

in the Second District of North Carolina. These farmers are not the giant tobacco corporations the Clinton administration, the FDA, and some in Congress attack regularly. These are small farmers who struggle from year to year just to make ends meet. These are the people who provide the jobs and pay the taxes.

The end result of the Clinton crusaders will be to make tobacco products illegal. The White House talks about American jobs, but it will stop at nothing to wipe out a proud and legal American industry and watch its profits head offshore. The tobacco farmers in my district generate over \$43,000 in taxes for each acre of tobacco, and tobacco products, provide the Treasury over \$11.5 billion annually.

WHO IS REALLY GOING TO BENEFIT IF CONGRESS RENEWS CHINA'S MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS?

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, who is really going to benefit if Congress renews China's most-favored-nation trade status for another year? Will more of our citizens get good jobs with good benefits? No. Will prices go down in our stores? No. We will all wait for that day. But will leading importers from China make billions off trading our jobs for outsourced production to China? Absolutely.

People like David Glass will benefit. Who is he? He is the chief executive officer of Wal-Mart, the leading United States importer from China. Last year he earned over \$1 million trading off the handiwork of Chinese women who earn 10 cents an hour working 14-hour days. So did his top five executives, who hauled off over \$3 million just last year.

Evidently Wal-Mart believes China's repressive regime is somebody they want to do business with. Last year, Wal-Mart imported 1,000 shipments from China by relying on 700 Chinese contract sweatshops. Can Members imagine how many jobs that would create in our country, including in those communities in which Wal-Mart does business here? I say it is time to revoke China's privileged trade status until we get a fair shake for American and Chinese workers and consumers.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO SAVE MEDICARE BEFORE IT GOES BANKRUPT IN 2001

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for a bipartisan solution to save Medicare before it goes bankrupt in 2001.

Frankly, I've been surprised by the scare tactics and demagoguery by the other side.

They know Medicare is going bankrupt, but they would rather attack Republicans than fix the problem.

Despite the false claims and disinformation being perpetuated by Washington union bosses, the truth is that our plan would increase Medicare spending from \$4,900 per beneficiary in 1996 to \$7,100 per person in 2002. That's a \$2,200 per senior increase in Medicare spending.

Our plan requires us to spend smarter. It cracks down on waste, fraud, and abuse.

For me, this is not a partisan issue—it is a personal issue. I have loved ones who depend on Medicare. Like so many other American seniors, my grandmother, who still teaches school, needs Medicare as a safety net.

So let's end the partisan sniping. Saving Medicare will not be easy; it is a task that will require wisdom, courage, and resolution. Only by working together will we be able to preserve and protect this vital program.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT CONGRESS TO WORK FASTER AND WITH LESS POLITICAL POSTURING

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, last week after much pushing, prodding, and pulling, the House passed an increase in the minimum wage. This past weekend what I heard over and over from the residents of Connecticut's Third District, which I represent, was: "Finally. What took so long?"

Madam Speaker, the American people want us to continue to focus on policies that protect their families, honor their work, and safeguard the future for their children, but they want these policies to move through this Congress faster and with less political posturing.

The American people want retirement security, so let us make pensions portable. They want health care reform, so let us cover preexisting conditions. They want a balanced budget, but they do not want us to raid the Medicare system.

I challenge the Republican leadership to listen to what the American people are saying. They want to see that Medicare is preserved and not destroyed, and that we do not provide a tax break for the wealthiest Americans at the expense of seniors who have played by the rules all their lives, and all they want is a decent, safe, and a dignified retirement.

WELFARE REFORM: THE WHITE HOUSE NEEDS TO LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, during the 1992 presidential campaign, candidate Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it. Not only has he not ended welfare as we know it, but he has acted as the protector and champion of welfare as we know it. This Republican-led Congress has sent the President a welfare bill based on common-sense reforms, and he vetoed it not once but twice. So much for ending welfare as we know it.

Timed to undercut a speech by Senator ROBERT DOLE, the President announced his support for Republican welfare reform planned by Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson. However, he failed to promise his signature on a waiver allowing the Governor's plan to go forward. Such a waiver, implementing these types of reform, would not be necessary if the President had signed the welfare reform legislation sent to him by the Republican-controlled Congress. Again, a great display of this President's skill at saying one thing and doing another.

TIME TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT WHITEWATER

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, a jury found Jim McDougal and his wife, Susan McDougal, guilty; guilty on 22 counts. They face 10 years in prison, 10 times that, 100 years and over \$5 million in fines. A jury found Arkansas Governor Tucker guilty on two counts. He faces 10 years and a half a million dollars in fines. I do not know if the McDougals are innocent or guilty. I do not know if Tucker is innocent or guilty, but I know one thing for sure. If they have any friends left in the savings and loan industry, now is the time to call them up.

As a Democrat I want to say this, is it any wonder the American taxpayers got shafted for over \$100 billion in savings and loans ripoffs, after seeing what happened in Little Rock? I think it is time to find the truth. They had better make a loan. They are sure facing a lot of penalties.

STATES KNOW BEST WHEN IT COMES TO THE WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Madam Speaker, over 200 years ago 13 States came together to form the foundation of a new nation. Their union was based on the belief that big centralized government is bad government. Today, 37 States later, that belief is especially true when you consider welfare reform.

History teaches us again and again that States know best when it comes

to the welfare of their citizens. Unfortunately, this is a lesson lost on President Clinton.

When it comes to welfare waivers, the President refuses to allow States to do it their way. He has denied waivers outright in Illinois, Massachusetts, and Wyoming, and has forced other States to come to Washington on bended knee.

His plan would not allow States to limit benefits to less than 5 years nor would it provide for any new flexibility in operating child protection programs.

Madam Speaker, there was a historical reason why this country was named the United States of America, and we should do everything in our power to prevent it from becoming the united state of big Bill Clinton government.

WHITEWATER AND THE WHITE HOUSE, SOMETHING IN COMMON

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

Mr. OXLEY. Madam Speaker, the bodies keep piling up on the porch of the White House. Yesterday, three more people were convicted in the Arkansas savings and loan scandal that has threatened to envelop more and more people. This is just one more example of what has happened with the White House's mishandling of this terrible incident. Something stinks in Arkansas, and that stench is stretching all the way to the White House.

Whitewater and the White House, something in common staying together, and yesterday was one more example of that fact.

COMPLAINTS ON WHITEWATER ARE REPUBLICAN ATTEMPTS AT DISTRACTION FROM THE REAL ISSUES

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

Mr. WARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I am not surprised that what we are hearing about from the other side of the aisle is what we are hearing about. Anything, anything to avoid the subjects that we have been talking about on this side. Those subjects are the incredibly slow work that we saw in increasing the minimum wage. Those subjects include the incredibly slow work we have seen about truly protecting people who rely on Medicare and Medicaid, and people who have relied on the strides that we have made in the environment, and in education.

What we have seen over this last 1½ years makes us wonder, it makes us wonder, but today it all becomes clear. What becomes clear is that they are trying to distract us. The efforts that are being made again in these 1-minute this morning by the other side are simply to distract us from these main issues. Madam Speaker, I would hope

that we can stick to these main issues and work to do these things.

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WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I started political life as a county commissioner in Kent County, MI. We had a county welfare department that won a number of awards for providing better services at lower cost than most counties across the United States.

But most of the programs that we instituted required a waiver from Washington, and we had to fight and kick and scream in order to get those waivers. I thought it strange that we would have to fight with the Federal Government in order to save them money.

I went to the State legislature, and once again I got involved in battles at the State level requesting waivers from the Federal Government to improve the welfare program and to provide better services at less cost. Once again I thought it strange: Why should we have to fight the Federal Government to save taxpayers money?

Now that I am here, I strongly support giving the States and local communities more to say about operating their welfare programs, because I am convinced that they can do a better job at less cost than we have with our current system. I applaud the Republicans in the House for introducing a bill which will bring that about and make it possible for us to save money for the people of this country.

WORK TO BE DONE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I think it is important this morning and this afternoon to emphasize that there is work to be done. I realize that the headlines of yesterday evening, that we would hear a lot of spin talk and dragging Whitewater and a variety of other issues all the way to the White House.

But I really want to speak about what the American people have said to me when I go home to the 18th Congressional District, and that is about senior citizens who are appalled that we are still talking about cutting \$166 billion from Medicare, about medical professionals who will say to me that the medical system is in an uproar because they cannot care for sick and the needy. I also hear from young people who say that they are looking forward to an entry level job, but they have got families and they need an increase in the minimum wage. They are gratified that we did some work last week after long, long months of trying.

So I hope my Republican colleagues will get down to the business of working. As we approach this omnibus science bill, I hope they will realize that science is the cutting edge of the 21st century. I hope we will not drag Whitewater into our work. I hope we will work for the American people.

IT IS TIME TO SAY "NO" TO THE STATUS QUO AND REFORM WELFARE NOW

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, this Congress has twice passed welfare reform legislation that emphasizes work and personal responsibility. President Clinton, who told America that he would "end welfare as we know it," has, on both occasions, vetoed that legislation. Now he tells us once again that he's ready to keep his promise that he really is willing to reform welfare. Well, we'll see.

We will soon give President Clinton another opportunity to put his money where his mouth is. We will make one more effort to send him a bill that will move millions of Americans from that cycle of dependency on big government to a life of productivity and responsibility for self and family.

Madam Speaker, let's hope for the sake of generations of Americans caught in the welfare trap that the President isn't just pulling our leg once again. Let's hope that he'll finally agree to keep his oft-repeated campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it."

WHITEWATER CONVICTIONS

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, 4 years ago President Clinton kicked off his Presidential campaign. His theme was honesty in government, and the example he pontificated about was the S&L debacle that was then costing the taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.

The conviction of President Clinton's cronies in Arkansas suggests that while candidate Clinton was making honesty the theme of his campaign, his own gang was engaged in looting a savings and loan institution in Little Rock. We have come to know, unfortunately, that our President, President Clinton, is a politician that has absolutely no shame.

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

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees