

model school-to-work programs. That may be why she was appointed to the National Commission on Teaching in America's Future and the Education Committee of the States, where she serves as a powerful voice for California.

She has also worked to start workshops all across the country to encourage broad education reform.

But education is just one of the issues on which she has made her mark. From her seat in one of California's most diverse assembly districts, she fought for transportation improvements that are creating hundreds of new jobs, for child care, for grandparents raising their grandchildren, for the growth of high-tech business in California, for basic rights for the homeless, and for reform of California's workmen's compensation laws.

When she became chair of California assembly's insurance committee, she was the first woman and the first minority to do so.

When she became chair of the revenue and taxation committee, she was also the first woman to do that. She has blazed a trail of innovation and accomplishment on every issue that she has faced.

My colleagues, not only have we gained a tireless and effective new champion for the 37th District of California, a woman with almost unlimited interests and abilities, we have also gained a sage and experienced legislator, and in keeping with her first career I believe she can teach us a great deal.

Join me now, my colleagues, in welcoming our newest colleague, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD].

Mr. BROWN of California. I am of course going to yield to the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] to make a brief response immediately, but are there any other Members from California who would like to say a word? If not, then I would now at this time again present the gentlewoman to talk and invite her under my 1-minute to respond briefly to the welcome that she has just received.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, Members, I am honored to represent the outstanding constituents of the 37th Congressional District, a district that mirrors America because it is one of the most diverse districts in the State of California. The constituents of the 37th Congressional District are hard-working and share the same concerns with Americans about crime, jobs, security, taxes, health care, and the future.

My constituents include my family, who have traveled afar to come here today for this very historic event, and I would like to have them acknowledged in the gallery.

My campaign theme was to Choose Hope, and it drew inspiration from my grandchildren, Ayanna Demaris Thomas, and Myles Chandler McDonald. My

promise to the constituents was that I would take Choose Hope to Washington because, for me, Hope represents the American agenda that speaks to opportunity to fulfill dreams, quality education, job preparation and training, but expands global work opportunities, job creation through business incentives and transportation projects while maintaining health security for seniors and protection for our children.

I am also going to foster gender equity in health research projects. So I have come today to work with you as a team so that we can all forge an American agenda for all of the people of the United States as well as California in a bipartisan effort. I do welcome your support and thank you so much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr. SPEAKER. The Chair will take 1-minute speeches.

NO EXCUSE FOR 40-PERCENT TAX RATE ON MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday millions and millions of Americans paid their taxes all across this country. Unfortunately, most of them found that the Government was taking more and more of their hard-earned dollars, and they were keeping less and less to support their families.

The tax burden on the average American family is outrageous. The total tax bill for an average family is almost 40 percent. Most Americans will spend more on taxes than they do on food, shelter, clothing, health care combined. Think of that; it is unbelievable.

Yesterday, during debate, one of the participants on the other side noted that taxes are what we pay for civilization. Now, I am mystified as to where that bit of wisdom was gleaned. There is no excuse for a 40-percent tax rate on middle-income families. That is not civilization; that is something close to tyranny.

The American people have every right to be upset about high taxes, and we have an obligation to try and change tax and spend Washington. It is time we give tax relief to the American people, and we ought to do it right now.

CFS IS A DEVASTATING INFECTIOUS DISEASE

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, a recently published book, *Osler's Web*, by Hillary Johnson, charges with impressive evidence that the Federal Center for Disease Control has ignored sub-

stantial clinical and epidemiological evidence that chronic fatigue syndrome is a devastating infectious disease caused by a specific virus rather than a psychosomatic illness as the CDC has claimed. Miss Johnson asserts that there is impressive evidence the chronic fatigue syndrome is, in fact, an immunological disease with many of the same characteristics as AIDS, that HHV-6, a virus may be a precipitating factor or a cofactor in CFS and in other immunological diseases, including AIDS, and that distinguished scientists who have come to the same or similar conclusion have been systematically ostracized and denied funding for the research by a small clique at the Center for Disease Control.

I have already contacted Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala requesting that she investigate these disturbing allegations, and I now urge my colleagues to join me in directing the GAO to look into this matter as well.

TAX DAY IN AMERICA

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the most dreaded day of the year arrived yesterday. It was tax day in America. The Republicans tried to make yesterday a little better by passing a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote to raise taxes.

Unfortunately, the tax and spenders in Congress prevented us from doing that. The liberals praise themselves for having the courage to raise taxes. That's not courage, that's taking the easy way out. That's why we had a record tax increase in 1993. It shouldn't be that easy.

A recent survey showed that 1 percent of Americans believe taxes are too low. By preventing us from passing this tax limitation amendment, the tax lovers in this Congress have defied the will of 99 percent of America.

We could have made yesterday a little better. Instead, the liberals are trying to ensure that every day is tax day in America.

TRIBUTE TO REX CHAO

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

Ms. MOLINARI. Mr. Speaker, last week, a senseless tragedy took from us a great and giving friend. Rex Chao, a student at Johns Hopkins University and an intern in my office, was murdered in very cold blood. It is difficult to not think of Rex in the most alive of terms. He loved being here in the U.S. Capitol, immersed in Government. He was excited by the Republican revolution and he was driven by his love and confidence in our Nation.

My office and I struggled with the most fitting tribute we could give our friend and decided that it should be a 1-

minute speech. Rex would want to be in the middle of partisan debate and elevated discussions concerning the issues we face as Americans. Rex will now be recorded forever in congressional history.

Our debates, our philosophies are important to our democracy. But it is the idealism of young people like Rex that will always guarantee its future. We are grateful he came our way.

HOW ABOUT A FEW JOBS IN AMERICA?

(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, the Department of Labor continues to amaze me with these new job listings. Check this out: Box bender ball warper, fish smoker, top screw nut roaster, impregnator, worm picker blank maker, hooker laster. Does that mean there is a hooker quicker job? If that is not enough to file your chapter 7, how about a slime plant operator helper? How about a wax ball knockout worker?

Unbelievable, Mr. Speaker, when American workers become box bending, ball warping, nut roasting top screws, it is evident everybody is getting their fish smoked. How about a few jobs in America? Eight million jobs. What do they pay, Mr. Speaker? Five dollars an hour? I yield back the balance of these jobs.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS HAS IT BACKWARD: FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON, ACTIONS ARE WORDS, AS EVIDENCED BY HIS VETOES

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, in the current issue of Time magazine, we have a very interesting quote from George Stephanopoulos, one of Bill Clinton's top aides. He says, "For this President, words are actions."

Well, let's examine the record. Here are some interesting words from one of Bill Clinton's campaign commercials: "I've offered a plan to get the economy moving again, starting with a middle-class tax cut." Or, how about these words: "I would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget." And let's not forget these words, again, from the President: "I have a plan * * * to end welfare as we know it."

Mr. Speaker, considering the fact that Bill Clinton has vetoed all of these promises, I'm left wondering, What is George Stephanopoulos talking about?

The record is clear. There is no similarity between what Bill Clinton says and what he does.

Obviously, Mr. Stephanopoulos got it backward: For this President actions are words, because his vetoes speak volumes about protecting Washington's values.

EARTH DAY

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day will soon be upon us, and under instructions from the Republican National Committee, members from the other side of the aisle will be planting trees in an effort to clean up their well-deserved antienvironmental image. The American people know, however, that the only thing green about the Republican Party is the color of the campaign dollars they receive from big-name polluters.

It is no coincidence, Mr. Speaker, that the Republican majority is still trying to pass legislation to allow oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. GOP coffers have been pumped full of money from the oil and gas industries.

You see, the process is simple: Pump greenbacks into Republican coffers, then pump oil and gas out of fragile ecosystems.

So this coming Earth Day when you see your Republican Member of Congress planting a tree, just think of how scenic the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will be with oil wells dotting the landscape.

WE MUST PROTECT WORKING CLASS AMERICANS FROM ROBBERY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EVERY APRIL 15

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I like trees. I think it is a good idea that we plant more trees. But let us talk about something serious and get beyond partisan bickering. Let us talk about what happened yesterday with the tax vote.

We continue to hear that we are providing tax cuts for the rich, but I have to tell the Members, when I hold my town hall meetings, and I have held 75 over the past year, it is not people making six figures asking for tax cuts, it is working class Americans making \$30,000 or less who see every 2 weeks when they are working at Wendy's and they are working at Wal-Mart and they are carrying two or three jobs, that the Federal Government is taking more and more and more of their money.

We have to do something to protect those working class Americans who continue to get robbed by the Federal Government every April 15 and every 2 weeks. That is why I was proud to vote the way I did, and that is why I was disappointed to hear the rhetoric about all these people who are so darned interested in union workers and the working class Americans who will not do what they want them to do, and that is to give them back more of their money so they can invest in their fu-

ture, their children's education, and put a little bit of money to the side.

CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF SUMMER JOBS PROGRAMS FOR 615,000 DESERVING STUDENTS

(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, I could not help but hear my good friend, the gentleman from Florida, talk about jobs. I just wonder how many of the Republicans are supporting the increase in minimum wage that so many Americans need.

Now there are approximately 53 days left until schools in Houston and across the Nation recess for summer vacation. There will be a crisis of out-of-work young people if this Congress does not restore the Job Training Partnership Act funds for summer youth employment.

The extremist forces in the House have smeared the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King in the month of his death, as he fought for the opportunities for underprivileged young people to find summer work, by eliminating these funds altogether. Eliminated were \$867 million in nationwide funding, \$9.1 million from my hometown in Houston, TX, alone; in all, leaving some 615,000 underprivileged young people across America without summer jobs that they depend on to support their families and return to school. Fortunately, the Senate has restored most of the funding for this vital program. However, the uncertainty that this program faces due to temporary spending measure after temporary spending measure leaves us in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, I simply ask, in 53 days, let us stand for the young people of America. Let us restore the jobs, the 6,000 jobs in Houston, and the \$9.1 million.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE IS NOT A PANACEA

(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, somehow liberals in this House and the big labor union bosses here in Washington, DC, are convinced that raising the minimum wage will somehow solve the world's problems. The belief in the effectiveness of the minimum wage is a triumph of fantasy over reality, of symbolism over substance.

The proponents of an increased minimum wage argue that Americans need a raise. Well, if Members recall, Mr. Speaker, Republicans tried to give working Americans a raise by giving them a tax cut, and the President said no and vetoed it. Now liberals are falling, and, I might say, those big labor union bosses are falling all over themselves trying to portray themselves as