

making the difficult decisions required of a statesman. He stepped into the Presidency at a time of crisis for this Nation, and he guided us into our most productive years.

The lessons we can learn from Harry Truman are applicable today. As we in Congress continue our efforts to balance the budget, reform welfare and health care, and provide a future our children can say yes to, we should remember his approach to governing, and his commitment to the people of this Nation. Above all, Harry Truman got the job done. It is time for us to get the job done, Mr. Speaker, in memory of this great American. Happy birthday, Harry.

THE OBSTRUCTIONIST MINORITY

(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, Bill Clinton is no Harry Truman.

Mr. Speaker, you would have thought that when the people of this Nation spoke so overwhelmingly for change in 1994 by sending a new majority to Congress, the new minority would have cooperated and yielded to the wishes of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is sad to say, but the new minority, the liberal Democrat whiners, have done nothing but stand in the way of change. Just let me give you a few examples of their obstructionism. Instead of helping balance the budget, they brought false charges against the new Speaker of the House, taking up his time when he could have been working on the legislative agenda.

Instead of helping the new Republican majority reform welfare, the liberal whiners just wanted to march to the floor and accuse the new Republican freshmen of being extremists and wanting to starve children.

Instead of helping middle-income families get tax breaks, the liberal obstructionists wanted to falsely charge the new majority with giving tax breaks to the rich.

Instead of helping the Republican majority save Medicare, the liberal whiners and complainers just stuck their heads in the sand and tried to scare the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, if there is a good example of do-nothingness in the 104th Congress, it rests squarely on the shoulders of the whining, complaining, liberal, obstructionist Democrats.

HARRY TRUMAN'S WISDOM

(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, today we celebrate the birthday of a truly great American. Harry Truman was a straight talking, commonsense Democrat who took over as President after the death of Franklin Roosevelt and

led this Nation to victory in World War II.

Harry Truman took responsibility for his actions. He kept a sign on his desk in the oval office that said, "The buck stops here." And he wasn't afraid of his critics. He often said, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."

Republican House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH would do well to consult the wisdom of Harry Truman who could offer better advice than the management gurus the Speaker turned to when he led us to two Government shutdowns.

In today's Washington Post, the Speaker attacks the press and says that there is what he calls a conspiracy in the media that is undoing the Republican revolution. Mr. Speaker, there is no conspiracy. The American people reviewed your program and rejected it. As Harry Truman would have said, "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen."

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN, A DEMOCRAT TACTIC

(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, we saw during last winter's budget battle that if liberal Democrats down at the White House did not get their way, they simply shut down the Government. They fought with every fiber against saving Medicare, against commonsense tax relief for families, against welfare reform and a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, the cycle is repeating itself.

Yesterday, the Democrat leader in the other body, issued an ultimatum: "We are simply going to shut this place down." In other words, because the Democrats did not get their way, they are willing to shut down the business of this country.

This is shameful. Liberal Democrats are willing to shut down the Government so that they can pander to the big union bosses here in Washington.

Tax relief, welfare reform, a balanced budget, saving Medicare, all of that is on hold because the Democrats want to score a few cheap political points with the special interests here inside the beltway.

MAKE SURE THAT WORK PAYS

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I recently received a letter from the Jobs Partnership Committee of HART, one of the preeminent community groups in Hartford, CT. In the midst of a highly charged political debate on the minimum wage, this letter points out the real world concerns so many Americans are dealing with, and I would like

to share a portion of it with my colleagues:

We write to support congressional efforts to increase the minimum wage. Many jobs in Connecticut are posted at \$4.27 an hour, but we cannot afford to live on yearly incomes of \$8,880. We ask how the Government can impose sanctions on welfare benefits and time limits, and at the same time uphold poverty rate income levels in the private sector.

I think that is a good question. If we are serious about moving people from welfare to work, we have to make sure that work pays. The proposed modest increase in the minimum wage is a first step—and a necessary step—toward welfare reform, and I would urge my colleagues to take it.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was tax freedom day, May 7—the latest it has ever been.

That means American working families are working longer for the Federal Government than ever before.

American working families pay almost 40 percent of their total income to the Government in taxes.

American working families are giving more to the Government, leaving less for their everyday needs.

Less for groceries, less for gas, less for whatever we may desire.

American working families have watched their tax freedom day fall later each year under the Clinton watch.

That is not rhetoric. Those are straight-up facts. The Republican-passed family tax cut would have turned this trend around. A repeal in the gas tax would turn this trend around. A capital gains tax cut would turn this trend around.

American working families are taxed too much. Let us turn this Clinton tax trend around. Let us cut taxes. Let us get the Government out of America's pocket.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD BE A BIPARTISAN EFFORT

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, last Monday in Chicago, IL, I met a lady who works for Montgomery Ward and makes barely more than the minimum wage. She is staying off welfare. She is raising her children. She is doing the right and responsible thing. She deserves a raise.

Mr. Speaker, I asked her what she would do with the \$150 a month which would come her way if the Democrats and 21 brave Republicans who have joined us have our way and raise the minimum wage. She said, "The first

thing I would like to do is buy a new pair of eyeglasses. It has been a long, long time."

Mr. Speaker, I think Senator DOLE and many of the Republican leaders really do not understand what real families face each and every week and month keeping their families together, paying for the basics.

We need an increase in the minimum wage. It should not be a Presidential campaign issue. It should be a bipartisan effort, as it has always been, to make sure that some of the hardest working people in America have a fighting chance.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of cutting the gas tax, let us not do that at the expense of education. The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the majority leader, is wrong. We need college student loans for the kids of working families.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT IS WELFARE PREVENTION

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

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, during the 1992 campaign, President Clinton pledged to end welfare as we know it. Last year this Congress passed a comprehensive welfare reform package, which the President promptly vetoed.

Clearly, this debate is going to continue for months. All the while that we are debating, America's children are suffering. Mr. Speaker, a key component of our welfare reform package was tough child support enforcement amendments; amendments designed to force the deadbeats to honor their legal and moral obligations to their children.

Over \$6 billion each year in the basic necessities of life are denied these children because of lack of child support payments. In fact, HHS tells us that up to 25 percent of all families who are on welfare are there because they are not getting the child support that they are due.

That is why I call an effective interstate child support system welfare prevention. My colleagues, this Sunday is Mother's Day. Let us pass this legislation now. No more delays.

DO NOT SHOOT THE MESSENGER

(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, what we are hearing from the other side is, "We are going to shoot the messenger and not change our message."

The Speaker in today's Washington Post said he is now blaming the media for the unpopularity of the Republican Party issues. He says the media is the reason why the public strongly opposes what they are trying to do to Medicare,

opposing increases in the minimum wage, cutting education and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I will be the first to admit that the media and I sometimes have disagreements. But at some level we are all accountable. We have to be accountable. Maybe it is not the messenger. Maybe it is the message.

We cannot balance the budget by cutting education funding, by cutting Medicare, and by shutting down the Government and by opposing a minimum wage increase. We need to be responsible for our message, and not blame the messenger.

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THE HIGH LEVEL OF TAXATION

(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, the American people are outraged at the level of taxation they face. Yesterday was May 7. It was also tax freedom day, the day that Americans stop working for the Government and start working for their family. What that means is that every dollar earned from January 1 to May 7 is given to State, local, and Federal taxes. Think about it, Mr. Speaker: January, February, March, April, part of May. All the money that you earned in those months is now taxed away because someone here in Washington believes that Government can spend money better than those who earn it.

When President Clinton took office, he, along with his liberals in Congress, passed the largest tax increase in American history. He proved that the Democratic Party is truly the party of higher taxes and big government spending.

Republicans don't believe higher taxes are the answer. We are working to cut taxes and let you, the American people, keep more of what you earn.

THE GENDER GAP

(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, the airwaves are filled with Majority Leader DOLE and Speaker GINGRICH talking about how they are going to close the gender gap. Well, I have a little suggestion for them. As we approach Mother's Day, I want to say to them, maybe they cannot stop Republicans from fighting with Republicans on their side, but could they at least get them to stop attacking each other's mother.

This weekend when we saw "Meet the Press" and we saw Tim Russert asking Majority Leader ARMEY about the dispute between GINGRICH and Senator D'AMATO, we saw Majority Leader ARMEY go right after D'AMATO's mother. He said, you know, his mom appar-

ently did not teach him not to bite the hand that feeds him.

I hope this weekend on Mother's Day, maybe Mr. Russert will allow Mrs. D'Amato to respond to that, and I also hope that we stop attacking people's mothers. That may be one of the causes of the gender gap.

SPACE STATION IS THE WORLD'S GATEWAY TO SPACE

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Congress will once again this week have an opportunity to support the International Space Station Program.

This is an exciting project, Mr. Speaker, and not just because of the tremendous science capability of the space station, nor just because it is the largest cooperative international science project in history, and not just because of the inspiration it will bring to the children of our world.

Mr. Speaker, any one of these reasons are exciting enough to stand on their own merit, but I want to tell you about another exciting aspect of the Space Station Program.

The space station represents our first permanent step into the unknown. This is our Nation's foremost exploration program, and it holds unimaginable opportunities for exploring our last frontier.

Throughout history, nations that cease to explore and expand their civilization eventually perish, and we must not let our Nation go down that path.

Support our future. Support the space station.

ECONOMISTS SAY THIS ECONOMY IS GREAT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, economists keep telling us how great the economy is. If the economy is so great, why do most families need two jobs? Why is every major company getting rid of workers? Why are gasoline prices going through the roof?

Why do government workers now outnumber factory workers? Why has consumer debt reached a record \$1 trillion, and why did 1.1 million Americans file bankruptcy last year?

Mr. Speaker, if the economy is so great, why do the American people rate politicians two notches below used car salesmen. I believe, Mr. Speaker, these economists are smoking dope.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

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