

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. SCHROEDER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2202. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 168(b) of Public Law 102-138, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana, Mr. LANTOS of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO ADVISORY BOARD ON WELFARE INDICATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 232(c)(2) of Public Law 102-432, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment to the Advisory Board on Welfare Indicators the following Members on the part of the House: Ms. Eloise Anderson of California, Mr. Wade F. Horn of Maryland, Mr. Marvin H. Koster of Virginia, and Mr. Robert Greenstein of the District of Columbia.

There was no objection.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Finally, Mr. Speaker, finally. Today finally is the day that the average American can stop working for the Government and finally start working for his or her family. For the average working American, every dime from every working hour of every working day from January 1st until today has been devoted entirely to paying taxes to the Government. Today, tax freedom day, finally arrives, but only after the Government has taken a bigger piece than ever before out of the hide of the taxpaying citizen.

We need to stop bilking the taxpayers and we need to let families keep more of what they earn. Those insiders who defend the current tax system and the huge burden that it imposes on working families practice cruelty in the name of compassion. Those who deny working parents tax relief while shouting tax cuts for the rich are practicing distortion in the service of big government.

Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. On this tax freedom day, let us pledge that never again will the Government take so much time out of the lives of its citizens. Instead of vetoing tax relief, let us veto some taxes.

GAS TAX REPEAL

(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, the Republican leadership continues to put special interests first and working families dead last. Now they want to cut education to give a windfall to big oil.

I support repealing the gas tax. But it must help consumers rather than the oil companies. In the last week, the wholesale price of gas has fallen by 4.4 cents. But the retail price is up two-tenths of a cent. The money should go into the pockets of consumers through lower prices at the pump. But Republicans are willing to let the money go into the bulging bank accounts of big oil instead.

My Republican colleagues are falling all over themselves to shell out this windfall to big oil. Could it be because 90 percent of the \$2.1 million oil and gas companies gave in campaign contributions went to Republicans? Is that why they want to cut education rather than cutting corporate welfare to pay for the gas tax?

We can repeal the gas tax. But let's put working families first by making sure they get the benefit rather than getting the shaft.

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow afternoon, Congressman DAVID MCINTOSH, chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, will

be having a public hearing on the Superfund Program.

The purpose of this hearing is to stress the urgent need to put politics aside and reform the Superfund Program for the sake of public health and the environment. Since 1980, only 291 of the 1,289 sites have been cleaned up.

President Clinton, State and local governments, businesses large and small, environmental groups, and local communities alike agree that the current program is not doing its job to clean up hazardous waste sites quickly and effectively. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that the average time for cleanup per site is between 12 and 15 years, at a cost of over \$31 million.

Moreover, as each day passes without fundamental reform, cleanups continue to be impeded by significant bureaucratic delays and endless legal battles. Legislation is needed to address these concerns.

This must stop. Mr. Speaker, Americans expect these sites to be cleaned up without further delay and unneeded expense.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN VOTERS

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, there were 2 very interesting stories on the news wire today. First of all, Majority Leader DOLE was addressing a convention in a western State and he said very strongly: Do not send Washington another PAT SCHROEDER. Hey, thanks, BOB. I am hoping we do not send the White House a BOB DOLE, but that is OK.

And then I also read on the wire today that Speaker GINGRICH gave a speech and said that he felt that the Democrats' advantage with women voters was just artificial and he was going to lead a public relations campaign to turn this around.

Hang on, women. Who knows what will happen. First we saw him with little animals. Now it is going to be interesting to see what we see him with in this whole campaign. But I must say, once women got the right to vote, we also have the right to read and we also have the right to drive cars and all sorts of things.

I think it is going to take more than a public relations campaign to paint over the record the people on the other side have built up. There is a reason.

THE LIBERAL RECORD

(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, this past year-and-a-half we have heard a lot of complaining from the

liberal Democrats about the new majority in Congress. It has been a continuous chorus of whining and complaining from the liberal extremists, such as the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR], the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] and others.

They cannot stand the fact that the American people have rejected 40 years of the liberal policies that have brought this Nation to the edge of bankruptcy, the highest crime rate in the world, an education system that has failed, illegitimacy rates skyrocketing, drug abuse out of control, a welfare program that is a disaster, and a tax burden where middle income families are being crushed.

Mr. Speaker, what have the liberal Democrats offered the American people to help solve these problems? Nothing, absolutely nothing. Nothing but whining and complaining because they are no longer the majority.

In fact, they have tried to block everything the American people have asked the new Republican majority to pass, like a balanced budget, welfare reform, a new crime bill, legislation to save Medicare, education reform and tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, the liberal whiners and complainers have fought for 2 things, regaining the majority and going back to 40 years of the big Government, tax and spend status quo.

AMERICANS DO NOT SUPPORT CUTS IN EDUCATION

(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, the House Republican symbol should no longer be the elephant, because the elephant never forgets. The House Republicans, especially the Republican leader and my friend from Texas, cannot seem to remember that the American people are overwhelmingly opposed to cuts in education. Less than 1 month after we had a budget agreement that restored the cuts in education, they are back to say, let us pay for a gas tax by cutting education funding.

Most Americans support a cut in the Federal gas tax. Frankly, I support one. But not at the expense of education funding. While two-thirds of all Americans are concerned about the quality of education, my colleague, the gentleman from north Texas, DICK ARMEY, is proposing cutting funding for education programs in order to offset that revenue loss for a gas tax cut.

Eliminating our commitment to education is like declaring war on ourselves. We need only to look at our world class competitors in other countries to see what they are doing on education. They are not cutting funding. They are actually putting more money

into it and requiring more out of it. We need to hear more about preparing for a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, during the American Revolution, the American people waged a war against one of the greatest empires in history. One of the main motivations for the revolution was the issue of taxation. In fact, one of their slogans was "No Taxation Without Representation." If you look at the historical record, though, you will find that the taxes the English Crown imposed on the colonists were light by today's standards.

Today is tax freedom day. It is the day that the American people stop working for the Government and start working for their families. Think about it, Mr. Speaker, 17 weeks of the year, almost a third of a year, is spent working for the Government. If our Founding Fathers knew this, they would roll over in their graves.

This may not be 1776, but it is 1996 and it's time to cut taxes, reduce government, and restore the American dream for our children and grandchildren.

GAS TAX REPEAL

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, in this House we have seen extreme examples from the GOP on how to deal with issues facing our Nation. We have also seen sensible solutions which have won out in the end.

The country is now debating how to deal with the sudden hike in gas prices. We hear the same old extremist knee-jerk reactions from the Republicans. The majority has suggested cutting education to make up for revenue lost if part of the gas tax is repealed. Cut education? Do we really want to balance our books on the backs of America's families?

Mr. Speaker, a cut in the Federal gas tax of 4.3 cents a gallon would reduce revenues by an estimated \$30 to \$35 billion over 7 years. The new majority refuses to look at cutting corporate welfare. They refuse to look at what windfall profits are being realized by oil companies whose speculations send gas prices skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, through the shutdowns and budget gridlock, we Democrats have fought and won battles protecting education. But we can never rest. Here is a new assault on the American education system. Let us be sensible, not extremist, protecting our future.

TODAY IS TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today is tax freedom day. May 7 is the day we stop working to pay our tax bill and the day we begin to work for ourselves and our families.

Incredibly, the average American must work from January 1 through today just to earn enough money to pay his or her share of State, local, and Federal taxes. Only tomorrow will Americans begin to work for themselves.

Many believe that on April 15 we are through with taxes for awhile. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, on average, Americans spend 2 hours and 47 minutes each day working just to pay their taxes.

Liberal politicians and the special interest groups mistakenly believe raising the minimum wage will help working Americans. Increasing the minimum wage will cost jobs and increase workers' tax burdens. If we really want families to earn more, keep more, and do more, the Government must stop taking so much from each paycheck.

Consider this. The working Americans that Bill Clinton says he is concerned about must earn more than \$3 to buy a gallon of milk that costs less than \$2. Let's cut taxes and make the Government spend less so that Americans may spend more of their hard-earned money.

REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of students across America, I would like to award a dunce's cap to my colleague from Texas. Mr. ARMEY, the acting Speaker of the House, suggested we could pay for repeal of the gas tax with cuts in education. Where does he think the money will come from?

We could cap college assistance—and take Pell grants away from more than 3 million college students. We could cap Head Start—take education, nutrition, and health care away from every one of the 760,000 preschoolers who participate—and we still wouldn't get enough. We could cap funds to elementary schools—and take reading and math help away from 5.5 million students who are struggling to catch up with their peers.

Mr. ARMEY, if you think the American people want to cut our children's education to save themselves 4.3 cents at the gas pump, you haven't done your homework.

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TURN THE CLINTON TAX TREND AROUND

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House