

child support is paid. We believe the future of the children of this country requires welfare reform.

It is very unfortunate that the President has failed to sign the waiver for Wisconsin. I call on President Clinton today to keep his word to the Governors and to sign the Wisconsin welfare waivers and allow the people of Wisconsin to reform welfare.

WASHINGTON POST OWES APOLOGY TO UNITED STATES CITIZENS OF CUBAN DESCENT

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage with yesterday's Washington Post editorial entitled "Cuba—The Poisonous title III" that refers to United States citizens as the "Miami Cubans." I have never seen the Post refer to New York Jews or the Boston Irish or the Chicago Polish community. No, this second class citizenship status by the Washington Post is preserved just for the Miami Cubans. As an American of Cuban descent, not from Miami, I think it is despicable.

Finally, title III of the Helms-Burton legislation is that part of the bill that stands up for U.S. citizens. Let us review the facts. The property of American citizens and businesses were illegally confiscated between 1959 and 1960. Those businesses were never compensated by the Cuban regime for their losses.

Title III does not prohibit investment by any nation in Cuba unless they do it in the stolen property of American citizens and companies. So there we have it. If you do not knowingly and intentionally invest in stolen property, you have no reason to be concerned about this bill.

I hope the Post gets its facts straight. It owes an apology to the Americans of Cuban descent.

MAKE HEALTH CARE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Congress is ready to pass bipartisan legislation that will make health care insurance more available and affordable for millions of American families without big government. It is called private sector health care reform.

However, over the last 11 weeks someone in the other body has been holding health care reform hostage, refusing to allow the legislation to proceed by using complicated procedural gimmicks. This common sense health care reform is being stonewalled, Mr. Speaker, because of the dream that still exists of imposing a single player, Government-run health care system on the entire Nation.

I think that a couple of years ago the people in this country spoke out very loud and clear that they do not want a Government-run system, but they want access, they want availability, and they want affordability for health care. Today many Americans are forced to stay in their current jobs out of fear of losing their health care benefits and insurance. Others just live in fear of losing health care coverage should they lose their job.

This bipartisan legislation would make sure Americans who lose their coverage can keep their jobs their health care, and take care of their families. I urge the movement of the bill.

EDUCATION SHOULD BE PLACED AT TOP OF NATION'S PRIORITY BUDGET LIST

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in the spending bill that is coming to the floor this morning, the Republicans are once again proposing harmful education cuts, and, fortunately, the President has once again promised to veto any bill the Republicans send him that does not include reasonable levels of education funding.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that education should be placed at the top of our Nation's budget priorities. We should be heading in a direction completely opposite from where the Republicans are going, especially at a time when enrollment in our Nation's schools is rapidly expanding.

A failure to increase funding for education is a failure to invest in our children's future. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Give up this quest to gut our education system. The Republicans tried it last year, they are trying it again this year, and it should not be done. Education needs to be a priority when we deal with this budget.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

WHO HIRED CRAIG LIVINGSTONE?

(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, I thought of a good way to find out who hired Craig Livingstone. Livingstone, as my colleagues will remember, is the Gore campaign political operative who went to work in the White House and proceeded to illegally review the FBI files of private American citizens.

When asked by the congressional committee who hired him, Craig Livingstone said, "I do not know." Now, the taxpayers are going to have to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to find out who hired Mr. Livingstone.

I have got a cheap alternative. Let us ask Eleanor Roosevelt. All right, everybody, light your candles: Eleanor, Eleanor. It is not working. Maybe one of the Democrats can tell me what I am doing wrong.

The fact is we can save the taxpayers thousands of dollars if Mr. Livingstone would just tell the truth.

AMERICA NEEDS A RAISE

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I will not get into a seance with my friend from Georgia, but some good news that did come through from the Senate this week was the passage of the minimum wage bill.

That is right, in spite of the Republican leadership's concerted effort in the House and Senate to set the agenda and to add a poison pill to the minimum wage, the American public's will is being reflected in the other body and in this House.

Unfortunately, the antics and tricks to try and stop the minimum wage, the 90-cent increase for those that are making \$4.25 an hour today, is still in motion. They are threatening, in fact, to tie it up and hold it to other bills, to in fact try and put in place tax breaks that will dig the deficit hole deeper in this country and deny low-income workers, mostly, I might say, adults, and very often, too often, women, the opportunity to get a fair wage, a living wage.

Mr. Speaker, America needs a raise, and they need this Congress to respond fair and equitably. At the same time we are cutting all the social programs, we have to let people earn their way and get a fair wage in our economy.

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ANOTHER BROKEN WELFARE PROMISE

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it has been 31 days now since President Clinton promised to take action on Wisconsin's welfare waiver request.

Thirty-one days—no action.

Another welfare promise by Bill Clinton will most likely fall by the wayside. In the meantime, millions of Americans are caught in an endless cycle of dependency and poverty.

On May 18 this year, Bill Clinton held up the Wisconsin plan as a model of good welfare reform. Let me just quote from his radio address that day:

All in all, Wisconsin has the makings of a solid, bold welfare reform plan. We should get it done. I pledge that my administration will work with Wisconsin to make an effective transition to a new vision of welfare reform based on work . . .

That was Bill Clinton on May 18 talking on welfare. Today is July 10, and all we hear is silence. His 30 days are up and all we hear is the silence of another broken welfare promise.

WHY THERE WILL BE NO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the House and Senate have passed a minimum wage bill, but I want to let my colleagues in on a little secret. The Speaker is not going to let it become law.

Our dictator, Speaker GINGRICH, has decided that along with the majority Members of the extreme right in the Republican Party and Members of this House, that people working for minimum wage in my district and all over this Nation do not need this year an increase of 45 cents an hour.

Mr. Speaker, they are working right now today, while these Members up here are enjoying all their large incomes, et cetera. They say, Speaker GINGRICH and the extreme right Republicans say that my people should not get 45 cents an hour more. Now is that right? No, it is not right.

Why do we not have a minimum wage bill? Why? Because Speaker GINGRICH has decided that he is going to kowtow to the special interests that give large funds to their campaign funds.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. MCINNIS. Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I ask that the words of the gentleman be stricken. The gentleman called the Speaker of the House a dictator. I would ask for an interpretation of the House. The Speaker of the House is not a dictator, and I ask that the words of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] be stricken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair rules that point of order has come too late. There has been intervening debate.

DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON WISCONSIN WELFARE PLAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today is the day. Thirty days have passed since Bill Clinton placed a self-imposed deadline to take action on Wisconsin's welfare waiver request.

Mr. Speaker, the Wisconsin welfare plan has bipartisan support in Wisconsin, and here in our Nation's Capitol.

The Wisconsin welfare plan truly ends welfare as we know it. It moves

people from welfare, to work, instilling personal responsibility, and lifting families and children out of the poverty trap.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton pointed to the Wisconsin welfare plan as a model. He pledged his administration's firm and strong support for helping the people of Wisconsin move from welfare to work. He said and I quote, "We should get this done."

Last year, Bill Clinton promised to sign waivers within 30 days. Well, the 30 days are up, and all we hear from the White House is the sound of another broken promise.

Mr. Speaker, this is just another example of Bill Clinton saying one thing and doing another.

MAJORITY NEEDS TO GET ITS MATH RIGHT

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to investing in our children's education, the new majority must need a refresher course in basis math because their numbers just do not add up. While school enrollment is expected to grow by 7 percent by 2002, the new majority is proposing a cut in education by 7 percent below 1995 levels.

This means that our schools, as they get more crowded, our teachers will be taking on more and our students will be receiving less; less help in fighting drugs and violence, less help in raising learning standards; and less help in basic reading and math.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way to take care of our children. It is time for the new majority to get its math right. It is time for a budget that gives our children the tools they need to succeed in the next century.

THE NATURAL DISASTER PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP ACT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the East Coast is currently being battered by Hurricane Bertha. As we all know, such disasters can occur at any time. The Midwest has been hit by floods in the past. The West Coast has been hit by natural disasters. Since Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the Federal Government has paid out over \$67 billion on disaster relief. Insurance companies have also paid out over \$33 billion since 1989.

But now, Mr. Speaker, we have a bill that will help out. It is called the Natural Disaster Protection Partnership Act. It forges together Government and private entities to provide geographic areas insurance protection.

This legislation will reduce cost and physical damage from natural disasters by requiring States to adopt improved enforcement of model building codes,

and would also provide a grant program, financed by the private sector, to provide badly needed resources to implement preparation and loss reduction strategies.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, we should all support this initiative.

SENATE SHOULD FREE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(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, it is day 2 and the Republican Senate continues to hold the minimum wage hostage. The Republicans are demanding that Medical Savings Accounts be added to health care reform as ransom for its release. MSA's—the Republican payoff to special interests and big donor insurance companies. The same MSA's that Consumers Union has called a time bomb * * * that will make health insurance less accessible and less affordable for many Americans.

Over 80 percent of the American people support a minimum wage increase. Today's LA Times editorial page says:

An increase in the minimum wage is long overdue. What is clearly resolved in the minds of most Americans . . . is that they want to see work encouraged and appropriately compensated.

But the Republicans would rather hold this legislation hostage to special interests.

I say enough is enough. For the sake of hard-working American families across this country—the Republicans in the Senate must give up their unreasonable demands and free the minimum wage.

PERSONAL ATTACKS Demean THE HOUSE

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

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I was going to speak this morning on health insurance, but based on the comments of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], I think what we ought to do is take another look at ourselves.

We accomplish nothing, we demean the House, we demean each one of us when we use such words as were used by the gentleman from Missouri. I would just tell my colleagues, as a freshman Member of this House, that we do not do anything positive for our country, for our future generations, or for ourselves by vicious personal attacks.

To name someone a dictator is both inappropriate and demeaning to the House. My words would be that we should look at that and say, what are we doing when we do that? We have not put forward anything positive for anybody in terms of our districts, in terms of the American public, by doing so. I would just hope that we would follow