

BIG SAVINGS FOR AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today the 104th Congress will vote to end big government. By the end of the day today, we will have saved taxpayers \$43 billion over the length of the 104th Congress, the largest single cut in government spending since World War II. Translation: \$688 for a family of four.

With passage of today's legislation, this Congress will end over 200 programs, more than 100 in Labor, Health and Human Services alone, \$12 million on a tick eradication program for cattle in Puerto Rico, and \$14 million for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Association.

The bill strengthens priority programs that our constituents said are important to them: An additional \$400 million for veterans medical benefits, support for our troops in Bosnia, and antiterrorism programs in Israel.

This bill does not just put the brakes on runaway Federal spending, it reverses it. Finally America's values have triumphed over Washington, DC, values. This truly is a historic day.

GIVE AMERICA A RAISE

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman used to say that the Republican Party supports the minimum wage: The lower the minimum, the better. Now that we are at a historic minimum, the Republicans will not even give the American people a vote on the floor of the Congress so we can give America a raise, and that is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I was a boy, and minimum wage jobs, when the minimum wage went up 20 cents, it was a raise. It gave you something to be proud of. It gave you a little extra money.

For Americans to get an extra one buck an hour is \$1,800 a year. That is the average 40-hour workweek. That is a lot of money for families. You can buy a lot of food and health care with \$1,800. That is \$1 an hour.

Give America a raise. Give people who make the minimum wage the decency of allowing them to fulfill Harry Truman's promise for this country.

PRESIDENTIAL PROMISES NOT FULFILLED

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

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today is Take Your Daughter to Work Day. Being a position role

model and raising a child's self-esteem are noble objectives. However, for too many of those who represent our weakest links in our society, there is no father in the house to bring a child to work, and the mother, she gets a quasi-minimum wage increase by simply having another baby.

Once upon a time there was a candidate for President who said he would end welfare as we know it. Since that slogan apparently helped Mr. Clinton get elected in 1992, I guess the 1996 slogan will be "Really, folks, some day I want to end welfare as we know it." The record would show that Mr. Clinton took 2 years to even introduce an outline of a bill, and he has vetoed welfare reform twice.

Truly the only missing ingredient between taking the first step toward welfare reform and the continuation of this vicious cycle of government dependency is President Bill Clinton.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(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, once again I rise to support the minimum wage. People will tell you that while this is just an issue about young teenagers, that is absolutely untrue. Seventy-five percent of the people who make the minimum wage are adults. Fifty-eight percent of them are women, and they head households.

Do you know how much you make a year off the minimum wage? \$8,400 a year, doing some of the dirtiest, most unpleasant, hardest work we have in this country.

Now, I cannot understand why we cannot increase the minimum wage. There are bipartisan majorities in both Houses willing to support a \$1 increase in the minimum wage. So why will the Republican leadership not bring it up?

The fact is that the Republican leadership makes over \$100,000 a year. People on minimum wage make \$8,400 a year. Is it too much to ask to give these people, these women, these hard-working Americans, a raise of \$1? I do not think so.

Again, I reiterate, we ought to raise the minimum wage.

A GOOD DAY FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today is a good day for American taxpayers. It is a day they have waited for for many, many years. Today the House and the Senate will consider and pass the omnibus appropriations bill.

This bill represents the values of ordinary American taxpayers. It represents the values of people who work hard and play by the rules. It rep-

resents the values of people who are tired of seeing one-quarter of their income going to a Federal Government that has racked up a \$5 trillion national debt.

This bill rejects the values of Washington. It is a departure from the tax, tax, spend, spend philosophy of the true extremists, the status quo Clinton liberals. This bill rejects the values of all the liberal special interests who have dominated this House for 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress can be proud that we are making the changes demanded by the American people. This new Congress is saying no to Washington's values and yes to American values.

RAISE MINIMUM WAGE NOW

(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, yesterday NEWT GINGRICH and his leadership team stiffed America's hardworking families once again. These are the families who work hard; they play by the rules. They are working longer and harder to pay the bills to save for education and for retirement.

These families support an increase in the minimum wage. Eighty-four percent of the American people favor raising the minimum wage, everyone, that is, except for the House Republican leadership.

Yesterday the Republican majority leader said he will not schedule a vote on the minimum wage. Why do House Republicans continue to give working families the back of their hand rather than extending a hand? Because, as a top business lobbyist said yesterday, we made them, and this is a quote, "We made them the majority." Republicans continue to pay off their special interest pals rather than helping America's hardworking families.

Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House, not the House of special interests. Stop hurting working families in this country. Raise the minimum wage now.

MEDICARE'S PENDING BANKRUPTCY

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, how long are the Clinton Democrats going to ignore reports that Medicare is going broke? How long are they going to jeopardize the future of our parents' and grandparents' health?

Mr. Speaker, new Government reports show a \$4.2 billion shortfall in Medicare for the first half of this fiscal year, \$4.2 billion.

Just last year the Clinton administration predicted Medicare would take in \$45 billion more. It seems the Clinton administration was wrong. When

President Clinton had the chance to reform Medicare, he chose his veto pen and MediScare, scaring seniors over our seniors' health care security. The President is ignoring Medicare's impending bankruptcy, something our seniors cannot afford.

RAISING MINIMUM WAGE A MORAL ISSUE

(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 Republicans in this House just do not get it. The American people want an increase in the minimum wage. They know, Mr. Speaker, even if you do not, that raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do.

This is not just an economic issue, this is a moral issue. Mr. Speaker, you have the capacity, you have the ability, to bring a clean minimum wage bill to this floor. Do not fight, Mr. Speaker, what is right; do not fight what is right.

On this issue there is a national bipartisan consensus. Let us do what the American people want us to do. Let us do what is right. Let us raise the minimum wage. Struggling, hardworking people deserve the right to earn a livable income. Raise the minimum wage. Raise it now.

MISAPPLICATION OF THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with just one illustration of the absolute tragedy and heartbreak being experienced right now by countless children and their families due to the misapplication of the Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA.

A couple from my district in Columbus, OH, adopted twin girls. Both biological parents consented and even chose this family that they wanted the girls to be placed with. After 6 months, as they went on to finalize the adoption, they found out that it was being contested under ICWA, which gives the tribe the final say in custody proceedings involving Indian children.

Although only one of the twins great-great-grandparents was native American, a judge in California ruled that that was enough to trigger ICWA.

These stories are commonplace and have to end. As a result of this misapplication of the law, two little girls almost 3 years old now still await the permanence and stability of the only family they have ever known, and they fear what fate might await them at the hands of the court.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Adoption Stability Act of 1996.

TIME TO VOTE ON A CLEAN MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(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, we have heard this morning, and I am glad, that after a year of threatening cuts in education funding, I am glad that the Congress and the President yesterday and today will consummate it and restore the drastic and extreme education cuts that they have been fighting a year over, and I am glad the Republican majority saw the light.

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But, really, what I want to talk about today is the minimum wage. Americans strongly support an increase in the minimum wage. In fact, the latest national poll shows at least 80 percent of Americans support an increase in the minimum wage, and yet the majority of the Republicans oppose an increase, and some even oppose the minimum wage.

In fact, yesterday the House Republican leaders decided not to even bring up a minimum wage increase for a vote. The only thing we have heard of is a measure to provide another Government subsidy for people who work at \$4.25 an hour. More welfare instead of someone being able to work their way off of welfare. That is not what the American people want.

Republicans talk a lot about moving people off of welfare and into work, but people need a livable wage to do this. Members can talk the talk, but they need to walk the walk. American families are working harder than ever, but it is tough to get ahead when working full time does not put enough money in your opinion pocket to put food on the table.

HONORING ROSHA BOOKER OF ROME, GA

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents from Rome, GA, Ms. Rosha Booker, as an example to this Congress and to the country that one person can make a difference. Rosha's commitment to her community, and especially to its children, has established her as a leader and a doer.

Rosha had few of the benefits many of us enjoy, such as a fine education. But she did not let personal adversity hold her back. She got her GED and she got involved.

As president of her residents association, she has taken the lead in attacking drug abuse; and initiated countless activities for young people, from constructive and motivational programs, to workshops designed to give children alternatives to drugs and violence.

Last year Rosha came up with Make a Difference Day. She organized a community yard sale and a fall fair, bringing together residents of her community, tenants association, and local police to stress public safety and the importance of respect for law enforcement.

USA Weekend Magazine has just recognized Rosha in its Sunday magazine as one of the Nation's leading volunteers working for a better America. USA weekend chose wisely.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3024 AND H.R. 1972

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3024 and H.R. 1972.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

WOMEN MAKE UP 59 PERCENT OF MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to make it perfectly clear, I am very glad we finally won the victory, with the help of the President, and the Democratic caucus, to restore cuts in education, to restore the 100,000 police. Today we will vote on a good appropriations bill. We are working for America.

But what we really need to talk about is not the blame game regarding the minimum wage, we really need to talk about the pain in America. A few things we should consider in the argument to raise the minimum wage are that women are the ones that make up 59 percent of the minimum wage earners and nearly three-quarters of them are adults. Further, on average, women are still paid only 72 cents for every \$1 men earn, and after inflation the value of the minimum wage is now 29 percent lower than it was in 1979.

If we do the right thing and the fair thing and raise the minimum wage, just by 90 cents, from \$4.25 to \$5.15 an hour, that alone would lift an estimated 300,000 people out of poverty, including 100,000 children.

Let us not play jokes on the American people. Raise the minimum wage for America and for its working people.

LET TAXPAYERS SEE WHAT GOVERNMENT REALLY COSTS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in 1943 Congress passed the withholding tax