

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

law. This painless collection method was described by one Senator as the best way to "get the greatest amount of money with the least amount of squawks."

Unfortunately for us all, he was right.

In fact, a recent poll showed that 54 percent of America's taxpayers have no idea how much of their income is withheld. It is the ultimate hidden tax, the best way to obscure the truth about taxes and the best way to obscure the cost of governing.

I want Americans to see what their Government costs. So I've introduced legislation that would allow workers to pay their taxes monthly, writing a check to the IRS just like they pay their mortgages, their car payments, and their rents.

In this way, taxpayers could see how much the Government is taking from their paychecks and how expensive their Government is. They would be able to determine for themselves whether or not they are getting their money's worth.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, which simply lets the taxpayers see how much their Government really costs.

AMERICANS HAVE WON A VICTORY WITH REGARD TO BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the American people have won a victory with reference to these budget negotiations. We are reversing the deficit spiral under Republican administrations in the 1980's. We are making continued progress toward balancing the budget. It is, as my Republican colleagues have said this morning, a historic moment. It is just that they miss what the historic moment is all about. For, as my colleagues can see, all of this could have been accomplished last year without the Gingrich goofs, without the Government shutdowns that cost the American people \$1.5 billion, without the pain that that caused people all over this country.

Today we have achieved this negotiation without taking cops off the street, as they wanted to, without savaging the School Lunch Program, without wrecking the environment. We have accomplished this because the American people have spoken out and said they have had enough of extremism. We Democrats did not have a majority of votes to accomplish this, but we had a majority of right on our side, and thanks to the involvement of the American people we have said no to the Gingrich extremisms and achieved a victory.

VIETNAM VETERANS AND MEN OF CONSCIENCE CANNOT VOTE FOR THE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, item in this week's April 29 U.S. News & World Report. "Clinton Won't Dodge Vietnam." That is their word, "dodge," not mine.

Although Bill Clinton went to great lengths to avoid going to Vietnam during his draft age years, try three times, the President, who made a round-the-world swing last week, has put the southeast Asian nation, that is Communist Vietnam, at the top of his must see list next year if he gets reelected.

Then the paragraph closes, like every other recent President, Clinton, they say, wants to be remembered mainly as a peacemaker. Well, at Oxford, ditching classes and flunking out and not getting his degree, he made sure that the killing fields would prevail in Cambodia and Laos and 68,000 of our friends would be executed in Vietnam.

I cannot vote, Mr. Speaker, for the appropriations bill today, not because my HIV language was taken out. I would have traded that off for the two great pro-life provisions, but Clinton thinks with his infanticide vote he has locked up all the abortion industry. He wanted to get back the homosexual industry. It is this POW bracelet. Any veteran or man of conscience cannot vote for the appropriations bill today.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 412 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 412

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported from that committee before April 27, 1996, and providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following measures:

(1) A bill making general appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, any amendment thereto, any conference report thereon, or any amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

(2) A bill or joint resolution that includes provisions making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, any amendment thereto, any conference report thereon, or any amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY],

pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 412 is a simple resolution. The proposed rule merely waives the requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House for resolutions reported from the committee before April 27, 1996, under certain conditions.

This narrow, short-term, waiver will only apply to special rules providing for the consideration or disposition of measures, amendments, conference reports, or items in disagreement from a conference that: make general appropriations for fiscal year 1996, or provisions making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1996.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 412 is straightforward, and it was reported by the Committee on Rules with unanimous voice vote. The distinguished Member, Mr. MOAKLEY, stated in the Committee on Rules that he had no objections to this rule. The committee recognized the need for expedited procedures to bring these legislative measures forward as soon as possible. Simply put, we must move quickly before temporary spending authority expires at midnight tonight. Mr. Speaker, we have reached an agreement with the White House and it is time to move forward.

The agreement we reached last night will result in 1996 discretionary spending being \$23 billion less than last year's level, and the additional funding for the administration's programs is offset by reductions and saving in other areas. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 412.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado, Mr. MCINNIS, for yielding me the customary one-half hour and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this rule waiving the two-thirds requirement for same day consideration of a bill will finally enable the House to bring up the omnibus appropriations bill.

After 6 months of waiting for my Republican colleagues to pass the 13 appropriations bills, we are finally going to be able to bypass their Appropriations Committees and get our Government back on its feet.

Federal workers won't have to worry about being furloughed; military retirees won't have to worry about their benefits; and students headed for college won't have to wait any longer than they already have for their student loans to be processed.

I support this two-thirds rule, Mr. Speaker, because I wouldn't do anything to slow the appropriations process any more than it already has been