

CRIME: A SERIOUS ISSUE IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a very serious issue in our country today—crime. With all of the freedoms we enjoy in our country today, if we as citizens do not have confidence in our judicial system to keep the criminals off the streets, we do not have total freedom, because we will always be looking over our shoulders or will be too scared to participate in social activities outside of our homes.

Many, many people feel this way today. And who can blame them—when they read stories about Clinton-appointed judges who side with the criminals and blame society. Like the Clinton judge who insisted that the killer had “socially redeeming values,” even though he stabbed his victim repeatedly, shot him twice, and laughed at the victim while he pled for his life.

This is wrong. Our justice system should protect the rights of crime victims—not invent newer and more expansive rights for criminal defendants. Our justice system should distribute justice, not liberal social experiments that coddle criminals.

We need to appoint judges who represent and understand America's values.

STOP PLAYING POLITICAL GAMES WITH THE 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. To quickly respond to my colleagues who spoke about Medicare, the congressional Republicans in this body do not want to fix Medicare. They, in fact, want to destroy Medicare. They proposed a \$270 billion cut in Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax break for the wealthiest Americans. Do not let us let them get away with it.

Mr. Speaker, on the front page of today's Washington Times, a Republican Senator says of congressional Republicans, “We have no agenda.”

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of bipartisanship, I want to offer some assistance to my Republican colleagues. For starters, the Republican leadership can schedule a vote on raising the minimum wage in this Nation. Most families are working harder in a mad scramble to pay their bills every single week. They need a raise, and we should raise the minimum wage.

Today the minimum wage is at a 40-year low. Democrats have proposed boosting it by a mere 90 cents, but the Republican leadership continues to block any effort to bring forward a vote on the minimum wage. Let us do it, let us give hard-working Americans the raise that they need to take care of their families.

THE TIME IS RIGHT TO DO RIGHT: RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(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, the time is always right to do right. And raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do.

This is not just an economic issue, Mr. Speaker, this is a moral issue. Hard working people deserve the right to earn a livable wage. The minimum wage is at a 40-year low. No one can live, much less support a family, on \$8,400 a year.

Mr. Speaker, stop playing politics with people's lives. Bring a clean minimum wage bill to this floor. Do not load it up and bring it down with your pet programs.

The American people, hard-working people, are watching and waiting. Raise the minimum wage.

CAN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AFFORD ANY MORE CLINTON-APPOINTED JUDGES?

(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, one of the most important things that a President, any President, does during his tenure is to fill the vacant Federal judgeships in the Federal judiciary. The other body does have the responsibility to “advise and consent,” but ultimately, the responsibility for who sits on the Federal bench is the President's.

President Clinton has a miserable track record for appointing judges. His picks are by and large doctrinaire liberals. Let's take the Judge Baer debacle.

Judge Baer, a Federal judge in New York, refused to admit into evidence 75 pounds of cocaine and 4 pounds of heroin even though the person caught with the drugs gave a full confession. His reasoning in the case was faulty at best, and implied that the New York City police were corrupt and wrong for investigating a clear case of probable cause involving a huge amount of drugs.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton has already appointed 25 percent of all Federal judges. Can the American people afford any more?

□ 1415

COMMENDING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CALL TO CURB OVERFLIGHT NOISE ABOVE NATIONAL PARK UNITS

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton announced

his commitment to our national parks by ordering that agencies protect them against noise intrusions from park overflights. I applaud this announcement as it joins a hard-fought battle I have waged for 6 years in the State of Hawaii on behalf of residents adjacent to parks, hikers and other park visitors, and precious indigenous species protected by our parks.

I urge the Federal Aviation Administration and National Park Service to act quickly to respond to the President's directive. For the parks in my State, the President has called for a notice of proposed rulemaking by the end of 1996.

My files are full of petitions and letters protesting noise disturbances caused by fixed-wing and helicopter flights over Haleakala National Park on the Island of Maui and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the big island. Some hikers report that they can enjoy no peace in pristine areas because air tour operators seek to impress passengers by flying as close as possible to certain park features. Some have sent me pictures of helicopter tours flying close to canopies of trees above their houses, reporting of noise being generated that rudely awakens their children, drops and shatters dishes from kitchen counters, and denies them peace of mind. Some have presented logs documenting an average of 10 flyovers each day.

The President yesterday provided similar rationale for increased regulation of these flights by saying,

Aircraft flying at low altitudes over national parks can, if not properly managed, mar the natural beauty of the parks and create significant noise problems as well. The intrusion of such aircraft can interfere with wildlife (included endangered and threatened species), cultural resources and ceremonies, and visitors' enjoyment of parks, including the ability to experience natural sounds without interruption from mechanical noise.

I reintroduced legislation in this session of the Congress which aims to provide the relief the President has mandated in the State of Hawaii. H.R. 1369 would restrict flights over Hawaii's National Park System units and create flight-free corridors over certain areas. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1369, which would provide necessary relief for the people of Hawaii. And I once again commend the President for his statement that bolsters my efforts.

I welcome the efforts of the executive agencies, but in reality what is needed is legislative enactment of this protection for our national parks.

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IS HOLDING UP THE BUDGET BY INSERTING ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL RIDERS IN THE BILL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans have almost come together on a budget that would

carry us through the rest of the year, but the one thing that is holding it up are the anti-environmental riders that the Republican leadership insists on putting in the bill.

Today they insist on environmental riders that would bar new listings under the Endangered Species Act, prevent the EPA from protecting wetlands, provide no drinking water standards to protect the public from radon, and also to limit and cap the number of hazardous waste cleanup sites around the country.

It is no surprise to me that today the only reason we are held up on this budget bill is because the Republican leadership continues to insist on putting these anti-environmental riders in the appropriations in the budget process. It is because fundamentally, from the very beginning of this Congress, they took an anti-environmental stance because they wanted to cater to the special interests, the corporate interests, that wanted to continue to pollute and tear down our environmental laws that we have worked so hard for since Earth Day 1970.

Mr. Speaker, I know we are going to hear all kinds of rhetoric today from the Republicans about how they are so pro-environmental, but the real test is if they would eliminate the environmental riders and not put them in the budget bill. All the rest is simply rhetoric for Earth Day.

LET US ADJUST THE MINIMUM WAGE TO \$5.15 PER HOUR OVER 2 YEARS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues which Congress must periodically address is the adjusting of the level of minimum wage. I did not say raise the minimum wage, I said adjust the minimum wage. The last adjustment of the minimum wage dollars took place in 1991. At that time the minimum wage was adjusted from \$3.80 to the current level of \$4.25. Despite that adjustment of 45 cents, the actual buying power of basic hourly compensation is estimated to have fallen by 50 cents because of inflation. In fact, the minimum wage is now 29-percent lower than it was in 1979 and, left unchanged, its real value will be at a 40-year low by January. In the absence of any kind of automatic cost-of-living adjustment, let us take the necessary step to bring this basic entry-level wage up to where it needs to be today.

In the most simple way, we can positively affect the lives of millions of working Americans. Let us approve an adjustment in the minimum wage to \$5.15 per hour over the next 2 years.

BILL CLINTON'S JUDICIAL APPOINTEES ARE SOFT ON CRIME

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's judges are soft on crime.

All of our antidrug and anticrime legislation is useless if Clinton's judges refuse to enforce the law.

One of Clinton's nominees to the Federal bench—a Democrat fund-raiser from Miami—didn't even know about the Supreme Court's 1995 affirmative action decision.

Another Clinton judge dismissed a defendant's confession and 75 pounds of cocaine.

Why?

The judge ruled that police are corrupt, and that drug dealers should be allowed to run away.

Bill Clinton has already appointed 25 percent of all Federal judges.

If Clinton is elected again, he will have the chance to appoint up to 50 of all Federal judges, as well as one, two, or three Supreme Court judges.

Do the American people want President Clinton to appoint half the Federal judges?

I hope not.

I, for one, would rather see a Federal judiciary that cares about crime victims.

REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON GOVERNMENT BY INCREASING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYERS TO PAY A MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we tried welfare reform without jobs. Do we want to put these same people to work without enough pay to live on? All the welfare reform in the world will not do what a raise in the minimum wage will do. One hundred thousand kids would come out of poverty the day we lift the minimum wage. No bureaucrats, no training, just a small hike in the minimum wage. Not 1 cent added to the deficit.

Why should we subsidize employers with food stamps and other benefits in order to allow them to pay less than a minimum wage? Reduce dependency on Government by increasing the responsibility of employers to pay a minimum wage.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the first bill on the Corrections Calendar.

CONTINUITY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3049) to amend section 1505 of the Higher

Education Act of 1965 to provide for the continuity of the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 3049

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

SECTION 1. CONTINUITY BOARD.

Section 1505(i) of the Higher Education Amendments of 1968 (20 U.S.C. 4412(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence the following: "or to recommend another individual if the member does not consent to be reappointed"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) If the President has not transmitted to the Senate a nomination to fill the position of a member covered by such a recommendation within 60 days from the date that the member's term expires—

"(A) if the member consents to reappointment, the member shall be deemed to have been reappointed for another full term to the Board, with all the appropriate rights and responsibilities; or

"(B) if the member does not consent to reappointment, an individual recommended by the Board under paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have been appointed for a full term to the Board with all the appropriate rights and responsibilities."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] will each be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD].

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 3049, which simply corrects a board of trustees appointment problem for the Institute of American Indian Arts. This legislation was introduced in a bipartisan manner by our colleagues Mr. GOODLING and Mr. KILDEE at the request of the Institute. This simple fix will help maintain the continuity of the Institute's board of trustees, and will help the Institute to continue to fulfill its mission of educating those who wish to preserve our native American arts and culture.

The Institute of American Indian Arts is a federally created institution of higher education. Its primary purposes are to provide scholarly study of and instruction in Indian art and culture, and to establish programs which culminate in the awarding of degrees in the various fields of Indian art and culture. The Institute is authorized under title XV of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986, and policy for the Institute is set by a board of trustees which includes 13 voting members appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Unfortunately, the board appointment process has proven to be overly cumbersome and this has resulted in a number of board members serving additional terms, sometimes beyond the