

The laboratory protective equipment recommended included safety glasses and a lab coat, and instructions include keeping the container lid on tightly closed and how to transport the water and a warning to protect it from freezing.

Yes, Mr. Royko points out, however, that OSHA did not document any effects of overexposure to water. Does OSHA not consider drowning a hazard? The bureaucrats at OSHA also failed to identify any conditions to avoid. What about the chance of burning your hand if the water is too hot?

Mr. Speaker, the time to reform OSHA is now.

UNITED STATES-JAPAN AUTO FIGURES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with the President in Japan, it is time to take stock of our abysmal trade accounts with that nation.

The administration is doing its best to put a public relations spin to last year's massive \$60 billion trade deficit with Japan. Look at the facts: During the first 3 years of the Clinton administration, the United States has suffered over \$185 billion in more trade deficits with Japan, a 39-percent increase over the abysmal trade deficit records under the Bush administration. U.S. auto manufacturers still have less than 1 measly percent of Japan's auto market, while Japan commands over one-third, 33 percent of this market. The value of the dollar against the yen has gone down by 40 percent since 1990, making our automotive goods 40 percent cheaper in their market. Yet the United States gained only one-third of 1 percent of Japan's auto market since 1995.

Mr. Speaker, let us save the high fives. We have scaled an ant hill. Now all that is left is the mountain.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUT?

(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, recalling my career in radio, here is a golden oldie I am sure our liberal friends will absolutely love. It is taken from one of Bill Clinton's 1992 campaign commercials:

I'm Bill Clinton, and I think you deserve a change. That's why I've offered a plan to get the economy moving again, starting with the middle-class tax cut.

But after the election, Bill Clinton forgot about the middle class. He must have developed some sort of memory problem. For 2 years when he and the liberals had control of both the White House and this Congress, Bill Clinton still refused to honor his promise to

cut taxes to the middle class. In fact, the record clearly shows he raised taxes, 250 billion dollars' worth.

Bill Clinton traded in his promise of tax relief for the largest tax increase in American history. And then, in this new Congress, he vetoed tax relief the new majority provided to most every American.

Mr. Speaker, the President had a chance. He blew it. The new majority is committed to letting Americans hang onto more of their hard-earned dollars.

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT OR NOT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a male prisoner wanting to be a lady demanded hormone injections at taxpayer expense, citing the 14th amendment. A lower court said this would-be lady is a tramp, absolutely not.

But the 10th Circuit Court said, hey, let luck be a lady tonight, citing the 8th amendment, said to deny hormones for this prisoner would be cruel and unusual punishment.

Unbelievable. Who are these three judges? Larry, Moe, and Curly? Do they realize that these prisoners get free food, health care, libraries, TV's? What is next? Wonderbras, pantyhose? Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I say injections are in order, not for the prisoner, but for the three judges. They should get a combination injection of Prozac and common sense.

Think about it. I yield back the balance of these injections.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Our guests in the gallery are reminded that demonstrations of approval or disapproval are not permitted under the rules of the House.

WORKING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ACT

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, a 12-year-old boy by the name of Iqbal Masih was murdered in Pakistan because he had dared to speak out against child slave labor.

Iqbal had been sold by his father for \$16 when he was 4 years old. He was chained to a loom. When he made a mistake, he was savagely beaten.

With the help of an American firm, he escaped and spoke out against this practice, which is actually on the rise in Asia and Africa and Latin America, because there is so much profit to be made by exploiting children that poor governments are very easily corrupted.

He tried to make a difference. He was murdered. But it is up to us to follow his lead, to show his courage.

Today in honor of Iqbal and the millions of children who work as forced laborers, I am proud to introduce the Working Children's Rights Act. It will deny U.S. foreign aid to countries that refuse to enforce their own labor laws, it will deny aid to governments that continue to violate the most basic human rights of children, and it will require the State Department to investigate corruption and provide for yearly hearings, so that we will never forget the terrible plight faced by millions of children like Iqbal Masih.

REPEAL 16TH AMENDMENT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our current Tax Code has undergone 31 major revisions and 400 minor revisions over the past 40 years. It has grown from 11,000 words to over 7 million words. The IRS now prints about 480 different tax forms for Americans to fill out. But taxpayers shouldn't fear because the IRS will send you an additional 280 forms to explain how to fill out the first 480. Doesn't that sound simple?

All this complex nonsense costs Americans about 5.4 billion hours and \$200 billion a year.

Is it any wonder that Americans are frustrated, angry, and just plain fed up with our current tax system. It's time to replace it. Join me in repealing the 16th amendment. We must get rid of the IRS. This country and her citizens deserve no less.

INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(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, if NEWT GINGRICH and the radical right Republicans want to do something for the working poor, then let us have a minimum wage bill. Yesterday some of their Members stood in the well on that side and said, "Well, we have already proposed to take care of the working poor through our tax bill that we passed last year, and the President vetoed it."

Nothing is further from the truth. There is not one penny, not one penny, in that tax bill for the working poor. You take a two-wage earner family with two children, both working at minimum wage. They do not pay any taxes. There is nothing in your tax bill that helps them.

The only way that we can help the working poor get out of poverty, the only way we can help people get off welfare, is to increase the minimum wage.

Why, Mr. Speaker, do you and the radical right Republicans refuse to permit the Democrats to bring a minimum wage bill to this floor? I say to you, let us do it now.

AMERICANS PAYING TOO MUCH IN TAXES

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker apparently forgot the Bill Clinton tax increase, 4.3 cents in the gas tax. Did he forget that? That is on the working poor. How about taxing Social Security benefits of those people who had sense enough to save with \$35,000 a year income each year?—\$35,000, a couple, and they tax 85 percent of your Social Security benefits that you paid 16 percent of your payroll in each year of your working life. That is what Clinton has done for you.

Mr. Speaker, each day millions of Americans wake up early, get dressed, kiss their families good-bye and go to work. They then spend the next 2 hours 47 minutes working for the Federal Government to pay their taxes. That is more time than they spend working to feed, clothe, and earn money for their family's housing.

Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage. When American families are spending more time working for the Government than they do supporting their own families, something is wrong. Americans deserve to keep more, not less of their own income for their own families, and Congress should be doing everything we can to get this Government off their backs.

AMERICANS SUPPORT RAISING MINIMUM WAGE

(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, congressional Republicans are using every single trick in the book to block a vote on raising the minimum wage in this country a mere 90 cents, even though the minimum wage is at a 40-year low.

Yesterday Senate Republicans used a procedural maneuver to dodge raising the minimum wage. They march in lockstep with Speaker GINGRICH and his leadership team, who have been blocking every single effort to bring up a vote in this body on raising the minimum wage.

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It is only the latest example of how Speaker GINGRICH and his Republican leadership are out of step with the mainstream of this country. They, in fact, wanted to give a \$245 billion tax break to the richest Americans in this country, to give the richest corporations in this country a \$17 billion windfall, but they do not in fact want to see the minimum wage raised by 90 cents.

The New York Times said today that 84 percent of the U.S. folks are for an increase in the minimum wage. Today 13 House Republicans, to their credit, will break ranks with their leadership

to join those of us who said let us increase the minimum wage. Let us do that for the hard-working, responsible Americans in this country. Let us give them an increase in their salaries.

DO SOMETHING FOR AMERICANS BY PASSING HEALTH CARE REFORM AND INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(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, Congress has a golden opportunity to actually do something for the American people. We can pass the necessary health care reform bills this year and also increase the minimum wage, like my colleagues have said.

The Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill in the Senate will enhance the portability of coverage by ending permanent exclusion for preexisting conditions. However, the inclusion in the House of the medical savings accounts, malpractice reform, and also the taking away of State regulation of multiple employer welfare plans will hurt health care reform.

Key Senators, including Senator KASSEBAUM, have discouraged the inclusion of these medical savings accounts because it has no place in this bill. House Republicans want to federalize insurance regulations for self-insured small business. The States are now regulating these plans, and have served as a laboratory for innovation on improving coverage and combating fraud. Why do we want to bring that to Washington?

The Nation's Governors, State legislators, and insurance commissioners have opposed these provisions, but the majority Republicans have put it in. Let us give the people reasonable health care reform and a minimum wage increase.

LET US CELEBRATE EARTH DAY IN A BIPARTISAN WAY

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, next Monday we will celebrate Earth Day. I wonder if we will celebrate Earth Day in a bipartisan way.

It is true that in recent years, we had witnessed some improvement in environmental standards for clean air and water, due in large part to bipartisan support provided previously by Congress.

Yet, the 104th Congress has witnessed a dramatic change in attitude among many of my Republican colleagues.

Escapes and loopholes have been inserted in many measures on behalf of those who would pollute, weakening the very laws that protect the health of the Nation.

Thus, despite a quarter of a century of effort, investment, and concentra-

tion—toxic waste, unclean air, and unsafe drinking water is still a way of life for millions in the United States.

Competing interests between the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land on which we live, versus economic efficiencies and profit for business interests have resulted in legislative action and inaction that has delayed and denied environmental improvement.

Those who have suffered the most are the voiceless and the powerless.

Yet, in spite of it all, there remains hope for the future.

When we celebrate Earth Day on Monday, April 22, I hope all Members will pledge to provide something to celebrate about.

104TH CONGRESS HAS SHIFTED FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT TO ENFORCEMENT, NOT WEAKENING, OF EXISTING REGULATIONS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, let us think about and talk about, just for a moment, exactly what the 104th Congress has done with respect to the environment, because there is so much deception that is being propagated about it, it is difficult to separate the truth from the reality or from the fiction.

The reality is that for the first time ever this Congress actually passed a Clean Water Act that provides for relief from and accounting for nonpoint source pollution. We had never done that before.

This Congress increased the funding for the Clean Water Act from \$1.2 to \$2.4 billion, a tremendous increase.

This Congress did not weaken one single regulation with respect to the standards themselves, but what this Congress did do is, it shifted where the focus of enforcement will be. It shifted it away from Washington, Washington bureaucrats with a one-size-fits-all attitude and approach, and to the States.

There is, in fact, notwithstanding the fact that many would like us to believe otherwise, there is no difference with respect to the goal, but there is a tremendous difference with respect to the way we get there, the process.

AMERICA NEEDS AN INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE TO SUSTAIN ITS HIGH QUALITY STANDARD OF LIVING

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, we know what distinguishes America from Third World countries, not just its democratic processes but its standard of living, the high quality of life we have in this country. Well, at least that is the way it used to be when people could get good paying jobs in industry. That is not the case now.