

new technologies in energy; efficient industrial protection and transportation; new industries; and the unfolding of a new economic order based on profit and human progress.

THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we take a giant step forward for working families. Today we will vote to give all parents the ability to choose between getting paid for their overtime or to take time off equal to the amount of money in overtime.

I know today's working men and women find it increasingly difficult to balance work and family responsibilities. How many times have we as parents labored to strike a balance between attending a parent-teacher conference and being at our job? Or how many times were we forced to choose between a ball game or recital and our ability to bring home more money?

The Working Families Flexibility Act, which I cosponsored, gives families the ability to strike the balance needed between work and family. Mr. Speaker, I would prefer the title of "Dad" to the title of "Congressman." I urge my colleagues to join me and allow every parent to be called dad and mom. Support the Working Families Flexibility Act.

WHY WE NEED CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(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, the front page of today's Washington Post shows why the Republican leadership wants to limit the scope of investigation of alleged campaign finance abuses to the White House while avoiding any action on campaign finance reform.

According to the story in today's Post, the Republican chairman of the committee charged with investigating campaign finance laws pressured lobbyists from the government of Pakistan to contribute money to his campaign in what the lobbyists describe as a shakedown.

I understand the chairman in question has canceled a hearing scheduled today. In light of today's allegations, the gentleman from Indiana should recuse himself from the committee's investigation. He should also open up his committee's probe to a much wider scope than the White House and include both parties in Congress.

The country has been reading and hearing an awful lot about foreign money in campaign committees, and here we have the gentleman charged

with leading the probe writing a letter to a foreign government. This same chairman is now looking to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on a one-sided partisan probe of campaign finance, and issuing subpoenas. It is this kind of hypocrisy that makes the American public so jaded about our entire campaign finance system, and it shows why we need campaign finance reform.

PASS THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(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, Congress today will be voting on the Working Families Flexibility Act. This bill is very simple. It gives workers the right and the flexibility to choose how they wish to be compensated when they work overtime, with more time or more money.

This is not a radical notion. Passing this bill will merely give workers in the private sector the very same choice government workers now enjoy. Who are we in Congress to tell a working mother or father that overtime pay is the only compensation they can get for working overtime? What if a worker prefers getting comp time? Workers now have no choice at all.

The Working Families Flexibility Act will make it easier to balance the demands of work and family. The Working Families Flexibility Act will give workers the freedom to choose whether time or money is more important to them at any given time. Let us put our trust in the American workers. Let us pass the Working Families Flexibility Act.

MAKING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM A TOP PRIORITY OF THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS

(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, last week the other body voted 99 to 0 to conduct a fair and a thorough investigation of all improper 1996 campaign fundraising activities. We should follow their example.

Today's front page story in the Washington Post may be an indication of why my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have thus far refused to allow an investigation into 1996 Republican fundraising activities. This is also further proof that our current campaign finance laws are not doing their jobs. Our campaign finance system is broken and we need to fix it.

Two things are abundantly clear. First, this House must make campaign finance reform a top priority for this session of Congress; and second, any House investigation into inappropriate fundraising activities must include a thorough examination of Democratic

and Republican fundraising practices. To do any less would cast doubt on the integrity of this House and the process.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF ZOAR

(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, I rise today on behalf of Mayor Larry Bell of the community of Zoar, OH and I rise today to recognize the Zoar Community Association and the citizens of the historic Village of Zoar, OH which I am proud to represent. They are in the midst of Project Pride, an innovative effort to preserve and faithfully restore their town hall in a way that both honors the past and explores the future.

Project Pride will create a year-round tourist information and welcoming center for visitors to Zoar, the Ohio and Erie Canal corridor, and the entire region. The preserved town hall will also provide an interactive technology area linked to the Internet, which will be available to local citizens for research and distance learning.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, the efforts in Zoar are an outstanding example of the ways in which local government, business, citizens, and students work together in a positive manner, in a partnership to enhance the quality of life in our small towns and rural areas. Efforts such as these deserve our praise and support.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY WITH REGARD TO CHINA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, evidently Chinese money is paying off. A Chinese company is taking over a multimillion dollar naval base in Long Beach, CA. Another Chinese company is getting a \$138 million government-backed guaranteed loan in Alabama. Another company with ties to China will operate both ports on each side of the Panama Canal, Mr. Speaker. Another Chinese company was just awarded a \$250 million contract by Uncle Sam, even though they had been convicted of smuggling semi-automatic weapons into our country, infiltrating our streets.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that Congress investigate before the Lincoln bedroom ordeal turns into a Chinese flag flying over the Lincoln monument. Beam me up. If we are going to investigate, let us look at our national security.

URGING COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT

(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, a couple of years ago I made the difficult decision to fly home a little bit early from Washington to return to Savannah, GA, to see my 5-year-old's kindergarten graduation. I got on what can only be described as the flight from hell. I left Washington, flew to Atlanta, and then usually it is about a 30-minute flight to Savannah. We went to Augusta, could not get into Savannah, we ended up trying to get into Jacksonville, could not get into Jacksonville, went to Tampa, spent the night, and the next day went back to Atlanta, then tried again to get into Savannah. We could not.

As a consequence of all this hopping around and so forth and the weather, I missed my son's school event. It broke my heart. But do Members know what? As a Federal employee, at least I had the option of going home to see his play. In the private sector today, the Federal Government laws deny employees that option. They cannot take off work to go see somebody, to take them to the doctor or go see a school play or something.

But with this new legislation we are passing today, employees for the first time in the private sector will be able to work extra and take comp time off. They can go ahead and work the 40-hour workweek, and then take time off needed for those very important and irreplaceable family functions. I hope we can pass comp time today.

SUPPORT THE PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will vote to outlaw the practice known as a partial birth abortion. That procedure is both tragic and needless in that there are at least 2,000 such abortions performed annually, far more than advocates have initially claimed; needless in that we now know, thanks to Mr. Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, who has admitted that he and others misled the American people on the frequency and nature of these abortions, that the vast majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on normal, unborn babies carried by healthy moms.

President Clinton vetoed this bill last year. A number of pro-choice Members of Congress, during consideration of the measure over a year ago, voted in support of a ban on the partial birth abortion procedure. Said one Member, I am just not going to vote in such a way that I have to put my conscience on the shelf.

Ronald Reagan said it as he discussed the issue of defending America's liberty: There is no cause more important for preserving that freedom than af-

firming the transcendent right to life of all human beings, the right without which no other rights have any meaning.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to join with me in voting to ban that practice.

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RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to confirm I am going to take a leave of absence from the Government Reform and Oversight Committee this session of Congress.

This letter follows my earlier request made on January 23, 1997. Thank you in advance for honoring this request.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. EHRLICH, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

WORKING FAMILIES FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1997

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 99 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 99

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a

demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. An amendment designated to be offered by the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or his designee may be offered en bloc with one or more other such amendments. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the very distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 99 is a fair and balanced rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1, the Working Families Flexibility Act, also known as the comp time bill. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule makes in order an amendment in the nature of a substitute from the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill as original text for amendment purposes.

The rule first makes in order those amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying this resolution. Briefly, they include a set of amendments to be offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], the chairman, or a designee that would, among other changes, sunset the entire bill after 5 years.

The Goodling amendment would also require an employee to have worked at least 1,000 hours in a period of continuous employment for a specific employer in the 12 months prior to the time when the employee agrees to a comp time arrangement.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important addition to the bill that I believe carefully addresses concerns that have been voiced by those in the construction and seasonal industries. I strongly urge its support on the floor later today.

There is also an amendment by the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] which would exempt certain lower wage workers from the bill and an amendment in the nature of a substitute to be offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER]. Under the rule, these amendments shall be considered in the order specified, shall