

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

leadership will say that that is less than what they asked for the year before. But what the American people do not know is that the Republicans left a loophole that allows for unnamed tax breaks to be inserted later. The chairman of the Budget Committee, JOHN KASICH, has said, and I quote, "We expect a full complement of tax cuts. If there isn't, I will head south."

No wonder the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

#### THE NEED FOR ETHICS AND HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, as Republicans and Democrats in this House we disagree about many things, but we should not disagree for a moment on the need for ethics and honesty in Government.

During the administration of Ronald Reagan I worked in the White House, in the counsel's office, as a senior associate counsel to the President. I was proud of the reputation that that independent office in the White House maintained as a post-Watergate creation to make sure that after Richard Nixon and the Watergate offenses, never again was a President in a position of lacking the kind of independent honest advice that was necessary to make sure that there would not be lawbreaking within the White House itself. That office has maintained its reputation in a dignified way through Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush.

Sadly, in this administration the opposite has been true. Most recently the deputy counsel to the President has been named in a criminal indictment as an unindicted co-conspirator. This is not a hard question. Bruce Lindsey must resign. If he refuses to do so, the President himself must demand it. We as Members of Congress interested in honesty and ethics in Government must demand it.

#### FAMILIES FIRST—THE AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE

(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, today the Census Bureau tells us something that the average American already knows, and that is, according to census figures, the income disparity between the richest and the poorest in this country is bigger than ever. Bigger than ever, because we have been living under the Gingrich budget which says we must cut everybody in the middle class so the rich can get even more tax cuts, and we must continue to lift the deficit because guess who loans the

money to the Government? The rich. So they are getting it both ways. It is absolutely amazing.

And what are we supposed to do? What are families supposed to do, normal families? I guess we are back to trickledown. I do not know about you, but the people in my area have been waiting for trickledown for years now, and they have not even gotten damp.

I think we have finally got to take this families first agenda that the Democrats have come up with and go out there and remind people it is the middle class that built this Government, and it is the middle class that is getting tromped on by this Government. Families first is the agenda for the future.

#### FILEGATE

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, would it not be interesting to see President Clinton's secret FBI file?

It would answer a lot of questions most Americans have been wondering about for a long time.

We would see his health records, credit history, FBI background interviews, travel history, high school and college records, anti-Vietnam-war activities, and just about everything else we would want to know about his past.

Will we ever see these records? No.

Why not? Because it would be an invasion of privacy. In other words, it would be against the law.

President Clinton, do not violate the privacy of innocent citizens, if we are not allowed to see these records.

#### CHINA MFN MEANS DEATH OF AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Members of this body will soon be asked to vote on most-favored-nation trading status for China.

Mr. Speaker, this softball, this Barbie doll, and this figurine from "Beauty and the Beast," are all manufactured in China with cheap labor, maybe by prison labor, maybe by child labor. Children in China making "Beauty and the Beast" figurines, children in China making Barbie dolls for children in America, 12-year-olds in China making softballs for 12-year-olds in America.

China has run up a huge trade surplus with the United States. By the U.S. Commerce Department's own calculation, that surplus will cost hundreds of thousands of American jobs. This deficit is growing every month and soon will exceed Japan's. The result is the death of American jobs. Hardship for American families, distress in American communities.

Mr. Speaker, China does not play by the rules. Children in China making softballs and Barbie dolls for children in America. Kill MFN.

#### SUPPORT FAMILIES FIRST, NOT THE GINGRICH BUDGET

(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, I am extremely happy this morning that we finally have the real news that I hope America can attend to, and that is that the rich earn more than all of the middle class. Does anyone realize that there are Americans making \$7,800 a year?

Maybe that will cease and desist all of the talk shows who begin to talk about those who do not want to work and those who do not want to do, and begin to understand what the Democrats are speaking about in not cutting Medicare and Medicaid, what the Democrats are speaking about in offering a new agenda for America, and that is families first, so that we can send our young people to college, so that we can keep the Pell grants, so that we can ensure that the environment is safe, and yes, so that we can increase the minimum wage for those individuals who want to take to the work rolls and not to the deadbeat rolls.

I hope that we will reject the Gingrich budget that does not put families first, and that now for once the truth will be known: The rich are getting richer and the poor, yes, are getting poorer, and the middle class are caught in between. Join us in an effort to make sure that this Congress speaks for families first and not support the Gingrich budget.

#### REPUBLICAN GIMMICKS HURT AMERICA

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the right-wing radical Republicans seem to always take the side of the rich and privileged in America. They act as if they really care about America and working families and the middle class. There is no better case in point than Medicare.

The Republicans are using smoke and mirrors, political double talk, and all the gimmicks from the Nixon-Reagan school of politics. But they still would not be able to fool the American public. They know the American public really knows that the Republicans want to kill Medicare because it is the only way that they can save their Republican friends' tax cuts.

The bottom line is that Democrats want to honor the Medicare contract and the Republicans do not. The Medicare contract should be first.