to see this GOP extremist agenda that hurts the average working American, and I hope that now that we are back in session and we are away from this 3-week break that we are starting to see some action in this Congress to help the average working American.

FIX THE WELFARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the existing welfare system is a mess. It hurts the very people that it is supposed to help. In 1992, President Clinton campaigned on a pledge to end welfare as we know it. Remember that? Now, after 3 years of the Clinton Presidency, he has not lifted a finger to do anything about the failed welfare state. It is true that he has talked about the values of work and family, but if we examine the record, the President has

not signed into law any reform of welfare. In fact, he vetoed the only genuine welfare reform bill to pass this Congress in a generation.

The President is now in the midst of backing away from the compromise welfare agreement passed unanimously by the National Governors' Association, both Democratic and Republican Governors. He had originally praised the plan as a huge step in the right direction. It is time for the President to cut the cord with the special interest groups, the liberal groups, and to help us fix the failed welfare system in this country.

CEO'S HIT JACKPOT

(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, while American workers keep losing their jobs, the top chief executive officers just keep hitting the lotto. Check this out. Chemical Bank got rid of 12,000 workers; the boss made \$2.5 million. GTE got rid of 17,000 workers; the boss made a cool \$2 million. IBM shafted 60,000 workers; the boss made \$2.6 million.

And AT&T, they take it all. They got rid of 40,000 workers and Robert Allen, chief executive officer, made 3.3 million big ones. They call it downsizing. I call it larceny. AT&T does not stand for American Telephone and Telegraph anymore. It stands for Allen and two temporaries. That is Robert Allen, folks; \$3.3 million, think about it.

I yield back the balance of all this unemployment.

CUBAN ATTACK AN OUTRAGE

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

Mr. ZIMMER. Cuba's downing of two planes whose only arms were pamphlets is an outrage, and it shows how desperate Fidel Castro is in his fight to deny the Cuban people liberty and freedom. Castro is an international outlaw, no more and no less.

I am very disappointed in the President's response to this outrage. It is entirely inadequate. If President Clinton were serious about responding to this terrible offense against U.S. citizens, he would demand that the international community join with us in an international embargo to tighten the noose around Castro and to allow democracy to take root there. He would also reverse his Executive order of last October which liberalized cultural ties with that country, only rewarding a repressive regime for the enslavement of its own people.

We must get serious, Mr. Speaker, and the way that we should start doing so is to enact the Burton-Helms legislation in its original form, not some watered down version that the President has endorsed.

LIFT THE DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are getting dangerously close to default, and simply put, there is the wrong way to run the finances of our great Nation. Congress' failure to raise the debt ceiling will have immediate and devastating effects. The U.S. credit rating will be ruined; Social Security checks on which 43 million senior citizens rely will bounce. Benefits for over 37 million of our Nation's veterans will not be allocated. Pensions for 4 million civilian and military retirees are at risk.

Mr. Speaker, this is craziness. This is *deja vu* back to the days of holding the Government hostage to force acceptance of a balanced budget plan that the American people have rejected. Now the Republicans are trying it all over again, except this time the hostage is our Nation's full faith and credit, 43 million senior citizens, 3 million veterans, and 4 million civilian and military retirees.

When will they learn? Waiting until the last minute and insisting on including provisions that have nothing to do with the debt limit is the height of irresponsibility, and my friends on the other side of the aisle should be ashamed. It is time we pass a clean debt ceiling bill and get on about the Nation's business. Shame on coming this close to defaulting on our Nation's obligations.

NEWEST WASHINGTON BUZZWORD

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I guess the new buzzword we are going to hear now from the other side of the aisle is going to be the use of the word "extremist." Everything we do is going to be called extremist. I would only ask that we return to the issues that we have been talking about here in Congress for the last 14 months, balancing our Nation's budget for our children and our grandchildren. Extremist is passing a welfare reform bill that encourages work and holds families together. Extremist is preserving, protecting and improving the Medicare system for our senior citizens. Extremist is giving the States more control over Medicaid. Extremist is sending power and money and influence back to State and local authorities and citizens of this country, extremist.

Mr. Speaker, let us spend the next few months talking about our Nation's hopes and not its fears. Let us make America proud of its elected officials once again.

GOP AGENDA HOSTILE TO MIDDLE AMERICA

(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, it is no wonder that the Republican program for the last 14 months is so far away from the needs and the hopes and the aspirations of America's working families. When you consider at the end of last year when the Republicans came together to discuss how they were doing and what they were going to do this year, one of their honored speakers was Al Dunlop, a man who went to Scott Paper Co. and 2 years later fired thousands of workers with little or no notice and walked away with \$100 million in his pocket. He advised the Republican caucus to forget the working-class issues, they did not matter.

Well, they matter to millions of Americans, to millions of Americans who are worried about losing their job, and with that losing their health care; about losing their job, and with that the ability to pay for their children's education. And what do we see cuts in education for their children. We see cuts in student loans for their children. We see them trying to keep the health care bill that would make health care portable from one employer to another from coming to the floor. What we see is an agenda that is outright hostile to middle America and to the working families of this country.

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SALUTE TO ENGINEERS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in saluting the contributions of engineers to America.

Last week was National Engineers Week celebrated annually since 1951. The timing recognizes the role played by our first President, George Washington. Washington's education and experience as a land surveyor and promoter of invention, education, and the construction of roads, canals, docks, and ports earned him the recognition as our Nation's first engineer.

February is also Black History Month and African-American engineers invented some of our most important and best-known inventions including: blood banks, the four-way traffic signal, and potato chips.

Engineering is our Nation's second largest profession with more than 1.8 million working engineers according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Every day, engineers are creating new ways to use technology to improve our quality of life. The contributions of engineers surround us and are so perva-

sive that we sometimes take them for granted.

National Engineers Week offers us the opportunity to stop, take notice, give thanks for the work of engineers, and encourage our young people to study science and math and consider engineering as a career.

Engineers build a better future every day.

DISCOVER WORKING AMERICA

(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, I have always been a little skeptical about death bed conversions, and as the bells toll for the demise of the Gingrich Republican revolution, we are witnessing an epidemic of conversions among my Republican colleagues.

Suddenly the Republican Party has discovered working America. They are desperately trying to convince the hard-working families of this country who are struggling to get ahead that the Republican Party is their friend. But, in fact, since taking control of this Congress, they advanced an extreme agenda that would hurt working men and women of this country. Their budget would let companies raid pension funds. They would deny the children of working families college loans. Their budget would cut Medicare and long-term care, denying families a dignified retirement. And they would deny a raise in wages so that, in fact, people could pay their bills every week.

But they, in fact, would provide to the wealthiest in this Nation a tax break, and tax breaks that would allow them to continue to reap the benefits.

Mr. Speaker, what the Republican Party really does not understand is that the American people are too smart to fall for this. They did not buy NEWT GINGRICH's extreme agenda, and they will not buy this election-year gimmick either.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT BOLIN

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, too many Americans take freedom for granted, expecting it as constant a force of nature as the daily rising of the Sun.

Fortunately for all of us, there are men like Special Forces S.Sgt. Neal Bolin, who stand watch at freedom's door; protecting us from the demons of totalitarianism; ready to sacrifice their own personal comfort and safety for ours. For them, liberty is not a given, but the goal of a very real and dangerous struggle.

This past February 12, Staff Sergeant Bolin lost his life, while seeking to preserve the life and safety of others, on a rescue mission for a plane missing in the jungles of Panama.

I was honored to attend services for Sergeant Bolin, and to pay respects to his life and family. The people of Georgia and the Nation are grateful to Neal Bolin for the sacrifice he made. We are also grateful to his parents, and to his widow, for this American hero. While Sergeant Bolin's young daughter has lost a father, our country benefits from the new chapter in the annals of military service and dedication written by her father.

DO NOT DESTROY AMERICAN WORKING FAMILIES

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, the House is about to debate the farm bill, and it will be a contest of the wills of both sides of this Chamber in its dedication to the concept of jobs.

One of the most interesting developments in the Republican Presidential race is that they have discovered that jobs are uppermost in people's minds. In debating the farm bill, I hope that this House will keep in mind the fact that we are talking about jobs, not about commodities.

There is this wholesale effort to try to destroy the farm community. I come from a farming district. Sugar is an important commodity. If they do away with the sugar program, it will mean 6,000 jobs in my district alone.

And so when we come to this floor to talk about the farm bill, it is not commodities. It is not some abstract notion about something that we put on the table to consume. It is thousands of jobs in the sugar industry alone. It is 420,000 jobs that are about to be eliminated.

So, focus on what the American people are concerned about. It is jobs in America. Let us not destroy our American working families.

AMERICA NEEDS A SOUND ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today marks the fifth anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf war. We can all remember the great pride we felt on that day 5 years ago.

During the gulf war, our strong defense came through—just the way it is supposed to—and now it is time for Congress to come through—just the way it is supposed to—with a sound energy policy.

Since the gulf war, oil imports have reached an all-time high and domestic oil production has reached an all-time low.

Twenty years ago we imported 35 percent of our oil. Today we import over 50 percent. Clearly we are overly dependent on foreign sources of oil to