

THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(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, anyone watching the news this week would have been impressed with the President's sudden commitment to promoting workplace flexibility, but my question is this: Where was the President last year when I introduced the Working Families Flexibility Act; a bill that would allow an employee to choose between cash wages or paid time off for overtime work—a valuable opportunity to spend more time with family. Not only did the President oppose this bill—at the request of the Washington union bosses who are spending \$35 million to run false and misleading campaign ads against Republicans—but his Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, calls it a poison pill. Why the sudden change of heart?

Madam Speaker, my guess is the President's army of political hacks and spin gurus suddenly discovered in their polling that American women overwhelmingly support the Republican Working Families Flexibility Act, and they had better do some good ole stump proposals just to cover their electoral bases. While Washington pundits might praise the President's ability to hijack important issues for political gain, this kind of gamesmanship only hurts the American people and their ability to balance the conflicting pressures of work and family—especially working women. This is hardly a formula for election year success.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF BOMB EXPLOSION IN SAUDI ARABIA

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

Mr. VENTO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the loss of life that took place in Saudi Arabia, those United States troops and soldiers serving a peacekeeping mission, an important peacekeeping mission. Nearly 2,500 United States troops, mainly Air Force, are still stationed in Saudi Arabia today. I want to extend my sympathies and that of this House to those in uniform that are serving and the families that have experienced this loss of life, as well as the civilians and other loss of life that occurred. Nearly 150, perhaps more, were injured. We know at least 24 have lost their lives in this tragic accident.

The President rightly has put a top priority on this in terms of investigating and trying to deal with the forces within Saudi Arabia, even as we are doing peacekeeping, that are politically unstable and causing serious problems and outrageous actions and issues that we face. I think it is impor-

tant to remember that any time anyone puts on a uniform, whether in war or in peacekeeping, obviously their lives are at risk. And it is enormously important as the U.S. Nation assign duties and responsibilities and assume the role that we do, that leadership consider the security, safety, and mission risks that our Armed Forces experience in the important and changing role that they fulfill.

ATTEMPTING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Madam Speaker, I just rise to report again to my colleagues that we are trying to reach an agreement with the Clinton administration on health reform so that every working family that has health insurance would be able to change jobs, would be able to continue their insurance without any worry about a pre-condition.

We think it is very, very important that every American know that once they are in the insurance system, they are there for the rest of their life. I have had personal experience in my family, I think every Member has either family or friends who have had the experience of not being able to buy health insurance because of a pre-condition.

We can reach an agreement this week before we go home. It is good for America. It is important for America. This House has voted to go to conference. We should pass health reform to guarantee that every family in America has access to health insurance without regard to preconditions, and we should do it before we go home this week. I hope the Clinton administration will reach an agreement with us today to have that kind of health reform for all Americans.

HORROR IN SAUDI ARABIA

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, like my colleagues previously, I rise to offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and the injured survivors of the bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Also, Madam Speaker, on behalf of the minority of this House, I would like to thank them for recognizing this as the priority issue of the day in allowing the first few of us to speak to this concern.

Terrorism and extremism know no territorial boundary. We must, here in this House, engage the international community in working vigilantly to identify and eradicate the perpetrators

of terrorism at their cancerous roots. We in this body must give our law enforcers the tools they need to infiltrate terrorist organizations, deport terrorists and choke their funding mechanisms.

As President Clinton said yesterday, whoever harms an American anywhere in the world will pay. The difference, however, between us and the perpetrators of this kind of crime is that we resolve our disputes in a legal fashion using the rule of law and not of the jungle or desert.

LIBERALS WANT TO SCUTTLE HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I wish to follow up on Speaker GINGRICH's comment on health care.

It is very simple to see what is going on here. Liberals lost the battle over nationalizing health care. Now they want to scuttle any health care plan that does not make the Government bigger. It is a shame. It is a shame because millions of American families would benefit from the health care reform bill being held up by the liberals in the Senate. Millions of people would be able to establish medical savings accounts. Many others would be forced to remain in job lock because they have a prior condition.

Madam Speaker, the health care reform bill now before Congress has bipartisan support. In fact, last week, 25 Democrats sent a letter to President Clinton urging him to support these commonsense reforms that the American people have been demanding for years. They do not want more government. They want portable, available, and affordable health care.

Madam Speaker, let us pass the health care bipartisan reform bill now.

WHITE HOUSE USE OF SECRET FBI AND IRS FILES

(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, the White House use of secret FBI files was bad. The White House use of secret IRS files is even worse. After all this, FBI Director Freeh said it is an honest mistake and Secretary Rubin blamed it on a junior detailee. Beam me up.

Who in God's name gave the White House the power to snoop into our private lives? Who at the FBI has the right to violate the Privacy Act? Who at the Internal Revenue Service has the right to violate their oaths and betray American taxpayers? These are not honest mistakes. They are looking day in and day out. Looks like a crime to me.

When Congress allows the White House to act like the KGB, Congress allows the Government of Jefferson and

Lincoln to stink just like the governments of Stalin and Franco. Think about that.

NO APPEASEMENT OR MFN FOR BEIJING

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Madam Speaker, appeasement of dictators is always bad policy. When Neville Chamberlain left Munich after meeting with Adolf Hitler, he said we have "peace in our time." Appeasement is a sign of weakness which only whets the appetite of dictators. Now we want to appease the Communist Chinese dictators once more, and we will lose because of it. I know, I saw first-hand the United States appease Ceausescu when I lived in Communist Romania for 6 years.

After last year's MFN, Beijing's human rights record is even worse. Persecution of Christians has increased. Nuclear weapons transfers are taking place, and slave labor continues.

Are we getting hurt in the trade relationship? We are really getting hurt. It mainly benefits Beijing. In 1995, the United States exported \$11.7 billion of goods to China and we imported \$45.6 billion in return, a colossal trade deficit of \$33.9 billion.

In North Carolina, textile mills and other companies are closing down and people are losing jobs because of slave labor produced goods being dumped on the U.S. market. It is time to look out for America's interest in jobs. No MFN for Communist China.

GRANTING TAX BREAKS TO CORPORATIONS

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

Mr. KLINK. Madam Speaker, we the people of the United States grant tax breaks to people in corporations who donate money to nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit status is granted so that services can be provided to the public. That means the public at large and where need occurs, with no regard to what political party you may or may not belong to.

Well, now this week there comes evidence in virtually every major newspaper in this country that the Speaker of the House of Representatives may have also manipulated a half dozen nonprofit organizations. They say it was in order to funnel \$6 million toward helping the Republican Party gain control of our Government.

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The question is, Is the Speaker guilty of criminal wrongdoing? We do not know, but we do know this. The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct had knowledge of this evidence, in this case, for many months, and they have not taken action.

Now, to our embarrassment, Congress, it is the news media that has taken action, where we in Congress have taken none. The time has come for Congress to clean its own House.

GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS THERE WHEN IT NEEDS YOU

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, today I call to your attention a study released yesterday by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce regarding the effects of Federal regulations on business.

The results are overwhelming.

One in six survey respondents reported having to lay off employees in order to offset the cost of Federal regulation compliance like the minimum wage, OSHA, and environmental laws.

Only 1 in 10 respondents said they had ever learned about a new Federal regulation from the agency that enacted it. In other words, "We'll come up with whatever we want, and it's your job to find out what that is."

Forty-four percent of the respondents who currently do not offer employee benefit plans said they would if Federal regulations were not so confusing.

Madam Speaker, I commend the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for conducting this study and I look forward to working with them and other Members of this body to get some commonsense reform to our heavy-handed regulatory process.

Some regulation is necessary but we have carried it to ridiculous levels. It is time for a change, Madam Speaker. It is time to unleash the potential of our economic system to create a better life for American workers.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES ARE COVER FOR LAUNDERING POLITICAL DONATIONS

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

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, yesterday, the L.A. Times reported that from 1984 to 1994, GOPAC ran a massive, \$6 million tax fraud scheme that used six different nonprofit organizations as cover to defraud U.S. taxpayers and funnel money to its own political machine.

These are organizations that claimed to be involved in charitable activities—like helping inner-city youth and teaching kids to read through programs like Earning for Learning.

But in reality—the L.A. Times says—these were just a cover, part of a conspiracy to launder political donations and fuel a partisan, political agenda.

Madam Speaker, this cesspool has gone on long enough.

First, we had a \$10 to \$20 million GOPAC slush fund. Now, we have a \$6 million tax fraud scheme.

We have got to get to the bottom of this. It's time that the individuals responsible for this fraud on American taxpayers are brought to justice and held accountable for their actions.

SUPPORT H.R. 3715, THE LAM DISEASE RESEARCH ACT OF 1996

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a rare but deadly disease called lymphangiomatosis, or commonly referred to as LAM. The disease is so little known, it is commonly misdiagnosed and we, therefore, lose many opportunities to find a cure for this disease. Currently, it is always fatal.

LAM affects only women, primarily women of childbearing age. Abnormal cells are spread throughout the woman's lungs, making breathing more and more painful and eventually causing death. Most victims of LAM die within 10 years of the onset of the disease.

The Federal Government does all sorts of things it should not do and it wastes literally billions of dollars every year on things like paying big corporations to advertise overseas, paying farmers not to grow crops. There is no legitimate Federal role in things like that, but there is an important Federal role in conducting research on killer diseases such as LAM.

That is why 15 of us, both Democrats and Republicans, have proposed the LAM Disease Research Act of 1996, devoting \$5 million to help fight this disease. We ask our colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

GOPAC

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Madam Speaker, who ran GOPAC from 1984 to 1994? We all know that it was our autocratic Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, while as a Member of this body ran this very political Republican organization. Where did he get his money? Well, he got a lot of it from tax-exempt organizations, six of them, which he set up, which he ran. They got donations from the public to go to help children, to help college courses, to help learning disabled, and what did he use it for? He used it to elect the Republicans. That is what the Speaker did. It is pure fraud. And what is being done about it? Nothing.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has permitted the special counsel to look into two of those, but not the other four. Why not? It is a coverup, folks. They are taking care of the Speaker. They do not want the American public to know that the Speaker used tax-exempt organizations, defrauded the people who sent the money down there. They thought it