

health insurance on the job can still get it in the individual market.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CONGRESSMAN JIM BUNNING

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, a great, great honor befell one of our colleagues yesterday. JIM BUNNING from Kentucky, a very good friend of mine. Everybody here in the front row was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. This is an honor that very few baseball players ever achieve. JIM pitched no-hitters in both the American and National Leagues. He did extraordinary things and it is high time he was recognized.

I remember when I was about 6 years old, and he was in the majors, how much I admired JIM BUNNING. Maybe I was a little bit older, but anyhow let me just say that JIM deserves this honor. I hope all of my colleagues will take the opportunity today to congratulate him. It is a great honor for JIM BUNNING and a great honor for the State of Kentucky.

DISTRICT'S FEDERAL PAYMENT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, education is the motherhood and apple pie of Congress, yet the divergent ideology on education is punishing 80,000 schoolchildren in the Nation's Capital. Six months into the appropriation year, a third of the District's Federal payment is still here, yes, it is still here, and the District is going to run out of money at the end of the month.

The issue is not the District but whether tuition should go to private and religious schools. We passed it here with a compromise. There is very little money involved, yet nationally of course there is a proposal to cut a billion dollars and a million kids from the title I education and disadvantaged program.

The House is free to argue the point. It is a fair point to argue, as to whether vouchers should obtain or whether we should cut large amounts of money from public schoolchildren. I ask my colleagues, however, to care about the District's schoolchildren and about the survival of the Nation's Capital itself. Do not allow us to run out of money at the end of March because money you owe us is stuck here.

FOCUS ON RESULTS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the words of the delegate from the District of Columbia.

While we may have some philosophical differences that should be debated on this floor and while we may have problems from time to time, when I returned to the Sixth District of Arizona, one message was given to me overwhelmingly by liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans. They said, Congressman, focus on results and what works.

Therefore, our mission is clear. To do, in the words of President Clinton, what he said he wanted to do, to end welfare as we know it, to find a way to cut into the bureaucracy so \$32 billion is not spent on the bureaucracy of education but instead put on the frontlines helping children learn and ultimately to allow the American people to hang onto more of their hard-earned money to decide how to spend that on their children instead of sending it here to Washington bureaucrats.

Those three broadly defined goals deal with results. Let us work together to see those results brought to fruition.

A MESSAGE FROM SARA LEE

(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, Sara Lee is closing their Virginia apparel factory; 42 workers lose their jobs. Sara Lee is also closing a T-shirt factory in North Carolina; another 370 workers lose their jobs.

But Sara Lee says there is a lot of good news here. They are going to keep open their distribution center in Martinsville, VA. Distributing center. They will not make the products here. They will distribute them so America can buy them but Americans cannot work in the factory.

My colleagues, America does not build a TV, a VCR, a typewriter, or a telephone, but they are distributing them all over our Nation. With NAFTA and GATT, this is not even trade anymore. This is a takeover. America is becoming a distribution center for foreign made imports.

Think about it, Congress. There is a serious message in there.

ARE MORE PROGRAMS THE ANSWER

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, despite large increases in Federal spending, test scores for students in the United States continue to fall. In fact, according to a recent study, United States students scored far below Japanese and British students in all subjects for which there were comparisons. In some subjects, Japanese students came very close to doubling scores of United States students. So, what is the President's answer to this problem? More spending and more programs.

This is not the answer. Last week, Chairman GOODLING held a press con-

ference to discuss his committee's finding that there are 760 Federal education programs scattered throughout 39 separate departments, agencies, and commissions. This web of Federal programs costs over \$120 billion per year to educate citizens on everything from the disposal of boat sewage to citizenship. Each of these programs has its own application process, and each requires large amounts of staff time to administer—on the Federal, State, and local levels. Money spent on redundant programs is money not spent on our children.

This must change.

PULLING THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER AMERICAN STUDENTS

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, as March 15 draws closer, we are reminded that Congress has failed to enact the fiscal year 1996 appropriation for education. Five months of uncertainty about Federal funding has had a devastating impact on schools in Maine and throughout the country.

I am concerned about the effect of this uncertainty, combined with deep spending cuts, on our schools. Schools are having to make plans for the next school year without even knowing what resources they will have available.

I visited a number of schools in my district over the February recess. I was so impressed with the students I saw who were eager to ask questions and to learn. The message I received is that we must invest more in our students, to help them grow and develop to their fullest potential.

Unfortunately, some of our majority colleagues seem determined to pull the rug out from under America's future by pushing cuts in education funding. That's moving in the wrong direction, and I urge my colleagues to oppose these efforts.

ELECTION YEAR POLITICS WITH THE WAR ON DRUGS

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today's Washington Post contains the following headline, "About Face, Clinton To Restore Staff He Cut From Antidrug Office."

First paragraph reads:

Moving full circle in this election year, President Clinton plans an ambitious upgrading of White House drug control policy office, 3 years after virtually wiping out that office.

Mr. Speaker, a recent survey shows huge increases in drug use amongst our children. Not only is there increasing drug use, but the average age at which children first use drugs is now age 13.

Mr. Speaker, the President has pursued a policy of appeasement in the

war on drugs. He has cut drug enforcement programs. As Members heard, he has, in fact, been AWOL in the war on drugs. And now, in an election year, he has decided to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly tragic that our children have been allowed to suffer for 3 years while the President was pursuing his true priorities.

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PASS THE BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE BILL

(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, my Republican colleagues are trying to come to terms with the failure of their agenda. They are instead trying to repack-age their image. They would have us believe that they are on the side of working Americans. But let me tell my colleagues that their agenda in fact would hurt working Americans.

Just take a look at the issue of health care. There is today in this body a bipartisan bill to improve the health security for average working Americans. The bill would prevent the insurance companies from denying health coverage because of preexisting medical conditions. It would increase health care availability for all. And this bill has the support of Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate, but they will not bring it up for a vote. There has been no action and no activity on this bill, and they are trying to load it down with controversial proposals in order to try to defeat it.

I will quote from the Wall Street Journal this morning that says, "But passing the provisions that the House suggests, passing the provisions in the House, may set up a confrontation with the Senate" and the bill would not pass.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about helping working Americans, let us talk about health care security, bring up the bill.

WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION AT HOME

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, a strong domestic oil and gas industry not only means more jobs and a better economic future, but is essential for our Nation's national security.

Throughout the last decade America's oil and gas industry has lost a staggering number of jobs to sunnier business climates.

My Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee has been conducting hearings to highlight the need for a Federal energy policy that encourages domestic exploration and production.

This policy must allow our oil and gas producers to have greater public

land access while reducing the regulatory burden on doing business at home.

I have no doubt that this Congress will reverse recent trends and move toward a policy that encourages exploration and production to ensure a vibrant healthy economy.

CONDEMNING BOMBING ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to condemn in the strongest possible terms the deadly bombings that have terrorized the people of Israel for the past 9 days. In Jerusalem, in Ashkelon, and most recently in Tel Aviv, suicide bombers representing the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas have taken more than 50 innocent lives, injured hundreds, and placed the mideast peace process in jeopardy. In this time of mourning and reflection in Israel, I extend my own personal condolences to the families of those killed in these senseless acts of violence.

Just 2 years ago, Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat stood on the south lawn of the White House and signed the declaration of principles which set the historic peace process in motion. This morning, in the wake of the bombings, that peace seems as distant and elusive as ever.

At this critical hour, we in the United States Congress must reaffirm our commitment to the goal of bringing peace to the Middle East, and pledge to vigorously support efforts that will swiftly bring to justice those who seek to undermine that peace through cowardly acts of violence.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

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

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the sacrifice and achievement of our Persian Gulf war veterans.

This month marks the fifth anniversary of the end of the war which liberated the small country of Kuwait and ensured access to the region's energy supplies.

Unfortunately, we have done little to reduce the threat of energy dependence.

Five years later the U.S. dependence on foreign oil has grown; America now imports 52 percent of its annual oil supply.

We import 9 million barrels of oil a day to satisfy demand.

For a country that in on the cutting edge of technology, there is no excuse for a lack of energy preparedness which places American lives at risk. U.S. pro-

ducers have the capability to tap into an estimated 60-year supply of oil and natural gas that lies undiscovered in America. And they can do this without threatening the environment. Five years ago we learned a lesson—we need to open the doors to energy independence to ensure our freedom from foreign tyrants' threats.

CUTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is inconsistent to talk about building for the future, while tearing down the present.

Yet, Members of this House seem ready to abandon education by making the largest cuts in our history, with overall funding for the Department of Education likely to be reduced by 25 percent.

In fiscal year 1949, 9 percent of the Federal budget was spent on education. This year it is about 1.4 percent. On education spending, we are headed in the wrong direction.

We talk about restoring families and helping our young people.

Yet, we take away the very key to their ability to have useful and productive lives—the opportunity for an education.

Recent national polls show that Americans overwhelmingly support education and believe that it should be a top priority of Congress. Instead of a tax cut for the wealthy, we should put more money into education for our children and for the future.

We must restore these cuts. We must invest in America's families, America's children, America's future workers. We must be prepared to meet the challenges of the changing global economy.

Stop the education cuts and secure America's economic future.

WE MUST SHIFT EDUCATION DECISIONS FROM WASHINGTON TO LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton in his recent State of the Union Address proposed one more Federal education program, this one to provide merit-based scholarships to the top 5 percent of high school graduates, but the fact is there are already 47 scholarship and fellowship programs operated by the Federal Government, and this highlights a point made by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] at a press conference last week. He pointed out that our committee has discovered over 760 Federal education programs spanning 39 different agencies and departments. Many of these programs were designed to meet exactly the same goals, they overlap, they duplicate, and each has its own