

friends, Bruce Lindsey, has been named an unindicted coconspirator in the Arkansas trial of two bankers involved in the Whitewater scandal.

Unindicted coconspirator? Mr. Speaker, when was the last time you heard that term used in relation to the White House? How about 1974. That is right—Watergate.

Mr. Lindsey's designation as a co-conspirator is a significant turn of events. What this means is that someone inside Bill Clinton's circle of top advisers has been linked directly to the illegal diversion of funds to Clinton's 1990 campaign for Governor.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's propensity for unethical, if not blatantly illegal behavior, can no longer be ignored.

Whitewater. Travelgate. Filegate. All of these scandals are just now starting to mushroom and they all demonstrate a White House devoid of any sense of ethical proportion.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind the Member to avoid personal references to the President.

INCOME DISPARITY BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IS STEADILY IN- CREASING

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times today, and other newspapers, point out that the income disparity, that is, the gap between the wealthiest, the poorest, and the middle class, is steadily growing; no secret to many working middle-class Americans. From 1968 to 1994, the rich were indeed getting richer, the poor poorer, and a lot of folks just are not moving anywhere.

So what has been the response in the Gingrich-Dole budget that has passed this House and actually passed the Congress? First was to cut back the earned income tax credit for working families earning under \$28,000. That means thousands of West Virginia working families will actually see a tax increase, not a tax cut. Oh, yes, I know about the \$500 tax credit that is proposed. However, that will mean that one-third of low-income children will not see a benefit from that, and it will not offset the tax increase that many of our working families will see.

Another response has been to cut Medicare for those who need it the most to pay for a tax break, many of the benefits of which will go to the wealthiest. That does not make much sense.

Finally, for those trying to be upwardly mobile and get an education, the Gingrich-Dole budget would also rein in student loans. They are trying to cut the rungs off the very ladder people are trying to climb up.

SALES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO CHINESE COMPANY

(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, the White House approved a \$140 million sale of nuclear technology to a Chinese company that has already sold nuclear technology to Pakistan and Iran. The White House said do not worry, this time the Chinese Energy Corp. has promised not to do this again. Unbelievable. Who is on first? What is on second?

America gives money to Russia, Russia sells billions of dollars' worth of technology to China, China sells the technology to our enemies. The White House threatens China, then the White House sells nuclear technology to China, and China says do not worry.

Beam me up, here. It is completely evident the left hand at the White House does not know what the far left hand is doing. I yield back the balance of any nuclear reactors that we will be facing in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENT TO FIX THE LAWLESS LOGGING RIDER

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

Ms. FURSE. Today, Mr. Speaker, we have a chance to do something that the people of this country have been asking us to do for almost a year. We have a chance to fix the infamous lawless logging rider. We will be offering a bipartisan amendment which will be called the

Porter-Yates-Furse-Morella amendment. It will go a long way toward fixing that infamous rider. That rider passed with no hearings, no scientific input, in the middle of the night, stuck on another bill, and no one knew the consequences. But soon the people told us the consequences. We heard from grandmothers, Boy Scouts, fishermen, scientists, and local communities. They said the rider had been a disaster, and they were right.

Our amendment, Mr. Speaker, it not antilogging, our amendment is prologging under the law. We have been asked to trust a huge Federal bureaucracy to just do the right thing. Trust us, they say. We say, trust the law. So I hope and we hope that my colleagues will help support this amendment that will fix the lawless logging rider.

DEMAND FOR TRUST ABOUT WHITE HOUSE MISHANDLING OF FBI FILES

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has sunk to new

depths of incompetency and unethical behavior.

The President is sending his spin machine into overdrive in a massive attempt to prove that his actions were not unethical or illegal, but simply a bureaucratic snafu.

Think about it, Mr. Speaker. This administration is making every effort possible to prove that its actions were incompetent. That is the best news that can come out of their inexcusable mishandling of these files.

Mr. Speaker, we do not need Clinton's spinmeisters to prove to us that this administration is incompetent. We need the Clinton spin doctors to prove to us that they can tell us the honest truth about just one of the Clinton scandals without changing their story on a daily basis. And we need for them to prove to us that this administration is truly sorry and willing to cooperate with us in an effort to find out why the rights of individuals could be so hazily violated as they were in this case.

CHURCH BURNINGS

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days I have spoken with people who have seen the center of their communities destroyed. When a church is burned much more is desecrated than the wood and the bricks. Churches are placed where families and friends meet, hold community events, and pray. In poor areas where people struggle to get through each day, the church is a place to ask for strength, help and perseverance.

Thankfully, despite losing their churches, these people have not lost their spirit. In DeKalb County, where I live, the predominantly white and integrated congregations affected by these cowardly acts must know that there are extremists in this country who wish to divide us. However, now more than ever, we must unite and send a clear message that their efforts to divide us will fail. They may burn our churches, but they will never destroy our spirit.

WHITE HOUSE BREACH OF CITI- ZENS' PRIVACY WITH FBI FILES MUST BE INVESTIGATED BY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton White House is at it again. The most recent incident, involving the breaching of privacy of nearly 500 American citizens, reaffirms a disturbing trend throughout the President's tenure in office. The background check of these American citizens, as requested by the White House, is an outrageous misuse

of power. FBI director Louis Freeh said recently, and I quote: "The prior system of providing files to the White House relied on good faith and honor. Unfortunately, the FBI and I were victimized."

In a recent op-ed piece in the *Wall Street Journal*, a veteran of 26 years with the FBI wrote: "These allegations are more serious than anything we have seen in decades." The Conservative Opportunity Society knows, as every American knows, the FBI cannot investigate itself. It must be an independent investigation. Let us get at it.

MEDICAID REFORM

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on Commerce wrote a bill, and with it wrote a sad new chapter against children in our country. The Republicans voted down several key amendments, but I want to highlight one in particular this morning.

The bill does state that Medicaid-insured children receive periodic medical examinations. That is the good news. Today, if any medical condition is discovered during screening, it is covered by that insurance. It makes sense, right? Check kids for medical problems and treat them if they are sick. Not according to the Republicans. Their bill says children are to be examined, but there are no provisions for treatment. Imagine the situation this creates. Children will be diagnosed, but no insurance exists for treatment. Are they to get better on their own? Would any of us as parents accept this for our children?

I offered an amendment, Mr. Speaker, which restored the guarantee of treatment for children. All 23 Republicans voted against it. Those votes may have been louder than words in the committee, but I think the American people are going to screen out this policy. Our Nation's children deserve better.

MEDICARE AND TAX BREAKS

(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 honored to follow my colleague from Arizona because I can tell that they are more interested in election year politics than they are in balancing the budget.

Mr. Speaker, for years the Republicans have complained about Democrats being tax-and-spend liberals for causing the run-up in the budget deficit.

I submit their annual budget. The budget that was passed last week actually raised the deficit.

After 40 years in the political wilderness the Republican Party in consecu-

tive years have shut down the Government and now passed a budget that will increase the deficit. Again I say, increase the deficit.

At the heart of their budget are cuts in Medicare and tax breaks for the wealthy. They want to cut taxes \$122 billion while at the same time increasing the deficit. Maybe they need to worry about the FBI investigation. Maybe they need to worry about something other than what the folks elected us here to do, to balance the budget, provide health care for seniors, provide education for our children and to make sure our country is defended.

BLOCKING COMMONSENSE HEALTH CARE REFORMS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, one way to improve health care and lower costs is by taking power and influence out of the hands of bureaucrats in Washington and returning it to the American people.

A bipartisan majority in the Congress is poised to give the American people more power and control over their medical care by passing the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act to make health insurance portable and affordable.

This bill will free workers from the worry that if they lose or change their job they will lose their health insurance. It will provide millions of small business employees, many who now have no insurance, the option to choose innovative, affordable medical savings accounts or MSA's. It will allow tax deductions for long-term health care and it will restore dignity to dying by allowing terminally ill patients and their families to receive tax-free accelerated death benefits.

The White House and one legislator should not stand in the way and deny millions of Americans commonsense reforms including MSA's that will make health insurance more portable and affordable.

DEMOCRATS TO UNVEIL FAMILIES FIRST AGENDA

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today we saw one more reason why the American people reject Republican tax breaks for the wealthy. The New York Times reports today that the gap between the wealthy and the rest of America is now at its widest point since World War II.

The top 20 percent of Americans now earn more than the 60 percent of middle-class households combined.

People say that the wealthy work hard and deserve to be rewarded. And that may be true. But does not the rest of America work hard? Do they not deserve to be rewarded, too?

We can get there. But we are not going to get there with a Republican agenda that cuts Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

It is time we had a families first agenda that gives a \$10,000 tax deduction to pay for college, that protects pensions, that makes health care portable, that raises the minimum wage, that invests in small business, and that helps give working families a raise.

On Sunday, Democrats across this country will unveil our families first agenda. Mr. Speaker, it is time we help families and not hurt them.

FILEGATE

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, every American values his or her privacy. The people who work for this Government are no exception—408 individual Americans who worked for previous administrations, Republicans, had their files taken from the FBI, and we believe that many of them were going to be used for dirty political tricks in the future. Some people say, "Well, it was a political mistake. The White House made a mistake."

It was not one mistake. It was 408 individual requests. Four hundred eight. Bernie Nussbaum, the counsel to the President's name, was on each one of those requests. He said he did not know anything about it. If he did not know anything about it, who requested those files? This is not the book 1984 where Big Brother looked into every one of our lives. This is supposed to be a free democratic society. Yet 408 people had their files, which are supposed to be secret, exposed to others at the White House and many of those things were leaked to other people they should not have been leaked to. This is something that needs to be fully investigated and the FBI should not be the only one to do it.

TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

(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's USA Today reported that the wealthiest 20 percent of U.S. households earned more in the early 1990's than 60 percent of households in the middle class. The New York Times reported that the gap between the most affluent Americans and everyone else was wider than it has been since World War II.

This is frightening news when you consider that the Republican budget passed in the House last week does not just increase the deficit, it also cuts Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

The Republican budget explicitly calls for \$176 billion in tax breaks. The