

our environmental laws were working. Yet, there is much to be done. It is time for the majority in the 104th Congress to clean up its environmental act.

PAYING MORE AND GETTING LESS

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, we have heard the other side bash the Republicans about environmental policy. Unfortunately they do not want to deal with the facts.

We heard them mention 40 percent of the streams still polluted in the country, or whatever percentage. That is under current law. Let us look at Superfund, one of their great examples that they want to protect as we do now. Over 2,000 sites have been identified for hazardous waste. How many have been cleaned up? Just a handful, less than 70, at a cost of billions of dollars.

Where does 85 percent of the money go? For attorneys fees and for studies. That is what we are talking about here. We are talking about paying more and getting less.

Of the sites that were cleaned up, a GAO report last year said the sites were chosen on the basis of political pressure, those few sites that did not address public health, safety or welfare. So they want to pay more and get less. They want to protect the 6,000 bureaucrats in Washington, DC, and EPA just down the street from here, who have not cleaned up a hazardous waste site and would not recognize one if it hit them in the face.

THE EXTREME REPUBLICAN MEAN-SPIRITED AGENDA

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it has been 16 months since the Republicans have taken over Congress, and what have we gotten for it? We have gotten an extreme agenda that hurts the middle class.

The previous Speaker showed why the environment is so important and how the Republican majority is doing nothing to help the environment. We have Medicare cuts and Medicaid cuts that hurt our senior citizens. We have the largest education cuts in American history. Let me say that again, the largest education cuts in American history. As we approach Earth Day, we find cuts in the environment, cuts in environmental enforcement, allowing the polluters to continue to pollute.

They use the code word "balance." That means let us let industry continue to pollute. They hurt the middle class. They want to keep corporate welfare. This is what the agenda was all about yesterday.

They talk about tax relief. We have rules in this House that we passed, much-heralded rules saying that there needs to be a supermajority in order to raise taxes, and the Republicans have waived those rules three times.

Let us stop the nonsense. Let us stop hurting the middle class with the extreme Republican mean-spirited agenda.

CALL FOR A MINIMUM WAGE BILL

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House spent several hours on legislation everybody knew that was not going to go anywhere, was not going to pass and even if it did, it would not have any effect on anybody in this country for years to come because it would have to be ratified by the States.

But we Democrats are asking the leadership of the Republicans, Speaker GINGRICH and the radical Republicans, to bring forward legislation that will help millions of people in this country now, and that is an increase in the minimum wage. The minimum wage today is the buying power of what it was 40 years ago. Many people out in my district work for the minimum wage. They need an increase in the minimum wage.

I ask the Speaker and his radical Republicans, let us bring forth a minimum wage bill that will be helpful to the people of this country. Let us not continue to work on legislation that will have no effect and will not help anybody. Let us do a minimum wage bill.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day is coming, and if we are serious about protecting the planet, we are going to have to work together as Democrats and Republicans, as Americans and as citizens of this planet Earth to achieve the results that we all say that we are in favor of.

It is not going to work to say Republicans or Democrats, this and that. We have 60 Superfund sites where work has stopped. We have some 2,000 Superfund sites, 1,300 of which we have not even gotten to. If we are serious about this, we will stop spending billions of dollars, \$5 billion out of the last \$15 billion, on nothing but litigation and bureaucracy.

Superfund reform is bipartisan. Republicans favor it, Democrats favor it, and we need to pass it if we are serious about cleaning up toxic waste sites. If we are serious about protecting our rain forests and our savannas, then perhaps you will wish to sponsor the Rain

Forest and Savanna Protection Act that I will soon be introducing, that will condition World Bank, IMF, bilateral, and multilateral foreign aid to countries that ought to be responsible for protecting our rain forests and savannas on sound environmental stewardship.

RNC GOOFS ON TAX AND SPEND WORK SHEET

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

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, as we know, the tax and spend work sheet went out all over the country. One was sent to my district from the National Republican Congressional Committee.

It says here, "Neil Abercrombie's Tax and Spend Work Sheet." The only problem is that they forgot to white out Representative KAREN THURMAN's name at the bottom. They were using a generic one-size-fits-all work sheet for everybody in the country, and they are so stupid that they put somebody else's name on my work sheet. They do not know the difference between Hawaii and Florida.

So when they ask me about taxing and spending, I say, "I don't know, ask the Republican National Committee. They're the ones that put out Representative KAREN THURMAN's work sheet for my work sheet."

They say they want to represent the values of the people of the First District of Hawaii. Well, I am in good shape to do that. I do not live in Florida. Why do you not go down to Florida and check with Representative KAREN THURMAN the next time you want to do that?

They told me this campaign was going to be nasty but they did not say it was going to be foolish as well.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 789

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 789.

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

There was no objection.

ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD OF 104TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, with Earth Day coming up, it is time to reflect on the environmental record of the 104th Congress. Do you recall, during the heyday of the Gingrich revolution, when in one appropriation bill the Gingrich Republicans put in a 28-page amendment which eliminated 14 environmental protection laws they considered unnecessary?

Let me give some examples. The law which says the Federal Government will monitor the presence of arsenic in drinking water, the Republicans say that is unnecessary.

Another law which said that one industry, a special interest group, the cement kiln industry, would have a waiver of air pollution standards, the Republicans said, that is a good idea. Well, that amendment passed with the Gingrich Republicans' support, and after 3 separate efforts, 35 moderate Republicans finally took all the heat they could at home and decided to join the Democrats and repeal it.

Since then, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] has tried to get an awful lot greener. Every time he has come to the floor, he has talked about saving the environment, but the American people know better. You have to put money in the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the purity of the water we drink and the safety of the air that we breathe.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to comment on some of the comments that were being made on the other side of the aisle by Republicans about Earth Day and progress on the environment.

It is certainly true that a lot more needs to be done on environmental protection, whether it is cleaner air or cleaning up more of the hazardous wastesites under the Superfund Program. But to suggest that the answer to that or the way to do that is to cut back on the number of people who work for the EPA, or to cut back on the investigators and those who go out and enforce the existing environmental laws, or to weaken those laws so that they do not provide as much environmental protection, well, that makes no sense at all.

If you are concerned about the environment, you do not turn the clock back 25 years on a bipartisan basis in this House and the Senate and in the Presidency to try and improve environmental quality and to increase enforcement. That is what Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership are trying to do here in this House. They are trying to turn back the clock.

They are saying we do not need the people to do the investigation, we do not need the enforcers. We are going to let industry do its own thing. The bottom line is that you are not going to improve the quality of this Nation's environment unless you do more to protect the environment, have stronger laws, and have better enforcement. That is what we need.

That is not what is happening here. Unfortunately, we are leading up to Earth Day this year with this Republican leadership working in the opposite direction.

NEW REPUBLICAN AGENDA IS SAME OLD GAME PLAN

(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, recently the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the Republican leader, unveiled what he calls a, quote, new agenda for this Congress. But in fact what we really have in this new agenda is the same old Republican game plan of hurting working families and the health and safety of working families while bailing out the special interests.

At a minimum, the hardworking families of this country should be able to count on the Congress to protect the public health, but this Congress has been a polluter's dream come true. During the 104th Congress, Republicans invited polluters to rewrite the Clean Water Act. They also proposed letting big companies off the hook for cleaning up hazardous waste that they dumped.

The House Republican leadership has insisted on deep cuts in environmental protection, halting cleanups in many areas. They have also encouraged their folks to let people know that they are environmentally conscious, and then they say, "go plant a tree, go hug a tree, go to a zoo, that will make people think you are environmentally conscious."

Do not be fooled by the phony agenda the Republicans have unveiled. It is a sad attempt to mask the truth. After almost a year and a half of failure, the Gingrich Congress continues to pursue an agenda that puts the needs and the health of Americans at risk.

REPUBLICAN TURNAROUND ON ENVIRONMENT COMES TOO LATE

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, after a year of the most comprehensive and concentrated attack on the basic environmental laws of this country, the Speaker of this House and the majority leader of the Republican Party believe that they can turn around a record and convince the American people into believing that all of a sudden the Republican caucus in the House is in favor of environmental protection. It simply will not wash.

After a year of voting against clean air and clean water, voting against Superfund liability, voting against the Endangered Species Act, voting to eviscerate wilderness areas of this country, you will not turn around America's image of the Republican caucus in this House by recycling batteries or reauthorizing the Coastal Zone Management Act. It takes more than that to protect the environment, and it takes more than that to turn around the image the American public have of the Republicans and the environment.

They have tried to destroy the laws, and now they are trying to hide the record because they are reading the polls and the election results in November.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE STEVEN SCHIFF, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVEN SCHIFF, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: this is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that four members of my Albuquerque District Office have been served with subpoenas issued by the Second Judicial District Court (Bernalillo County, New Mexico) in the case of *New Mexico v. Martin*.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

STEVEN SCHIFF.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

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TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2337) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for increased taxpayer protections, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2337

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2".

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; amendment of 1986 Code; table of contents.

TITLE I—TAXPAYER ADVOCATE

Sec. 101. Establishment of position of Taxpayer Advocate within Internal Revenue Service.