

tax system that will unleash the tremendous pent-up potential of this country's greatest resource, its people, and get rid of the IRS.

#### IMMIGRATION POLICY SHOULD PROTECT OUR LIBERTIES

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the serious implications of the Immigration Act of 1995. We must all be concerned that the steps that are taken to address legal and undocumented immigration are reflective of the civil liberties and protections implicit in our democratic system of government and treasured by all Americans. As a native Chicagoan, I have personally witnessed the immense contributions that immigrants from immigrants from Ireland, Eastern Europe, Central and South America, and Africa have made to enrich our social fabric and economic vitality.

Unfortunately, today we are faced with a measure that unfairly capitalizes on public fears about illegal immigration in order to reduce the number of people who join our society, driving a wedge between those U.S. citizens who merely seek to be reunited with their family members. Attempting to resolve both legal and illegal immigration policies simultaneously serves only to convolute these issues of significant social import. For these reasons, Congress should instead pursue separate consideration of legal and undocumented immigration as has been recommended by many of our colleagues in this and the other body.

I am equally concerned about draconian attempts to deny education to undocumented children. The Supreme Court, in Plyler versus Doe held that children born on U.S. soil are entitled to 14th amendment protections. By barring children from the classroom, we will not only be preventing a lifetime of potential, but also, we will be working to deny them equal protection under the law. Punishing children on the basis of their parent's immigration status is not only unfair and mean-spirited, but its effects will no doubt negatively reverberate throughout our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am likewise concerned about the so-called employee verification system which has been proffered as a means to enhance employment enforcement. As the representative from the Second Congressional District of Illinois, I am honored to represent the 24,342 foreign-born individuals who reside in my district. The possibility that these citizens may be selected for the pilot program frightens me because such a system would not only fail in protecting worker's rights but would in all likelihood lead to unauthorized uses of this database, posing new dangers to civil liberties for people who look for-

eign, thereby encouraging discriminatory and unconstitutional behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to review these and other issues with care as we consider the future implications of this bill. As we today appreciate the richness of our social fabric we must likewise think of our legacy. Mr. Speaker, I urge us not to turn our backs on the many peoples which contribute to our cultural wealth, and for this reason will today oppose H.R. 2202 as it is drafted.

Let us extend the invitation to another generation. Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses who yearn to breathe free.

#### BOOST DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF FUEL

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

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, 5 years have passed since American troops were sent to the Persian Gulf to fight a war that former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger now calls "a classic example of the danger we face because we are so dependent on foreign oil."

Last year the United States imported over 50 percent of its crude oil—more than ever before—while domestic production fell to a 40-year low. Since the 1980's, we've lost one-half million high-skilled, high-wage oil related jobs.

According to the Department of Energy's Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary—that within a decade the U.S. will import nearly 60 percent of its oil. He added that our trade deficit in oil is expected to double to nearly \$100 billion by that time.

We need to stimulate domestic oil and gas production by lifting Government regulations that provide no benefit to the environment but cost jobs and make industries less competitive. U.S. producers, are capable of developing untapped resources while protecting the environment if given the opportunity. We also need to develop tax incentives that stimulate domestic production.

Boosting domestic production will lead to a win-win situation—job creation and increased national security.

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#### EDUCATION MUST BE OUR TOP PRIORITY

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing our concern at the continued majority attacks on education. Education comprises a mere 2 percent of our entire budget, yet the new majority has disproportionately targeted it for drastic cuts.

Without a doubt, education is the most important investment we can make in the future of our nation. Even with a balanced budget, our country cannot grow and prosper without an educated populace.

The current Republican proposals would cut more than \$3 billion in education, \$300 million in education funding for New York State alone. In addition to facing these huge cuts, our schools are currently trying to piece together their budgets for next year—and are being forced to estimate their funding because of the budget stalemate here in Washington. We need to pass a long-term spending measure to ensure that education is protected.

Balancing our budget forces us to make a list of our priorities. Our future is at risk. Education must be at the top of that list.

#### "MR. CLINTON'S DISAPPEARING TAX CUT"

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, this morning's Washington Times ran a lead editorial entitled "Mr. Clinton's Disappearing Tax Cut."

What an appropriate title, Mr. Speaker.

Let me quote the Times:

For all the righteous rhetoric emanating from the White House deploring the squeeze on middle-class family incomes. President Clinton proved once again yesterday that he would rather spend middle-class taxpayers' money than refund it. That is the essential lesson to be gleaned from the 2,196 pages of the fiscal 1997 budget.

Mr. Speaker, when all is said and done, President Clinton is more worried about Washington bureaucracy and Washington spending than he is about the middle class taxpayer. The President has spent the last 3½ years breaking every campaign promise he ever made. And his new budget just proves that he is not serious about cutting taxes. What tax cut he does offer is temporary—but his tax increases are permanent.

The Times is right. President Clinton would rather spend money than cut taxes.

#### EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS IN TRIO PROGRAMS

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, once again, some political leaders are trying to take away money needed for education. Republican Members of the House recently issued a list of Federal education programs which they say do not work.

The truth is that a majority of the programs they are talking about do not even have anything to do with educating children. Yet to justify the largest

cuts in education funding in the Nation's history, they have resorted to scare tactics and deceiving the people by not mentioning the programs that do work.

The public should know the truth about this country's successful education programs, such as the TRIO programs which enable Americans from low-income families to graduate from college. Funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, TRIO programs go hand-in-hand with student financial aid programs.

When children of low-income families aspire to be teachers, doctors, lawyers, or to undertake doctoral studies, TRIO provides them with the support needed to achieve these career goals.

Many students who participate in TRIO come from America's broken urban-school systems, where inequality and segregation reign. They live in violent and drug-infested neighborhoods and are confronted with a myriad of obstacles which hinder academic pursuits. The truth is that many come from families who have had to depend on welfare. TRIO provides these students an opportunity to overcome these barriers and it enables the sons and daughters of low-income families to break the cycle of poverty and dependency.

Mr. Speaker, we need to keep investing in TRIO. And we need to keep investing in education.

#### TELECOM REFORM HAS ARRIVED IN OKLAHOMA

(Mr. WATTS 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, telecommunications reform has arrived in Oklahoma.

National telecommunication reform hit the ground yesterday for the first time when the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, in response to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, sent a proposal on local telephone competition rules to the Oklahoma legislature and Governor for their final approval.

I salute the commissioners for their rapid response to the new opportunities and choices that Congress provided America's consumers and businesses when we passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 just last month.

Following final action by the Governor and the State legislature, Oklahoma will be leading the Nation in providing new telecommunication services to our citizens. Enhanced competition will provide Oklahomans and all other Americans with improved access and lower costs as we move the Nation's telecommunications systems into the 21st century.

I want to congratulate the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for its forward thinking and swift action in assuring Oklahomans the most modern communications available in the Nation.

#### FIGHTING THE GUN LOBBY

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I have just received word that the Committee on Rules will have a hearing tomorrow on a bill to repeal the assault weapons ban. The House of Representatives will vote on a bill to repeal the ban in the next couple of days. No hearings, no markups.

This bill is headed straight to the floor faster than an Uzi's bullet. It is a sneak attack. Why? Because sunlight is the greatest disinfectant, and the gun lobby is afraid of a debate.

The assault weapons ban is simple. It says no more Uzis, no more AK-47's, no more street sweepers. Ask any hunter, any sportsman, any legitimate citizen whether the ban has interfered in any way with their right to bear arms. It has not. But if the gun lobby has its way, there will be no more ban, but there will be a lot more carnage, more police officers will be killed, more children will be caught in random gunfire, and this Congress will have blood on its hands.

Mark my words, my colleagues, we will not go down quietly. We will fight this vote by vote. We will fight it Member by Member. We will fight the rule, fight the bill, fight the gun lobby, and we will win. The American people will win as well.

#### HANG TOUGH AND BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I also have been reading the President's budget that he gave us yesterday. I am very upset. If we look at what the President does, for example, on tax increases, he increases taxes \$232 billion more than the Republican proposal. Then look at continued spending. He increases spending \$350 billion more than the Republican proposal. It is the same old issue of tax and spend.

I call, Mr. Speaker, on my colleagues to hang tough, to not have an increase in the debt ceiling unless we are going to get on that glide path to a balanced budget. If we have to close down Government to move ahead, to get politicians to do what every family in this country has to do, balance their budget, then let us do it.

Mr. Speaker, I say stick to our guns, hang tough, let us do what we have to do. Stop spending the money that our kids and our grandkids have not even earned yet to pay for today's problems. Let us be reasonable, let us be fair, let us do what we have to do and balance the budget.

#### PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole under the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there are no objections to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

#### BACK TO THE FUTURE: U.S. DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN ENERGY

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, the German philosopher Hegel once wrote: "What experience and history teach is this: that people and governments never have learned anything from history, or acted on principles deduced from it." Unfortunately, this has been the case with U.S. energy policy.

Few people serving in this Congress do not remember the impact of the two oil crises in the 1970's. Millions of jobs were lost, and the economy experienced billions of dollars in lost production and income.

The domestic energy industry, which has historically been a boom-or-bust industry, has never recovered from the drop in oil prices in the 1980's. Hundreds of thousands of jobs were lost, domestic exploration and production declined, with the result that we are even more dependent than ever on foreign sources of energy.

As we mark the 5-year anniversary of the Persian Gulf war, U.S. oil imports now approach 50 percent of domestic oil consumption and this is expected to reach 60 to 75 percent by 2010. While we currently have ready access to oil from Venezuela and Mexico, there are no certainties about what happens globally on down the line when it comes to Russian politics, the Iraqi oil embargo, and the future stability of the Middle East.

Oil imports affect national security, American jobs, the balance of trade, interest rates, the stability of the dollar, and the economy. Unless we develop a realistic and bipartisan energy policy, we will remain vulnerable to future