

demonstration program, the idea being to grant scholarships or educational vouchers to these particular students.

Bear in mind a couple of facts: One, the District of Columbia schools have the worst performance record of any inner-city school district in the country in terms of test scores and graduation rate. Only 56 percent of the students in the District of Columbia public schools graduate from those particular schools. Yet, our political opponents here in the Congress remain vehemently opposed to the notion of even trying or experimenting with school choice right here in our backyard in the District of Columbia public schools through the partnership that we are trying to create between the Congress and the District of Columbia public schools.

Despite their adamant opposition, we have a message, those of us who believe in real educational reform, we have a message for those in the other body and here in the House who have been fighting our plans to try to reform and improve the District of Columbia public schools, and for that matter, public education across the lands.

That is that voucher programs, the idea of promoting educational competition through a greater choice and the idea of giving parents the full range of choice across all competing institutions, that is an idea whose time has come. Voucher programs are moving ahead around the country, certainly in Wisconsin, where Milwaukee public schools have now expanded their particular educational choice or voucher program to include 15,000 inner-city students, and in my home State of California, which will have a statewide initiative on the November ballot providing for educational choice through a voucher system.

This is a terribly important debate going on back here in Washington. Let me tell the Members what is at stake here is nothing less than the success of the U.S. economy. According to a James Glassman article in last Tuesday's Washington Post, languishing wages, which is obviously an issue that keeps cropping up in the Republican Presidential primary, languishing wages, this idea of income stagnation in America, can be linked directly to a poor education and training system.

That deficiency begins in our primary and secondary schools, especially in our high schools, where high school test scores and a high school diploma have been watered down to the point of almost becoming meaningless in terms of predicting a student's ability to go on to a higher education institution, or to obtain a good-paying job in the workplace.

Therefore, we are trying to promote greater educational choice. We realize private schools cannot replace public schools, but we believe that the model for U.S. secondary education should be the U.S. higher education system, which is the best in the world. One of the reasons it is the best in the world

is because we have robust competition between private and public universities, and that has raised the quality of both. How ironic that we have educational choice in preschool and in higher education. The only place we do not have it is in our primary and secondary schools.

Why is that? Really, U.S. News & World Report last week, I think, points up the reason why we do not have greater educational choice in this country. That is the militant opposition of the teachers unions, which have become the campaign arm of the national Democratic Party, and which are still operating based on an old-fashioned 1940's and 1950's industrial union model.

The largest union is the National Education Association, the NEA. The other union is the American Federation of Teachers. Both of these unions, according to U.S. News & World Report, are "driving out good teachers, coddling bad ones, and putting bureaucracy in the way of quality education." Both of these unions are fiercely opposed to the idea of educational choice and promoting greater competition in education.

They also, of course, donate millions of dollars to the Democratic Party and their candidates. In fact, a second article in the Washington Post last week pointed out that the NEA, the National Education Association, is the largest union in the country, with 2.2 million members. They are the richest, with a nearly \$800 million budget. They are also intertwined in Democratic politics, really the campaign arm of the National Democratic Party.

I will conclude, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk more about this in later special orders. I just want to conclude by quoting Stephen Jobs, the founder of Apple Computers, who said he has probably spearheaded giving away more computer equipment to the schools than anybody on the planet, but he has come to the inevitable conclusion that the problem is not one technology can solve, it is a political problem. The problems are unions. You plot the growth of the NEA and the dropping of test scores, and they are inversely proportional. He concludes: "I am one of those people who believe the best thing we could ever do is go to the full voucher system."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR EVERGLADES PRESERVATION LEGISLATION, AND ADDRESSING TOPICS WHICH CREATE HAVOC IN THE NATION

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the Congress for their excellent efforts on behalf of the Everglades in Florida, with their resounding 299 vote of support for the \$210 million appropriation for our National Park, the Everglades.

Particularly I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, for appearing in the well and debating this issue with me for the preservation of our endangered Everglades. I think Congress sent a message across America that this is a bipartisan effort to preserve and protect our environment, and I again applaud the Speaker and the gentleman from Texas, [Mr. ARMEY], and others who valiantly supported our efforts, as well as the gentleman from Florida, [Mr. DEUTSCH], and members of the Florida delegation, for their strong, steadfast belief that in order to preserve the quality of life of Florida, we must protect our natural resources, including our water supply.

I would also like to take a moment to commend the Caring Foundation in West Palm Beach, FL, headed by Larry and Betty Brown, who are dear friends of mine. They put on a performance

called *We the Living*, which was produced by the School of the Arts and the South Area High School. It is a play reflecting the problems faced by our youth today regarding drugs and violence.

The young people put on this performance to display the concerns that are expressed in the school environment: the peer pressure, the degradation of life, and all the tragedies that result in the abuse of narcotics. It is important today, as we have many closeup students in the gallery, to understand how destructive drugs are and how destructive violence is in our school system.

"*We the Living*," the play, exemplified why students are fighting, fighting for survival in the classroom, fighting for survival in the streets of our communities, all recognizing that the one fundamental problem that is so difficult for them to overcome is the influence of drugs in our society and the influence peer pressure has in the first attempt to use drugs.

Again, I applaud the Caring Foundation, and I urge all of our schools and all of our youth to do what they can to not make it cool to be involved in narcotics or illegal activities, but in fact, that it would be cool to say no. As in the DARE Program and the Just Say No Program, stand up and be counted against the destruction of human life, the destruction and aggravation of human suffering which drugs provide.

I would also like to speak about child abuse today, because that is another topic that is creating tremendous havoc in our Nation. Our children are abused daily. We are reading about more shocking details of abuse and abandonment, both sexually and otherwise, and it just has to stop. As a nation, we have to lead the charge against child abuse, most strictly penalize those that would bring about child abuse, especially sexual abuse, and fight for the rights of our children, because once they are abused, it is a very difficult and tragic way to come back into society. Palm Beach County is starting a Home Safe project, which will give children a chance to be in an environment safe from the dangerous opportunities they experienced in their homes.

I would also like to take a moment and look at the headlines "Hamas Bomb Kills 13 at Mall in Tel Aviv; Bomb Ravages Israel." The war in Israel is a tragedy. The New York Times did a wonderful editorial today, basically outlining the problems: The suicide bombings, the difficulties that are being experienced by the people of Israel. We in America, and I know my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, JON FOX, joins in a strong condemnation of these attacks, a strong condemnation against violence, not only in Israel, but in London and in other places around the globe.

□ 1315

But the one thing they stress in the editorial, the war in Israel, the war be-

tween a small group of fanatics who want to destroy the chances for peace and the millions of Israelis and Palestinians who want to live side-by-side in peace, prosperity, and security, the fanatics must not be allowed to prevail.

Both sides, the Israelis and the Palestinians, want peace. There are a few radical groups that are trying to dislodge that peace. We must remain calm and committed to peace in Israel. We must remain calm and keep the PLO and others at the table to ensure the survival of the Middle East. We cannot condone or tolerate terrorism, and we certainly cannot condone it in Israel or, as I mentioned, in London. It simply must stop.

The hatred, the violence, the antisemitism in this country must stop. The campaigns that are being waged for the Presidency, the dialog needs to change and we need to focus on the future of America, not dividing people by color, race or ethnicity, not dividing people by differences of opinion, but thinking of what unites this country together in a spirit of independence and democracy.

This is the greatest Nation in the world. We have so much to be proud of, and at the same time we seem to be destroying everything we have worked for for 200-plus years by divisive, nasty, mean-spirited debate. It needs to stop, and it needs to stop by arguments by both sides of the aisle that for democracy to prevail, men need to think with their heads clearly, committed to compassion and to people's rights.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS). The gentleman is reminded that Members are not to make reference to visitors in the gallery of the House.

THE 104TH CONGRESS PROMISES BRIGHT ECONOMIC FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I join with Congressman FOLEY in his astute remarks regarding our need for prayer for the families of those who were killed and those who were injured senselessly in Israel in recent days and weeks at the hands of the Hamas. We certainly cannot tolerate this kind of violence in this country or any other country, including Israel, one of our greatest allies in this world.

I do hope, as Congressman FOLEY pointed out, our work will continue with this country and with Israel to make sure the peace process moves forward, and the senseless acts of a few fanatics will not deter us from our mission to restore peace to the Middle

East. And whatever we can do as a country, working together with the White House and our President, there is a resolve within this House and within this Congress that we do everything and anything we can to make sure that peace is brought to that region of the world and that we support Prime Minister Peres in his efforts to continue the peace process.

I have today the opportunity also to introduce legislation which goes to much of what the 104th Congress on a bipartisan fashion has been working on, and that is to create jobs, have a pro-growth Congress which will sustain not only the economic future of America but make sure there are better chances for more jobs. That is why I have introduced today legislation dealing with creating and providing tax credits for investment and research and experimentation. These are pro-business, pro-people measures which I think will help create the jobs and the investment that is important.

Specifically H.R. 2984 will extend the research tax credit through December 1997, expand the definition of start-up firms, allow taxpayers to elect an alternative incremental credit process, and treat 80 percent of research as qualified instead of the 65 percent limit we now have. In addition, the 10 percent investment tax credit will be reinstated and have the effect of reducing the tax burden on new investment, speeding up the growth of the economy, improving competitiveness of the U.S. business firms, and laying the foundation for a future rise in the United States' standard of living.

I would ask that the Congressman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY], and the Congressman from California [Mr. RIGGS], join me in this special order with regard to the kinds of things that we have been trying to do in this Congress, in this historic 104th House, to get our fiscal house in order.

I am speaking of balancing the budget, having a line-item veto passed, my legislation to sunset review Federal agencies that have outlived their usefulness or should be privatized, downsized or consolidated, the kinds of things we have done to help businesses by having deductibility for health insurance, regulatory review so it is easier for businesses to operate. And also our legislation has already brought \$190 billion in spending reductions and \$190 billion in deficit reduction.

So I would ask the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY], to tell us with regard to the interaction you have had with your constituents in Florida, have they discussed with you the benefits they see of having a balanced budget, one that would be bipartisan and one that would embrace collectively what the White House and the Congress wants with regard to our children's future and the country's future and a balanced budget.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] yielding. One of the things