

to recognize our own U.S. microcredit programs initiated by groups like Results of Miami, which has helped so many young women start their own businesses.

Minorities in the United States benefit greatly from microcredit programs. In my hometown of Miami, Jamaican-Americans have started Caribbean food product stores, Haitians have opened acrylic nail shops which are so popular, Cuban-Americans have set up mom and pop hardware stores. It has been a success in Miami. It can succeed in your town, and we can export it across the oceans.

HANDSHAKES DEFEAT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM 1-0

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, in June of 1995 in a very famous handshake, the President and the Speaker of this House shook hands and committed themselves to campaign finance reform. I can speak since then on the commitment of our President to campaign finance reform. I know he would support that bill because in Arkansas he took it to the streets to get signatures on campaign finance reform for Arkansas and was successful.

What has happened since then? Nothing. We have had no bills come to the floor of this House for a vote. Here we are halfway through the session at the end of the year, we are going to adjourn probably tomorrow and what is the final score, Mr. Speaker? The final score is handshakes 1, campaign finance reform nothing. That is a poor record for this Congress. It is a poor record for the Republican leadership of this Congress. Next year we need to do better.

IRS REFORM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, polls have shown that the American people no longer trust their government to do, quote-unquote, the right thing most of the time. In fact, just over the last 3 decades this country has changed so dramatically in that regard. Under President John F. Kennedy, approximately 7 out of 10 Americans trusted their government. Now only 1 out of 10 Americans do. Only 1 out of 10 Americans trust their government to any degree of satisfaction. This is deeply disturbing. I think restoring trust in government must be a top priority for this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the corruption, the politicization and the general abuse of the IRS plays a major role in this change of attitude on the part of the American citizens. When a government agency has the power to bully citizens, to operate with vir-

tually no accountability and to make a mockery of our constitutional right to due process, it is no wonder that the citizens have grown to distrust their own government. I believe that if IRS reform is not passed in this Congress, many Americans will consider the 105th Congress to be an overall failure.

FAST TRACK

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, every Member of this House should oppose fast track because of labor standards, environmental standards and human rights. But there is another very valid reason, that of food safety and pesticide use in foreign countries on food coming into this country.

Since the last fast track legislation, NAFTA, it limited our right to make border inspections of imported food. So what has happened? Food imports are up, inspections are down. What will happen with this new fast track deal is more countries will be shipping their food into this country. We have not addressed the infrastructure to provide a safety net to protect American citizens from food coming into this country. That is why in 1997 we have had 3 major outbreaks of disease in this country from imported food.

What do they tell you when you go to foreign countries, Latin America and South America? Do not eat the food, do not drink this, do this, get a hepatitis shot. So what are we going to do? Have more food come into this country and less inspections. Over 3.3 million trucks every day cross our borders into this country, many of them carrying food products. That is 9,000 trucks per day. One percent is inspected. Let us not risk our families' health. Vote no on fast track.

TAXES, LIBERALS AND BUREAUCRATS

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Clinton's recent remarks that he thinks taxpayers who are in favor of tax cuts are selfish is a truly stunning remark to me. It is stunning to think that that is how the President and his liberal allies think about those who think that Government can get by on a little bit less so that families can have a little bit more. But one point that is often missed about the tax dollars that are sent to Washington, DC, is the much more fundamental point of who gets to spend your dollars. The liberal elite is uncomfortable with the idea that you should get to decide what to do with your money. They think that the politicians who claim to adhere to a higher moral standard have a higher claim on your money and that they can use your money in better ways than

you can and more fairly and more in line with the liberal vision of the elite. That is why they have a government knows best attitude and, incredibly, a boundless faith in the Federal bureaucrats in Washington to do the right thing.

Do the right thing? Mr. Speaker, I do not think so.

FAST TRACK

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will vote on fast track, expanding the North American Free Trade Agreement to dozens of other countries. NAFTA cost tens of thousands of American jobs. So does fast track. NAFTA threatens the safety of our food supply. So does fast track. NAFTA weakens our environmental laws. So does fast track.

To get fast track through Congress, Speaker GINGRICH and President Clinton are wheeling and dealing like we have never seen before: deals on the census, on family planning, on health care and campaign contributions. Let us reject the wheeling and dealing by Speaker GINGRICH and President Clinton. Vote no on fast track.

IRS REFORM

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, for years citizens have been complaining about the IRS. Honest citizens faced with an audit, a problem, confusing changes in the Tax Code and bewildering instructions about their tax return have cried out for reform to their representatives in Washington, radio talk show hosts and newspapers across the country. But nothing seems to change. To add insult to injury, the IRS responds to all these complaints by defending its actions, assuring citizens everywhere that the IRS is improving, the IRS is reforming itself and honest taxpayers have nothing to fear from an audit. If this is not the perfect example of an arrogant bureaucracy that is out of touch, I would like to see a better one. Arrogant, out of touch and unaccountable, these are the hallmarks of a Government that abuses its power, a Government which makes ordinary citizens feel powerless and fearful.

Mr. Speaker, the IRS must change big time, not cosmetic changes that mean business as usual but a top-to-bottom overhaul that does not put honest taxpayers in the same boat as tax cheats. The IRS needs to give taxpayers the respect they deserve.

FAST TRACK

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I hope the American people are watching the proceedings that are happening in this Chamber this weekend, because if they watch what they will see is a monumental battle being fought out between a Democratic administration in conjunction with the Republican leadership versus the working class American family. The multinational corporations, with the support of our Democratic President and our Republican leadership, are taking sides against America's working families. How are they doing this? They are cutting deals that in my judgment are shameful. They are contributing to the cynicism that Americans feel about what happens in this Chamber.

We are supposed to come here, Mr. Speaker, as representatives of the people, to vote on the basis of principle, to follow our own conscience, and to do what we believe in our heart is best for our constituents. But this weekend multinational corporations in conjunction with a Democratic President and a Republican leadership are selling out the American people.

CAN PUBLIC OFFICIALS BEHAVING IN UNETHICAL MANNER BE TRUSTED WITH NEW LAW?

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, when was the last time you heard the argument that changing the law or passing a new law will make people who break the law honest? Well, yesterday, if you count what we hear in this Chamber. The fact is the DNC, friends of the White House, and close aides in this administration have been caught red-handed doing things that they know are illegal: Taking foreign money, laundering money, laundering union money, raising money on Government property, shaking down Indian tribes for money, raising money at Buddhist temples, covering for political operatives who have fled from this country, selling the Commerce Department trade missions, selling access to the White House and on and on. All these things are wrong, they are illegal, and they are dishonest.

My suspicion is that the same people who have been caught behaving in an unethical, illegal, and dishonest manner are not going to suddenly become public officials who can be trusted with a new law. What do you think?

MONEY BELONGS TO THOSE WHO EARN IT

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the President called taxpayers selfish for wanting to keep more of what they

earn. Recently the Democrat leader in the Senate, TOM DASCHLE, said that Americans were not overtaxed. The President's deputy press secretary said that support of tax relief was based on selfishness.

Stop the presses, Mr. Speaker. To say that people are shocked would be an understatement. Claiming that most people are undertaxed and calling Americans selfish is exactly the kind of mindset that make people furious at Washington, DC politicians who just do not get it.

I have a news flash for them. When people work hard to earn more, they are not doing it for Washington. They are doing it to feed their children, enrich their lives and pursue their own happiness. This is the way it should be. Why do the defenders of big government and the status quo have such a problem with it? They are in Washington to represent their constituents, not tell them how much of their own money they can keep.

Americans are overtaxed. The Tax Foundation found that Americans spend more on taxes than food, shelter, and clothing combined.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Members are reminded not to refer to statements by Members of the other body during remarks in this Chamber.

PRIVATE GOLF CLUBS USE TAX LOOPHOLE TO PRACTICE DISCRIMINATION

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress did a great service for this Nation by passing the Internal Revenue Service reform legislation. However, in our celebration, I must inform my colleagues that there is more work that needs to be done. We must eliminate a little known tax loophole for private clubs that profit from practicing discrimination.

This chart details four private golf clubs identified by HBO's "Real Sport with Bryant Gumbel." They have \$9 million in taxpayers funds while excluding African-Americans. Each year these 501(c)(7) clubs act as nonprofit organizations that are exempt from paying corporate taxes to the Federal Government.

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This is just the tip of the iceberg, Mr. Speaker. I am offering legislation today that will end this, and I hope the Members of this body will join me.

IT IS UNFAIR TO FORCE PARENTS TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO BAD SCHOOLS

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, last week, right on this House floor, I was disappointed to hear a distinguished Member of the other side of the aisle say that education savings accounts and school choice would operate at the expense of public schools. I would like to respond to that accusation. The key point is this:

We believe absolutely, based on 200 years of evidence, that competition forces excellence, it forces improvement in quality, and it forces innovation. In many parts of our country it is very important to improve the public school system.

Second, we believe it is unfair to force parents who love their children to send them to a bad school simply because they cannot afford to send them someplace else.

While some continue to defend failed schools and ask for more money and create more Washington Federal programs, we have a better idea. We favor giving parents more choice. Now, some parents have unlimited choices as to where they can send their children to school, but some do not. They do not because they are poor or they face other financial constraints, and so sometimes they have no choice but to send their child to a bad school where they are not even safe.

All we want to do is give them a chance at a truly great education.

SCARING SENIORS

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, there is a special place in hell for people in groups who scare seniors to raise money. Senior citizens all over the country receive dozens of letters a week, mass mailings from supposedly nonpartisan groups that confuse and frighten seniors in asking for their money to save Medicare and Social Security, letters like this one from some group called the United Senior' Association.

This last week I had a senior citizen calling me after he got this letter and literally crying because he could not afford to send the money, and he wanted to make sure he could still have Medicare. After a while I think senior citizens groups and senior citizens become convinced the sky is falling from some of these groups.

I represent a blue collar district, and I know that our seniors cannot afford to send \$10, \$15, \$20 to these groups in Washington, DC or Virginia. While many of these groups are run by partisan groups, some by Democrats, some by Republicans, Republicans are not amused. In fact, I saw a dear colleague this week from my colleague the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS]. He had his own problems with these mailing list groups on the subject of