

As a longstanding member of the House Science Committee, I have worked hard to improve science education in this country.

The competition is just one great example of a successful business-education partnership that encourages students to pursue careers in science. I have been supporting this outstanding program since its launch in 1992.

The ExploraVision Awards give students the opportunity to identify future technological needs and develop the kind of technological thinking our society needs in order to meet the challenges of the future.

I am proud to recognize the achievements of this year's winners and proud to be the honorary cochairperson of the 1996 ExploraVision Awards weekend.

CLINTONOMICS

(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 I submit the latest "Say what, Mr. President?" and the credit goes to Clinton appointee Richard Rominger who last night proclaimed to the Georgia Farm Bureau that, and I quote, "During this administration, the national debt has fallen \$15,000 per family of four."

"How so?" asks our numbers-crunching colleague, MAC COLLINS, because the national debt has risen steadily during this administration.

"Well," answered a shameless Rominger, "the annual deficit had been rising and since it is not rising as much, the \$15,000 represents the additional amount saved had it kept rising."

Let me put that in English. I weigh 170 pounds. I have never weighed 190 pounds. But according to Clintonomics, I lost 20 pounds if I add up all the sundae and desserts that I have said "no" to.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is Clintonomics. It is like an Oliver Stone movie—it is exciting, it is entertaining, but it is not based on reality.

HIGH-TECHNOLOGY JOBS BEING TRANSFERRED TO CHINA

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, soon we will be voting on the President's special request for a waiver for most-favored-nation status for China. I am here today to talk about one of the myths that has been circulated, and that is that most of the jobs that we are losing to China are low-technology jobs. Indeed, one of the greatest assaults on the American worker is being made right now with the transfer of technology to China. For example, Boeing used to make all of its tail sections for the 737 in Wichita, KS. Now, in the last couple of years, they have trans-

ferred the production of half of those tail sections to Xi'an, China, where workers make \$50 a month on these high-technology jobs, thereby taking jobs from the American worker that are high-technology.

In addition to that, if you wish to sell into the Chinese market, you must build a factory there and then turn over your technology plans to some institute there which then passes it around among the Chinese where you have now created your competitors.

This is a very important issue, Mr. Speaker. If intellectual property is a \$2 to \$3 billion loss, this is over a \$100 billion loss. It does harm to the American worker and steals America's economic future.

ROBBING OUR UNION EMPLOYEES

(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, employees have a right to know why their hard-earned money is being taken out of their pockets and being used by union leaders. They also deserve the right to stop it if they choose.

Why would anyone oppose legislation which gives workers the right to know where their money is going? Because it is a cash cow.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney publicly vowed his union's intention to spend \$35 million to fund campaign and political activities—\$35 million right out of the pockets of rank and file union members.

More than 62 percent of these hard-working men and women said in a poll that they do not approve. They do not want their dues going to campaign and political purposes.

And most did not even know about President Sweeney's political attack with their hard-earned money.

We need to stop this ripoff and give our hard-working families a break. There is a way. Support the Worker Right-To-Know Act.

MEDICARE OVERBILLING

(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 plan on Medicare calls for \$168 billion in cuts in the growth, as they say. They say they need to cut this much in order to save Medicare, but the President's budget saves Medicare for \$44 billion less in the cuts in growth.

Perhaps this is the Republican majority way of paying for financially irresponsible tax cuts. These are the same tax cuts that increase the deficit for the next 2 years. We will not hear that from that microphone over there.

But there is more. In the Speaker Gingrich House Republican Medicare plan there is a provision that would

allow health care providers to bill seniors more now than they are for current services paid for by Medicare. So, in other words, not only are we going to cut Medicare but seniors are going to have to pay more for services that have been provided by Medicare. The Gingrich plan would weaken the provision, thereby opening the door for higher out-of-pocket expenses for our seniors.

The Republican majority's first priority is tax cuts, even though they increase the deficit. Then they want to cut Medicare, education, and all the rest in order to pay for it. These are not the priorities of the American people.

THE RIGHT CHOICE TO SAVE MEDICARE

(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, hearing my dear friend from Texas reminds me of that great country and western song entitled "That's my story and I'm sticking to it." The same tired old bromides based on fear and not on facts still exist within the liberal minority.

I daresay what we fail to hear from that microphone is the stunning reality that the bipartisan trustees of the Medicare trust fund told us not 2 weeks ago that if we fail to act, Medicare, as we know it, goes broke in 5 years, quite possibly in 4.

The key difference is this, Mr. Speaker: When we get past the name calling and the playground taunts, those of us in the new majority are willing to work to govern, to save, preserve, protect, and improve a program for the next generation, while our dear liberal friends are so willing to abandon reality they are thinking only of the next election. The American people will make the right choice.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to talk about health care, because Americans want health care and they want health care reform.

Interestingly enough, there is bipartisan support for health care reform, reforms which would provide portability, which is the right of a person to transfer their health insurance when they change jobs, and also a provision that would ban prohibitions against preexisting conditions, so if their child has asthma, they can still get health care. There is bipartisan support in both houses.

We ought to pass it because the American people want it. But why do we not pass it? Because the Republican majority wants to overreach again. They want medical savings accounts.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not asking for medical savings accounts. Medical savings accounts sound good, but actually they only work for the wealthy and the healthy. Those people who are poor, those people who are middle class, those people who are sick will face rising premiums as the healthy and the wealthy get out of the health insurance pool.

That is why medical savings accounts are not a good idea. Let us put that idea on hold. Let us pass what the American people want, which is health care reform. That is why Republicans are bad managers, because they cannot see the forest for the trees.

THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LAWRENCE WESTERMAN

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

Mr. FLANAGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th birthday of Mr. Lawrence Westerman, a former resident of Chicago. It is appropriate that we celebrate Mr. Westerman's 100 years of life and recognize his years of service to our great Nation as we prepare to celebrate Independence Day.

Mr. Westerman was born on January 14, 1896, in Chicago, IL, of German immigrant parents. A World War I veteran who enlisted in the Illinois National Guard on June 16, 1916, Mr. Westerman was commissioned as a second lieutenant and, 2 years later, was promoted to first lieutenant and sent to France to serve in the 33d Division. In August of 1918, Mr. Westerman was severely wounded while defending our Nation and, accordingly, was awarded the Purple Heart. Interestingly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Westerman may be the oldest recipient of this heroic award.

We should take this time to personally wish Mr. Westerman a belated happy birthday and also to thank him for his superior dedication and unwavering commitment to our great country. Mr. Westerman, thank you and we wish you all the best.

□ 1030

MEDICARE VERSUS PERSONNEL FILES

(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. Mr. Speaker, this is the month of June, but I do not know, some of us may be thinking it is Halloween. The reason is because it seems that the Republicans want to play around with the ghost of the personnel files in the White House. Already the White House has indicated that there was no wrong intended. They have got a new director. The special prosecutor Kenneth Starr says there is nothing to investigate or pros-

ecute. But all we can hear is about the ghost of the personnel files. The reason is because they do not want to talk to us about the Medicare cuts. There is a \$1,000 increase with the Republican plan on seniors by the year 2002.

Listen, America, forcing hospitals to close, already hospitals have closed in neighborhoods in New York and they are closing in rural communities across the Nation because of the cuts in Medicare. What Americans need most is good health care. For our seniors in particular, we need hospitals open and with lower cost. Yes; rather than trying to fix the Medicare trust fund with reasonable responses and cuts in abuse and fraud, the Republicans want to get a large cut so that they can give tax cuts to the wealthy.

Stop with the ghost of Halloween and let us put a good Medicare plan on the table and provide health care for seniors and Americans across the Nation.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Marketing Research Institute released a poll of 1,000 workers across the Nation on their opinions on health care issues.

This poll found that 87 percent of the respondents wanted Congress to enact medical savings accounts.

But now, all of a sudden, MSA's have become a partisan issue with liberal Democrats. They have effectively shut down health care reform over this and other issues where there is widespread bipartisan support.

At the State level, MSA's have been passed by legislatures and signed by Governors of both parties. In every State where MSA's have been passed, they passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities. In five States, MSA's were passed by both Chambers unanimously. We have pilot programs.

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame the liberal Democrats here in Washington have resorted to obstructionism. They have no new ideas, they have no positive agenda, and all they can do is stand in the way and throw up road blocks to serious health care reforms that are popular with the American people.

DOING BETTER ON HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we should indeed ask ourselves what are the implications of this Medicare discussion. Are they the realities my colleagues on the other side say? Well, the realities of cutting \$168 million from rural America in the State I come from will mean that many of my senior citizens will have to pay more for their premium. The reality will mean that they will be forced into health care plans where they have no option.

The reality will mean in many instances the hospitals that depend heavily on Medicare and Medicaid may have to close. So the reality of cutting so severely does not protect for the future. It denies opportunity. Also, what should be the expectation for us as we look for Medicare and the security in the future? It means we need to come together as bipartisan and to understand there are ways to protect but not necessarily cut and be extreme.

Mr. Speaker, there are ways in which we can help the citizens who need help now and to protect in the future. It requires us not to be extreme. It requires us to think about the poor as we think about the rich. Mr. Speaker, we can do better than this.

THE ENERGY STANDARD

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

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, today the House will debate the interior appropriations bill. While I support many of the provisions of this bill, I do have serious concerns in at least one area. Nearly 20 years ago, Congress asked the Energy Department to set energy efficiency standards for home appliances. This was an effort to stem the unnecessarily rapid rate of energy consumption in this country. By establishing national standards for everyone to use, a valuable measuring stick was created to permit manufacturers to commit time, investment and engineering resources. However, this was all placed on hold in our spending bill in 1996 which put a moratorium on rulemaking.

While I have never been one to support increased regulation, this issue should have been handled better. Congress ought not be in the business of artificially manipulating a steady market once it is established. Yet this is exactly what the appropriations bill report language purports to do.

Second, the issue of energy standard should be dealt with through the Committee on Commerce, the committee of jurisdiction. What the committee is attempting to do is to interfere in the economic marketplace.

THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the so-called Riggs amendment. In the full committee, on the Appropriations Committee, we took up the Interior appropriations bill. After last year, I think all of us learned that we should be very careful about extraneous riders to that bill. But the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] decided to offer an amendment that would knock out a crucial,