

collecting penalties than in getting things fixed. In fact these are his words exactly, when he dressed up like someone sympathetic to small business:

Enforcers will be given authority to waive up to 100 percent of punitive fines for small businesses so that a business person who acts in good faith can put his energy into fixing the problem, not fighting with the regulator. In other words, if they want to spend the fine money fixing the problem, better they should keep it and fix the problem than give it to the Government.

But now the President is wearing another costume. It's his reelection costume, and it's paid for by people who don't want regulatory reform and who could care less about small business. And now the President has not only forgotten what he said when he was wearing that regulatory reformer costume, he's actually opposing what he said.

Take a look at what the Clinton administration is saying on the small business OSHA reform bill. We put his regulatory reforms for small business into a bill, House Report 3234, and now the administration is getting ready to oppose the very proposals it made when the President was wearing the small business costume.

Mr. Speaker, costume changers are great entertainment. But we don't need any more of a costume President.

MINIMUM WAGE AT 40-YEAR LOW; AMERICANS NEED A RAISE

(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, America need a raise. With the minimum wage at a 40-year low, America needs a raise. But our Republican colleagues, when the housing bill was up, instead of giving us a minimum wage increase they raised rents. And last week, when the wilderness bill was up, instead of giving us a raise in wages, they raised the number of acres that could be exploited with reference to the environment.

Now we reach today and we get another vote on the minimum wage, but what do our Republican colleagues propose? Instead of a real raise that working people can feel in their pocketbooks, they propose to raise the exclusion, exclude more workers from the basic fundamental protection of the minimum wage.

It seems to me these Gingrich-ites do not know up from down. American workers need to go up. They need to be empowered by an increase in the minimum wage, not be excluded from the basic fundamental protection and the sweatshops of getting any minimum wage at all.

Let us reject this Gingrich-ite proposal to exclude more American working families, and let us empower them with a real increase in the minimum wage.

INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE SHACKLES JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Texas starts again the endless litany of bromides and class warfare. The fact is we can create jobs in this economy if we free those who create jobs to have more. What we do when we try to take the Government and say, "You will do this or you will do that, Mr. Employer," is we shackle the very job opportunities that my friend from Texas purports to give honest working men and women.

It comes down to this basic premise, and it is one of fairness: Do we empower all in this country to achieve all they can achieve; or would we have Government, through capricious action, tell those who create jobs, "No, you are not entitled to create any more jobs; no, we are going to say to you we are going to penalize you for trying to create job opportunities, and instead it will be the Government who decides who giveth and, of course, the Government who, obviously, taketh away," with historic tax increases from this liberal side of the aisle and their liberal friends at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

REPUBLICAN PLAN WOULD EXCLUDE MORE WORKERS FROM MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am sometimes asked what does it mean to be a Democrat, and what it means to be a Democrat is that you care about working people and their concerns and whether they are going to be able to earn a decent wage. That is what this vote is all about today.

All of a sudden the Republican leadership is forced to bring up a vote on the minimum wage, but instead of bringing it up in a clean fashion, what they are really doing is repealing it and making it so that a lot of people right now, who would be getting a minimum wage, even at the low amount that it is, are going to be not eligible, unfortunately, for the minimum wage.

So instead of bringing up a clean bill, where the minimum wage is increased and people have a decent wage, now we see the Republican leadership actually trying to repeal the minimum wage. That is what they are all about.

Just like they talked about repealing Medicare or letting it wither on the vine, now they want to let the minimum wage wither on the vine because they do not care about working people.

I heard what my colleague from Arizona just said. He is against the minimum wage, and that is what is going to happen here today. They are going to

bring up a vote and use it as an excuse instead of raising the minimum wage to eliminate something like 3 to 7 million Americans from having any treatment and getting any minimum wage.

GOODLING AMENDMENT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY WAGE FOR LOW- SKILLED ENTRY-LEVEL WORKERS

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, we are going to get our first vote on raising the minimum wage today. I am going to vote for it.

I have been concerned that legislation with good motives can have adverse consequences, so I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for the Goodling amendment. It takes into consideration some specific things that we ought to look at.

Computer experts should not be paid 6.5 times more and then get a raise in their minimum wage. Restaurant workers do get tips. It takes into account that. But I and other people have been concerned about the loss of jobs for low-skilled workers, so, at my suggestion and others', the leadership has included in the Goodling amendment an opportunity wage.

The opportunity wage will encourage hiring of low-skilled entry-level workers by firms while maintaining the protections of the current minimum wage for a short period of time. This amendment is geared to blunt the impact of projected increases on low-skilled workers. The Goodling amendment is a good one. I urge my colleagues to vote for it.

IRS IS DOWNRIGHT PETTY

(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, at times the IRS is not only arrogant and disgusting, they are downright petty. Check this out.

Louise and Harvey Phillips of Deltona, FL, got a demand letter from the IRS. The letter said, "You owe us money; and if you don't pay in 10 days, we will take legal action against you."

The Phillips' just got tired of the drag, so they wrote a check, ladies and gentlemen, for the entire amount. One red cent. The Phillips then asked, "Why are you so petty?" And the IRS said, "That's none of your business. You will get an answer in 8 weeks."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. No wonder the American people are taxed off. I think the Congress of the United States of America should tell the IRS to shove that Phillips penny right up their software. I think we should also tell them that the Phillips' of Deltona, FL, just happen to be their boss.

Think about it. Yield back the balance of this 32 cent stamp for a 1 penny settlement with the IRS.

INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE WILL MEAN 500,000 JOB LOSS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today the Democrats say goodbye to 500,000 jobs, according to the Federal Reserve, which is what the impact of increasing the minimum wage will be. That is no problem, though, because most of those folks will get on public benefits, which is exactly where the Democrats want them, right under the thumb of the Government so they can create dependency on the Government.

Do my colleagues know who is on minimum wage? Sixty-six percent of the people are part-time workers. Thirty-nine percent of them are teenagers. Two percent are over 30 years old. And those who start with a minimum wage are making \$6.05 an hour within 1 year. It is an entry-level wage.

I started at minimum wage when I was 16 years old. I have worked minimum wage in the restaurant and the construction business. I learned skills, and as I learned them, I was paid more. That is how the private sector, the capitalistic free enterprise system, works.

I am sorry there are so many people who lean with socialistic tendencies to government solutions to every possible problem that is out there. I say let the private sector get out there and compete. Let us save the jobs and cut out the talk about increasing the wage.

AMERICANS DEMAND 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, I am glad to follow my colleague from Georgia talking about that. If he had his way, we would still be 25 cents an hour from 1938. That was the first minimum wage.

After months of blocking attempts to increase the minimum wage, the House Republicans are finally going to allow us to have a vote. But my colleagues should not be fooled by this sham. It is not an increase, it is actually a cut. It is exempting millions of workers from the minimum wage.

This bill only will attach special interest provisions to exempt those millions from minimum wage. Eighty percent of the American people support an increase in the minimum wage, but the Republicans want it without the gimmicks of the exemptions for restaurant workers, the exemptions for computer operators, the exemptions they are providing.

They are actually taking people off the minimum wage benefit. That is what this sham is about. They do not really want a minimum wage. Just continue to listen to them. They do not want an increase in the minimum

wage. They do not want a minimum wage. They want everybody to work for a quarter an hour.

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WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, literally millions of Americans are trapped in a cycle of dependence known as the modern welfare state. It is a system characterized by drug abuse, fatherlessness, violence, and the wholesale destruction of the family. The welfare state encourages teen pregnancy and destroys the work ethic.

People have literally lost their freedom and their self-respect because of the so-called compassion of Washington's liberals.

When he ran for the Presidency, Bill Clinton said that he would end welfare as we know it. Instead he vetoed commonsense welfare reform, not once, but twice. As we've seen in so many other instances, his word cannot be trusted. Bill Clinton is playing politics with the lives of millions of Americans. His broken word guarantees the survival of the failed welfare system.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to reforming welfare, our President is the great pretender.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

(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 the House takes up increasing the minimum wage, and, in what amounts to little more than a political dance, the Republican majority has designed the debate to ensure that we take one step forward and two steps back. By coupling an increase in the minimum wage with an amendment exempting companies with less than \$500,000 annual gross sales, the Republicans have assured a minimum wage increase that is unfair and is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, if the amendment passes, 10 million hard-working Americans will be excluded from the increase, and millions more Americans already covered will lose their coverage.

The gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] was not kidding when he said he would, and I quote, resist an increase in the minimum wage with every fiber of his being. By increasing the minimum wage and making it less available, the Republican leadership is dancing around an issue that 80 percent of the American people support. In words that DICK ARMEY can understand, a country music song goes: One step forward, two steps back; nobody gets too far like that.

AMERICANS WANT WELFARE REFORM

(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, welfare reform is something that the American people want. Both parties have promised to reform our current broken-down system, but I believe Republicans have delivered. This Republican Congress sent a strong welfare package to President Clinton, and he vetoed it.

Today Republicans are going to try again. We are introducing a strong welfare reform bill that concentrates on family and individual responsibility. Our package lifts families out of the destructive welfare cycle of poverty and despair. It stresses work, and allows States the flexibility to design programs that fight their residents' needs.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this time around the President keeps his promise and signs a strong welfare reform package. His record on this issue has not gone unnoticed by the American people. It is time to reform welfare. Let us do it now.

REPUBLICANS AND THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, finally, after months of prodding and pleading with the Republican leadership, we are going to vote on increasing the minimum wage.

Not too long ago, Mr. Speaker, members of the Republican leadership were saying things like, and I quote,

I will resist an increase in the minimum wage with every fiber of my being.

Or,

I'll commit suicide before I vote on a clean minimum wage bill.

While the vote on increasing the minimum wage will only be an amendment to another bill, the fact of the matter is that the votes that we're taking today are neither clean nor real. NEWT GINGRICH and the Republicans have found yet another way to feed the American people a pig in a poke. This Republican political sleight of hand will actually repeal the minimum wage laws and exclude workers from minimum wage protections.

Mr. Speaker, we all feared that the Republicans would go too far. We all feared that the Republicans would serve their rich fat-cat friends at the expense of the rest of us. But, by their offerings today, they've confirmed that our worst fears have indeed come true.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND WELFARE REFORM

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