

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

defenders of the poor, the economically downtrodden. But it is all an act, and Americans know it. Even President Clinton's top economic adviser, Joseph Stieglitz, wrote in an economic textbook that, "A higher minimum wage does not seem a particularly useful way to help the poor."

If liberals and those labor bosses were really convinced about the poor and concerned about them, they would support tax relief, that \$500 per child tax credit. They would lower interest rates by supporting a balanced budget, and also they would seek economic growth.

#### LEGISLATION WHICH PROTECTS OUR PLANET SHOULD BE A CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITY

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, let me say first for the record that the buying power of the minimum wage is the lowest it has been in 40 years. To deny an increase in the minimum wage is reprehensible.

Mr. Speaker, today I have risen to speak as we approach Earth Day, a day that Americans across the country come together to focus on the environment. I would like to call attention to the atrocious environmental record that the Republican majority has created. At a time when the EPA estimates that nearly 40 percent of the Nation's waters are unfit for fishing and swimming, we would think that clean water would be a priority.

However, Mr. Speaker, the so-called Clean Water Act that the Republican majority passed last year, written mostly by corporate polluters, would create waivers and exemptions from previously established basic standards for our rivers, lakes, streams, and oceans.

In short, protecting our environment means protecting our future. We have been entrusted to provide a future of clean air, lush forests, and clean water for our children and our children's children. Legislation which protects our planet should be a priority, not the Republican majority's laws that have encouraged its destruction.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1202

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1202.

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

There was no objection.

#### LET US FOCUS NATIONAL EFFORTS ON WINNING THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS

(Mr. ZELIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois, DENNY HASTERT, the gentleman from Florida, JOHN MICA, the gentleman from Indiana, MARK SOUDER, and I just returned from a counternarcotics trip to Mexico, Panama, Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru. We met with various leaders in the anti-drug effort, including Peru's President Fujimori and Colombia's National Police Chief Serrano. We also met the brave Americans from several of our Government agencies in those countries, with armed patrols who went into the jungles of Bolivia and Peru where the bulk of the world's coca leaf is grown and processed in primitive drug labs.

We watched as Bolivian antidrug units destroyed a pit where cocaine was made to ship to Colombia and Mexico, and then be shipped into our country. The deadly cocaine and heroin destroying our communities starts in the jungle and ends up in the streets of New Hampshire.

We have people risking and even losing their lives on the front line. We need to get a commitment from our people and our national leaders to refocus our efforts on winning this war. Drugs and crime together are our Nation's No. 1 national security threat. We need to get everybody, from the President and Congress to teachers, parents, and media, talking about this threat to our Nation. We also need a plan that puts a priority on educating our people about the risk of narcotics, that includes treatment for those who are already addicted, as well as sufficient funds for law enforcement interdiction and eradication. We can win the war on drugs if we can put a man on the moon. We need to get moving now.

#### BEWARE REPUBLICAN EARTH DAY ASSAULT

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Saturday is Earth Day, a day to celebrate our environment—our Earth—our home. We must protect it; we have no other place to go.

We have a responsibility to make our world a little greener and a little cleaner—to make it safer for our children and unborn generations.

The Republican leadership does not agree.

Republicans passed the dirty water bill. Their Superfund reform lets corporate polluters off the hook. Who benefits? Polluters. Who suffers? Each and every one of us. There is more pollution in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat.

The American people know what you are doing. They have seen the Republican assault on our environment—and they are worried. Be careful with your

publicity stunts this Earth Day—the American people will not be fooled.

#### AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED ONLY AT THE STATE AND COMMUNITY LEVEL

(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, let me assure my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia, that after the hue and cry and the celebrations this Earth Day, many committed conservatives will stand there to clean up the mess left by so many so-called environmentalists.

It is interesting to hear the lines provided today, Mr. Speaker, from our friends on the liberal side, their carefully crafted scripts engaging in playground taunts. Let me state unequivocally and for the record that the new majority is in favor of clean air and clean water, and yes, restoring balance to our laws, recognizing that Phoenix is not the same as Philadelphia, or that Flagstaff is not the same as Fargo, ND, and relying on people on the front lines to solve their problems in the 50 States where there are departments of environmental quality, and in the communities, understanding that there are differences.

The key to solving the problem, Mr. Speaker, resides with the American people, not with the Washington bureaucrats, and no amount of name-calling can change that fact.

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#### REPUBLICAN THREATS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

(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, the founder of the annual April 22 Earth Day, former Senator Gaylord Nelson, said the record of the 104th Congress shows this to be the worst environmental Congress ever. The majority leadership in this body has attempted to roll back years of environmental progress to provide favors for its special interest friends.

Because of budget cuts by the majority in this Congress, the Environmental protection Agency has missed thousands of inspections and enforcement actions. This same majority has shifted costs from polluters to taxpayers, while cleanups have been slowed at 400 toxic waste sites and stopped at 60 Superfund sites. Because funds to implement six administrative rules have been cut, hundreds of millions of pounds of pollution entered our water supply that could have been prevented.

While never aggressively pursued, adequately funded or fully enforced,