

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.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, congratulations America. Today you begin to work for yourself. Tuesday was tax freedom day. For the previous 4 months and 7 days, Americans have worked solely to pay local, State, and Federal taxes. At last, working Americans are earning money to pay the mortgage and clothe the kids.

For too long, taxes have been piled on the American people because liberal politicians believe that they can make better choices with our money than we can. The Federal bureaucrats have never trusted our citizens to decide what is best for their families and communities. No one spends someone else's money as carefully as he spends his own. Washington has proven that.

Americans should be allowed to keep more and do more with their hard-earned money. The Government must stop taxing them into longer hours and second jobs. Not only is the Government taking Americans' money, it is essentially taking the precious time they would normally spend playing with their children, going to PTA or church functions, or volunteering in their communities. Higher taxes have become a tax on free time and family too.

DO NOT CUT EDUCATION

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, last year our Republican colleagues sought to place a \$5,000 burden on young people who want a 4-year college education. At the same time, they came along and proposed to give thousands of our youngest Americans a wrong start instead of a head start by defunding much of the program needed for early childhood education.

Fortunately, Americans spoke out against this extremism. In the early part of this year, our Republican colleagues yielded and we got an appropriations process approved for this year that protects education and the hopes and dreams of so many American families. But hardly had that victory been won than Sunday on television we had the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the majority leader, saying that he was willing to fund a tax break in order to do that through cuts in education.

Mr. Speaker, education is not the place to cut. Though our Republican colleagues suffered from shutdown fever last year and this year they are having sinking spells that the American people understand their agenda, please do not provide this gimmick that you feel you need in order to get a rise in the polls. Do not fund it by cutting education.

OIL PROFITS ARE UP

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, here they go again. Snake oil salesmen looking for a magic cure. The Republicans have come up with this idea that the 4.3-cents-a-gallon tax that was put on back in 1993 somehow did not cause the price of gas to go up in 1993, did not cause it to go up in 1994, did not cause it to go up in 1995. But all of a sudden, in 1996, this pent-up tax caused it to go up 30 cents a gallon.

Well, we are not really buying that. We know that they are really reaching for straws. We heard Philip K. Verleger, Jr., who is an oil economist, say, if you cut taxes, the incremental difference is going to go to big oil, not to the motoring public. In fact, an analysis by the Democrats in the Committee on Commerce has shown that, while this gas price was going up, just during April and March of this year, that the value of the stock options by oil company executives rose by \$32.8 million.

GAS TAX REPEAL

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, we continue to debate how to deal with a sudden hike in gas prices.

This is an important issue in my district. The First Congressional District of Michigan sprawls across hundreds of miles of the upper Midwest.

With extensive forests and beautiful rivers, with shoreline on three of the Great Lakes, tourism is an essential industry in my district. It is the second biggest industry in Michigan.

But my district is also full of hard-working Americans who value education.

Title I, Head Start, drug-free schools, and student loan programs are essential investments in the future for families in my district and the rest of America.

But the majority leader has suggested education be cut to make up for lost revenue, if part of the Federal gas tax is repealed.

Mr. Speaker, through shutdowns and budget gridlock we have fought and won battles to protect education.

Now, in an effort to deal with an unrelated problem, we have to fight another Republican assault on education.

Let's not penalize American schoolchildren to help their parents at the gas pump. It makes no sense for my district or the Nation.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit tomorrow while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: Committee on Agriculture, Com-

mittee on Commerce, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on Resources, Committee on Science, Committee on Small Business, and Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and there is no objection to these requests.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, my ear heard "tomorrow." I believe it is to be today.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, be permitted to sit tomorrow.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I believe it is today.

Mr. SOLOMON. It is today; is that correct?

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for calling my attention to it. We would not want to include tomorrow, just today. In that case, let me renew my unanimous-consent request to ask unanimous consent that these committees be allowed to sit just today.

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

There was no objection.

ESTABLISHING SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE UNITED STATES ROLE IN IRANIAN ARMS TRANSFERS TO CROATIA AND BOSNIA

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 416 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 416

Resolved, That (a) there is established a Select Subcommittee on the United States Role in Iranian Arms Transfers to Croatia and Bosnia (hereinafter referred to as the "select subcommittee") of the Committee on International Relations. The select subcommittee is authorized to sit and act during this Congress at such times and places within the United States, including any commonwealth or possession thereof, or in any other country, whether the House is in session or has adjourned.

(b) The select subcommittee shall be composed of 8 members of the Committee on International Relations appointed by the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, 5 of whom shall be members of the majority party and 3 of whom shall be appointed upon the recommendation of the ranking minority party member of the committee. The chairman of the Committee on International Relations shall designate one of the majority party members as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the select subcommittee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(c) The select subcommittee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation, and to make such findings and recommendations to the Committee on