

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.

□ 1015

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

was going for kids. What did it go to? It went to elect Republicans.

VOTE TODAY TO HELP THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Madam Speaker, this morning we are going to have an opportunity to stand up for the most vulnerable members of society, the disabled and the elderly. There will be an amendment that was debated on the floor yesterday that will be up for a vote. We will have a chance to step forward and to do something important in terms of providing shelter and housing to give people the ability to have a meaningful life who have disabilities and who are elderly.

Now, when we talk about the word "disabled," it is almost a sanitized word, but let us think about it in terms of the veteran who has returned from the war and who is in a wheelchair and lost his legs, or the 90-year-old grandmother who is in a wheelchair and wants her own home, not a nursing home, or the young girl who has lost her sight, and the young man who was born so mentally challenged that he needs the help that only a community house can provide to him.

In 1996, we were spending about \$387 million out of a \$30 billion budget for housing for the disabled. We are now talking about reducing funding down to \$174 million. Please vote for the Lazio amendment that will restore about \$40 million of that.

WEST GEORGIA STATE WILL INVESTIGATE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES OF SPEAKER

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, get in line. Even West Georgia State in the Speaker's home State is investigating the charitable activities of Speaker GINGRICH. Newspaper after newspaper, conservative and liberal alike, have questioned the Speaker's activities and his fundraising apparatus.

West Georgia College Foundation oversees the Speaker's reading charity, something called Earning by Learning. That charity pays schoolchildren to read books, and Speaker GINGRICH has said the charity is all volunteer, with all proceeds going directly to children.

But let me quote from Speaker GINGRICH's hometown paper, a paper which has supported him regularly.

The vast majority of the charity's money was paid not to children but to college instructor Mel Steely and several of his colleagues. Steely, who served as Gingrich's campaign manager in 1986 and a congressional aide in the 1990's, is the charity's coordinator. Some of the work done by Steely

and paid for with charitable funds apparently focused on Gingrich's reelection chances and was written on the Marietta Congressman's campaign stationery.

Madam Speaker, that is simply wrong.

CALL FOR APOLOGY TO MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Mr. ARMEY. Madam Speaker, 10 good men and women from this body, 5 from each side of the aisle, have responded to the request of their colleagues and their leadership to serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, known as the ethics committee. They have taken a responsibility on that most of us would shun, most of us would avoid, and they have done so with integrity, discipline, and the confidentiality required by the rules of the House.

These 10 good men and women deserve to be respected and appreciated. They do not deserve to have their work or their integrity called into question by people who are so full of zeal for vengeance on another of our Members they would ask this committee to violate its own standards.

I have seen a lot of speeches given from the well of the House, but never have I seen speeches that expressed so much disdain and lack of regard and appreciation for those 10 among us who would take on the toughest job we have to do. I would suggest apologies are in order.

MOVE TOTALITY OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH TO INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, the Los Angeles Times said Gingrich politics got boosts from nonprofits. GOPAC's use of six tax-exempt agencies raises questions by legal experts and special counsel. Questions by legal experts and special counsel.

With all due respect to the majority leader, this House is under a cloud of suspicion that does not seem to go away because of the actions of the Speaker and GOPAC. As a former police officer, I just cannot understand why the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has failed to investigate and has failed to refer this matter to a special prosecutor.

Take the totality of the circumstance, the six investigations, and send it to the independent counsel. It is foolish for politicians to be investigating politicians. Let us get it to the independent counsel, let us get to the bottom of these questions by legal ex-

perts and other specialists in the field and get it off this floor. Get the cloud off our head. Move it to the independent counsel.

TIME TO REFORM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

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

Mr. BONILLA. Madam Speaker, it is time to reform the Endangered Species Act and our people have waited long enough. Private property owners are sick and tired of the Federal Government stepping in and taking their land because the ESA cares more about bugs than about people.

There has been a lot of talk in this Congress about reforming the ESA to make it work for people and species. I commend the gentleman from Alaska, Chairman YOUNG, and the gentleman from California, Mr. POMBO, for the tremendous efforts in developing legislation to reform ESA. But this bill deserves our immediate attention. This is why I have chosen to go the extra mile for hard-working farmers and ranchers who have suffered the consequences of a bad law.

Today I am beginning the process of submitting a discharge petition to get much-needed ESA reform to this floor as quickly as possible. The current ESA legislation has failed to recover species. The ESA has saddled property owners with outrageous fines because of Federal designation of critical habitat.

ESA reform establishes a cooperative framework for these landowners to work together with the Government to protect species. The people of Texas want to conserve species and to protect the environment. I ask everyone in this Congress to support me and sign the Bonilla discharge petition.

APPROVE THE PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION AND STOP THE COVERUP

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the only apology that is due in this House is one from him for obstructing the investigation which ought to be occurring; an apology that is due to the American people.

I think one of the world's most majestic monuments is that which sits in this city honoring Abraham Lincoln. But apparently not content with that, NEWT GINGRICH and his crowd decided they would erect a second monument to Lincoln. They called it the Abraham Lincoln Opportunity Foundation. It was supposedly created to help poor teenagers, but it was converted into a vehicle to recruit more Gingrichites for Congress.

Political donors to this partisan organization were advised they could