

LET US RECOGNIZE THE AMERICAN FARMER ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today on National Agriculture Day, I would like to express my appreciation for all the hard work that the American farmer does each year. Our Nation's food system is envied throughout the world. No where else is food produced and delivered with such remarkable quality and consistency, yet available at such a low price.

And in spite of the criticism leveled on the American farmer I am proud to say that this Congress, with the help of farmers across the Nation, worked within the new Republican framework and took a long hard look at the existing farm programs. We put in place a system that works effectively and efficiently, for our farmers, for our taxpayers, and for America. The result: A farm bill that costs the taxpayers less money and at the same time gives our farmers a safety net. A farm bill that is more flexible and market oriented than ever before and a farm bill that is the most environmentally friendly agriculture legislation in our history.

The road has not been easy. Farmers across the Nation struggle each year doing the most difficult work in the world. For this reason, on National Agriculture Day, it is important that we recognize the work they do and thank them greatly.

LEAVE THE AMERICAN WORKERS ALONE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, General Motors is on strike; some people are blaming the workers. Let us get off it. It is not about blame anyway. It is about jobs and outsourcing. The fact is, companies keep killing good paying jobs by buying products outside their company from nonunion, low-wage companies that pay no benefits.

Enough is enough. When Zenith moved to Mexico, did they drop the prices of their televisions? When Smith Corona moved to Mexico, did they cut the prices of their typewriters? The truth is, American workers have been trapped between GATT and NAFTA, imports and outsourcing. It is time, ladies and gentlemen, it is time for workers to take a stand. If not now, when, and if not outsourcing, what is it?

Now, General Motors wants to make some cuts. They could hire some of those high paid executive a whole hell of a lot cheaper from China. Think about that and leave the American workers alone.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of all that unemployment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind our guests in the gallery that they should remain quiet.

IN MEMORY OF NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER KEVIN GILLESPIE

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday, I attended the funeral of Kevin Gillespie, a New York City police officer from Lindenhurst, Long Island, who was senselessly killed last Thursday while attempting to arrest three carjackers in the Bronx. Officer Kevin Gillespie, who was only 33 years old, was the father of two young sons, Danny, age 7, and Bobby, age 4.

What makes Kevin heroic is that he risked everything in an attempt to make the streets of New York City safer for people that he probably didn't even know. He had been a member of the elite Street Crime Unit for only 4 months. He was described by those in his unit as a hard worker who was good at what he did. He loved his work and loved his unit. The Street Crime Unit is responsible for fighting crime in some of the city's worst neighborhoods. He gave what Lincoln so aptly called the last, full measure of devotion, while trying to prevent violent criminals from escaping. As St. John the Apostle said in the Bible, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

I had the opportunity to meet Kevin Gillespie's mother and wife. There are no words that one can say in such a situation. As I looked into their eyes, and saw their pain, I was filled with a sense of deep personal loss. I was particularly moved when I learned that Kevin's son, Danny, wrote a note with a crayon and put it in his father's coffin which read, "Dad, I'm sorry that you died. I love you. You were a really good dad." Officer Gillespie truly is a hero, and after having seen his beautiful family, I can tell my colleagues that his death diminishes us all. But what is particularly tragic about this case is that the individuals responsible for the death of Officer Gillespie should never have been on the streets in the first place; all three had violent criminal records. All had been convicted of armed robbery, and one of the three had been convicted of attempted murder. Each was out on parole.

It is unconscionable to give early release to habitual violent criminals. Instead, we need to ensure that States have the resources to keep these violent offenders behind bars and off the streets for longer portions of their sentences. Through truth-in-sentencing, we can work to ensure tougher sentences for the most violent criminals, and hopefully avoid tragedies such as

this. I do not want to have to go to any more funerals and see the pain in the eyes of another mother, wife, or child.

CLINTON'S BALANCED BUDGET

(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, yesterday President Clinton submitted his new budget to Congress and I urge my Republican colleagues to examine it closely for two reasons.

First, President Clinton has blazed a trail to a balanced budget. Ronald Reagan never submitted a balanced budget. George Bush never submitted a balanced budget. But yesterday Bill Clinton did.

Second, and just as important, he has provided a plan that balances the budget while protecting our priorities like education.

The President protects basic reading, writing, and math skills. He protects college loans, safe and drug free schools and a program to help youngsters who do not want to go to a four-year liberal arts college to make the transition from school to work.

My Republican colleagues say the education cuts they are insisting on are necessary to balance the budget. Yesterday President Clinton proved that we can balance the budget without robbing our children of the skills and the training they need to compete in the 21st century.

A DISHONEST BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman who spoke just before us talked with great glee about this President's balanced budget, but she did not tell the whole story. He also protected \$7 million for foreign countries to teach their children how to measure rainfall and \$10 million more for the National Endowment for the Arts. He also gave us a budget that indeed is balanced under CBO numbers, the Congressional Budget Office numbers, in 7 years. It just does not cut any spending until the sixth year and the seventh year, after he leaves office for his second term.

Does anybody in the sound of my voice believe that you can add to domestic spending for the next 5 years, and then hope a future Congress can come along and in 2 years make all the cuts that come to balance?

This is indeed a balanced budget, a dishonest balanced budget, and a cynical one at that.

CUTS IN EDUCATION FUNDING WILL NOT RAISE TEST SCORES

(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, the Republican majority's assault on public education continues.

A few days ago, Republican members of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee charged that the Federal Government administers 760 education programs, and yet, test scores in math, reading, and science continue to fall.

This outrageous statement is typical of the Republican attack on public education and needs to be corrected.

Most of the programs listed have absolutely noting to do with student achievement.

The Republican definition of "education programs" include: FBI advanced police training, disaster assistance, radiation control, and coal miners respiratory impairment treatment.

The FBI advance police training program was never intended to raise math, reading, and science test scores of our school children.

Instead of offering constructive solutions, the House Republicans have proposed the largest cuts in education funding in our Nation's history.

If Republicans are serious about securing a better future for our children, then they need to reevaluate their efforts to deny title I assistance; to eliminate Goals 2000; and to slash funding for safe and drug-free schools.

It's time to end the hypocrisy and put our money where our mouth is in education.

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW BUDGET

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, The President has introduced a new budget designed to warm the heart of every liberal in Washington. It contains tax increases, more spending for Washington bureaucracy, and more for entitlements. Also, to the glee of liberals, the new budget has no serious welfare reform, no serious Medicare reform, and no serious entitlement reform, and no cuts in spending until the out years.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Washington liberals should be very proud of this new budget. It avoids touch choices. It protects the status quo, and, it expands big government.

I doubt, however, the rest of America will share in the enthusiasm of Washington liberals. The rest of America is tired of picking up the tab for Washington's 30-year Spend-a-Thon. The rest of America, plus all their children and grandchildren, are going to have to pay off the \$5 trillion national debt.

Mr. Speaker, isn't it about time that Bill Clinton acted in the interest of the American people instead of Washington's liberals.

VOTING VALUES MORE IMPORTANT THAN TALKING VALUES

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, the conventional wisdom is that Democrats do not talk about values, and so I guess the assumption is we do not have values. Well, maybe we have not talked about values because we felt we were voting our values, and we felt that voting our values was a whole lot more relevant than talking values.

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What do I mean by that? I think the value of education is one of the most fundamental values there is to every American family. Any American family who gets their child into the schools that they want to go in and see them go forward, it is like winning the lottery. It is better than winning the lottery, because you are what your children become.

Yet the people on the other side who love to talk values are gutting this educational value. They are gutting it by cutting \$3.3 billion out of educational funding, going right at that basic math skills, right at basic reading skills and at drug-free schools. Those are the core of how we build a good public school system. They would rather build B-2 bombers.

Mrs. Speaker, something is wrong.

BIG GOVERNMENT IS NOT OVER WITH PRESIDENT'S SUBMITTED BUDGET

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the President has submitted his budget to Congress and here is the big surprise. The era of big government is not over. Once again, the President has said one thing and done another. His actions simply do not match his words. He said he would reduce spending and balance the budget, but what has he done? He has proposed more of the same old business that has piled up \$5 trillion of debt.

The President's budget has it all, billions in unneeded spending for wasteful programs, cleverly hidden tax increases, a back door increase on capital gains that will hurt the little guy. I had hoped that the President would have used this opportunity to offer a serious plan and engage in good-faith negotiations to balance the budget and get the economy moving again. Instead, he chose to favor his own reelection over the country's business. Now we can only hope that this is the last Clinton budget we will ever have to deal with.

INVESTMENT IN OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all across America on blackboards in all of our public schools and private schools, of course, we see something being written on the board and the word comes out "investment." If I might, I-N-V-E-S-T-M-E-N-T, investment. And a little hand is writing it. That is what the President's budget is promoting, investment in our children.

As I listened this morning as we pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, there were some long and strong young voices in the echo, proud Americans. Yet we have a Congress that refuses to acknowledge the word "investment" on the blackboards of America. The budget by the President gives us \$1 billion for title I, for basic and advanced skills assistance, investment in our children; for those middle-class parents who are struggling to educate their college-aged children, with Pell grants. Whoever said the GI bill was not worth something when our young men came back from World War II and they were able to secure a college education—investment.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about the superhighway. We cannot get our young people into the superhighway and understanding the high technology without teaching the children and the teachers. Business tells us that—investment. Support the President's budget, but more importantly, tell the Republicans that we believe in investing in education for our children.

PRIVATE CONTRACTOR COLLECTS THOUSANDS FOR GOVERNMENT FOR ONLY \$54

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

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago the Federal Government finally got around to using the services of the National Credit Management Corp. of Hunt Valley, MD, a company located in my congressional district.

Under the terms of the contract, NCMC would send collection letters to companies and individuals that owed the Government money.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission turned over 100 accounts to NCMC and paid the company \$54 for the entire project. These were accounts that the NRC had previously tried unsuccessfully to collect. In just 3 weeks, those initial 100 letters sent out by NCMC have brought in \$63,000.

What I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, is why every agency of the Federal Government is not taking advantage of private debt-collection services? More than \$50 billion in nontax