

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.

□ 1115

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

application process and its own set of regulations.

So why does President Clinton propose one more education program, program 761? Is it to improve the education of our children or merely to make us feel like we are educating our children by spending more money on more programs?

What we must do is shift education decisions from Washington bureaucrats to parents and local school boards. We can and we must do better.

REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS MAKING GOALS IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE UN-ATTAINABLE

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, as I have been meeting in my district with working people and men and women who run small businesses, the two needs that turn out to be the most prevalent are the needs of a good education and training for the workers and good health care for all of them as well. Both of these goals are fast becoming unattainable. By the action of the Republican-controlled Congress it will be more difficult in the next year for kids to go to college, to get training and education. It is becoming more and more difficult between HMO's and the inaction, the lack of action, by the Federal Government in health care. Small businesses cannot afford to buy health care even for their top managers, as the price of these programs continue to climb and the benefits continue to shrink. HMO's are endangering people's health and survival in the way many of them are being managed, and what we are doing is we are crippling the future of this country unless we are ready to make sure that our workers are the best trained and the best educated in the world.

We compete globally. The reality is there are a billion-two Chinese and Indians, another billion, that are going to compete with us. Unless we are well trained we are going to lose the economic battle. The decisions made here will determine who will win and who will lose.

STOP THE DUPLICATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, continuing on with the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], his comments on the duplicative nature of the Federal Government programs where 760 Federal programs spanning 39 separate agencies and departments and commissions; we also when we got here found that we had 163 job training programs, and now, with the Careers Act, we only have 4.

The trade programs in this country; we had 115 trade programs and 19 different agencies. With my legislation to dismantle the Department of Commerce, we consolidated that into one trade office. The economic development programs; there were 315 economic development programs in the Federal Government. We need two, one for the private sector and one for the public sector.

We need to stop the duplication of the Government programs and get rid of this Government-knows-best attitude here in Washington, DC, because the American people cannot afford it any longer.

HOW TO AFFORD TO GIVE TAX RELIEF TO MIDDLE-INCOME PEOPLE

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago it was announced that AT&T was laying off 40,000 employees.

Then, several days ago, it was reported that Robert Allen, the head of AT&T, had made over \$16 million last year.

Mr. Speaker, this is almost obscene. There is no way that Mr. Allen could really have earned \$16 million for 1 year of work.

And to take this much money at the same time that thousands in his company are losing their jobs is really too cruel for words.

This excessive and exorbitant compensation was criticized even a columnist in yesterday's Wall Street Journal.

Also yesterday, most publications reported that average compensation for CEO's at 35 of our largest corporations averaged \$4.3 million and had gone up 23 percent since the year before.

I have said many times that the average person pays almost half of his or her income in taxes, counting taxes of all types, Federal, State, and local.

I do not favor higher taxes, but we need to give tax relief to middle-income people, and one way to help pay for it would be to raise the taxes on all these CEO's and athletes and others making over \$1 million a year.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES COOK

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, 54 years ago, in 1942, the security of liberty was not as certain as it is today. The flame of freedom was in danger of being completely snuffed out by those who sought to enslave the world.

Thankfully, freedom was preserved for us by a generation of patriotic benefactors who left the safety of their homes and traveled thousands of miles to rid the world of the despots who started World War II.

One of those patriots was Charles Cook. Cookie, as his friends knew him, passed away earlier this month, a half century after he was freed from a Japanese POW camp. You see, Charles Cook was a survivor of the infamous 1942 Bataan death march. Those who survived the Bataan death march and remained prisoners of the Japanese imperial army suffered more than most people living today could even imagine. But Charles Cook did not suffer in vain. He gave us a priceless legacy. Along with others of that great generation, he left the legacy of freedom for America and the rest of the world. It is for us now to preserve that gift.

We must recognize our inherited obligation, and be zealous custodians of Charles Cook's gift of liberty, which he purchased so dearly.

AMERICA CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER 4 YEARS OF PRESIDENT CLINTON

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, in my hometown, if they had found you in a dark alley with 75 pounds of cocaine and 4 pounds of heroin in the trunk of your car, there is a general consensus that you have done something wrong. But a Clinton appointed judge, Judge Herold Bear, who freed drug smugglers because he deemed it normal for suspects to run from the police turned these drug runners free. The public outcry over this brand of justice has been astounding, and President Clinton ought to demand the resignation of this judge immediately.

But what bothers me most about this case is we see yet another example where President Clinton's words do not match his actions. He may talk like a law and order conservative, but he appoints liberal judges who let criminals walk. If it had been up to this judge, these cops in New York City would not have been able to arrest a woman who was smuggling 4 million dollars' worth of drugs to Michigan, enough drugs to push on every kid in the city's school system, push drugs on each one of them.

America cannot afford these liberal judges and America cannot afford another 4 years of President Clinton.

□ 1130

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION HAS GONE FROM JUST SAY NO TO JUST SAY NOTHING REGARDING DRUGS

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton and his administration have turned a blind eye to the alarming rise in youth drug abuse.