

Mr. Speaker, show us a bill on education, show us a bill on children health, show us a bill on campaign finance.

Where is the leadership? Where is the action? Where is the vision? Where is the beef? It is time to act, it is time to lead.

CAMPAIGN FINANCING

(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, if my colleagues think the last campaign was too long, too costly and too negative, they ought to be mad. The AFL-CIO started negative political ads in Wichita, KS, last week, 19 months before the next election. Misleading false messages in the form of TV commercials are corrosive to our system of self government.

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Here in America, the people govern. But how can they make good decisions when the information they get on television is false and misleading.

Most Americans believe that we ought to have time to govern, to represent the people, but when false campaign ads start 5 months after the last election, so does the next campaign. It is time for campaign reform, it is time for the AFL-CIO to be restricted to separate voluntary contributions, not the taking of dues without the consent of their Members.

PUT FACES ON DIVERSITY AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is important this morning to put the face on several things that have occurred in this country that I think give us both a negative image and reputation, the face on Hopwood and the overturning of the very appropriate decision by the district court was to find 40 to 50 percent decline in minority students going to our institutions of higher learning across this Nation. The district court was right, the circuit court is wrong. We need opportunity and diversity in this country.

Then on the health care issue dealing with our children, let us put a face on health care for our children. Ten million children uninsured, an 11-year-old with asthma not being able to get health insurance. Seventy percent of those are working families making less than \$500 a week, making \$17,000 to \$29,000 a year, working hard every day and not being able to insure their children, not being able to let children play in Little League or cheerleaders because they are fearful that they will get some sort of deadly illness that the working parent cannot pay for.

This is a crime and a crisis. Put the faces on diversity, put the faces on children's health insurance. Let us do something positive in this Congress. Let us applaud and affirm diversity and let us make sure our children are insured.

IT IS TIME TO CUT TAXES

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on February 13, 1913, a day that will live in infamy, the 16th amendment to the Constitution was ratified.

Twelve words, Mr. Speaker, just 12 words was all it took to give the politicians in Washington a permanent hand in the pocket of every working person in America. "The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes on incomes." The rest, Mr. Speaker, is history.

Who could have guessed that those 12 words would lead to our present state of affairs where the average family pays more in taxes than it pays for clothing, housing, and food combined.

Mr. Speaker, that is not right. This is about fairness. It is not fair that the family living from paycheck to paycheck struggles to make ends meet. It is not fair that taxpayers should have to send over one-third of their income to the politicians in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, taxes are too high. It is time to cut taxes for the American people.

WASHINGTON TO WORK

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as an advocate of the Welfare To Work initiative last year, I come forward to propose a sequel this year: Washington To Work. How about it? How about this House getting to work the way they said they wanted the welfare folks to go to work last year. Mr. Speaker, the work ethic seems to be in full blown retreat here in Washington.

I spent some time preparing this comprehensive list of all of the accomplishments of this Gingrich Congress. Here they are, and there is room for a little more on this blank chart, because there are millions of children who have no health insurance; there are millions of young people who want the chance to pursue a college education.

There are those of us who want the budget balanced with true balance, who want to reform the campaign finance system, and yet in this leaderless, aimless Gingrich House, this is the comprehensive list of accomplishments. It is time to apply the same work ethic to this House that our Republican colleagues and some of us on the Democratic side sought to apply to the welfare system last year.

COSTLY EPA REGULATIONS WILL HARM AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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 will tell my colleagues somebody that is working in overdrive is the head of the U.S. EPA. Unfortunately, it is not working for us. She is making a policy decision that will directly affect the lives of millions of working families, all without basing them on sound science and in-depth research into the effects of these regulations on working people in our country. We cannot let this happen.

Therefore, I am hosting a statewide conference in Columbus, OH, on Monday, April 14. The purpose is to fight the new irrational air proposals by the U.S. EPA. I will be joined by the Governor of the State; the head of the Ohio EPA, Don Schregardus; George Wolff, who is head of the U.S. EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee; and members of the Ohio legislature. The purpose: To tell the truth about these costly environmental regulations that will do great harm to America's working families, without any health care benefits.

This is a bipartisan conference supported by Republicans and Democrats all over Ohio who are concerned about the punitive, callous, mean-spirited actions of EPA Administrator Carol Browner directed at the people least able to pay, our working families; we have to stop this now.

LET US WORK IN THE 105TH CONGRESS

(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, the first 100 days are supposed to set the standard for the session ahead. I hope this is not the case with this Congress, which has been plagued with delays on everything, not the least of which is the budget.

The Republican leadership has pushed back deadlines for voting for budget proposals, and now we hear it will be the summertime before we can expect to discuss the budget.

While the President submitted a budget more than 2 months ago, we still have yet to see an alternative budget from the Republicans. While we have fielded criticism on the President's budget, we cannot fight fire with fire because we have nothing to add to the numbers to compare the President's budget to what we have, which is nothing, so we have to move.

Similarly, we continue to waste time by not addressing the health care crisis for America's children. At the end of March a Families USA study told us that 2 million people were uninsured for at least 1 month in 1995 and 1996; 10 million children were uninsured for the

entire year of 1995. We need to address this issue and other issues that affect our country.

Senators KENNEDY and HATCH have worked together in a bipartisan manner on a children's health care plan. Maybe we need to follow their lead and do something for children's health care in this House. Lead, follow, or get out of the way.

WE MUST CUT TAXES

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I speak out today to express the frustration that millions of hard-working Americans feel about a government that promises tax cuts but fails to deliver.

I remember the promises made time and time again during campaigns about tax breaks for middle-income Americans. We have promises that we must keep. Is it any wonder that so many Americans feel alienated from a government that takes almost one-third, and sometimes more, of taxes from the average family's earnings.

Mr. Speaker, who will speak for the common man? The person who does not belong to any special interest, who is not part of a PAC or a powerful lobby, who speaks for him? Mr. Speaker, who will speak for that single mother who works a second job at night to make ends meet or on weekends just to pay the taxes that are owed to Uncle Sam. Who speaks for her? We must cut taxes, Mr. Speaker. We have promises to keep. Those who feel they have no voice deserve to have their taxes cut.

CONGRESS MUST ATTEND TO PRIVACY ISSUES OF OUR CITIZENS

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

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, the newspapers are replete this week with IRS browsing of confidential information of American taxpayers' earnings. Recently, we read that Social Security is trying to outdo the IRS by putting on the Internet individual Americans' total lifetime earning records and making it easily accessible. Putting lifetime earning records of American citizens on the Internet is not user friendly, but abuser friendly.

Mr. Speaker, I am preparing to introduce on April 15 a piece of legislation that will inhibit the Social Security Administration from carrying on this process and establish a commission to study what confidential information should be put on the records held by the Government, so that abusers cannot invade the privacy of American citizens.

Imagine, anyone today can put a name, a Social Security number, a date of birth of that individual, the place of birth of that individual, and the moth-

er's maiden name of that individual and get the information of lifetime earning records of that individual. That is abusive. This Congress must attend to the work of the privacy of American citizens. I urge my colleagues to join me in this legislation.

A SALUTE TO NICK ACKERMAN

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, Nick Ackerman, of Colfax-Mingo, IA, lost to Clint Jones, of Bondurant-Farrar to place sixth during the recent Iowa State high school wrestling tournament. What is remarkable about this is that Nick's lower legs were amputated just below the knees when he was 1½ years old in order to stem an infection threatening his life.

Nick has always thought that he was normal: "I used to break the legs off my GI Joes to make them look like me." Years ago Nick corrected a school nurse who was explaining to his friends that Nick had a disability by telling her that he had a special ability. "I can take my legs off and nobody else in school can." As Vince Lombardi said, "it is not whether you get knocked down, it is whether you get up."

Nick may not have won a State championship in wrestling, but for those of us who watched him compete from his knees, he is a real winner. I and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives salute his spirit.

THE 105TH CONGRESS SHOULD MOVE FORWARD

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

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I bring to my colleagues today greetings from the Republican molasses of the 105th Congress. The last 2 weeks we have been on recess, but I understand both the CBO and OMB in Washington have been working to analyze the difference between this jar of molasses and the rate by which this Congress has been working. I am here to report that even though CBO scored it a little bit more conservatively, both CBO and OMB agree: molasses beat out the 105th Congress in terms of the work they are doing for American families.

It is critical for us to understand that if we are to move forward on the issues of education for our kids, health care for the low and middle income, protecting our seniors, working for jobs and reducing taxes, we have to move forward. Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, we have not been. We are like the jar of molasses moving ever so slowly, never seeming to accomplish anything.

I urge my colleagues, particularly the Republican leadership, to let us put the agenda on the table. We as Democrats recognize we do not have the ma-

ajority, but at least let us vote on the issues and move forward with America's agenda.

BIG GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER

(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 am really disturbed about these Democrats. Apparently they are taking their paychecks and they are not working. What is it with my colleagues? My friends on the other side of the aisle all should be out having town meetings, visiting with constituents, visiting plants, talking to people, doing casework. If my colleagues are ashamed of the fact that they are not working, do not blame it on NEWT GINGRICH, go home and resign.

There is lots to be done. I realize that there is frustration that we are not up here passing more laws, more power, more for bureaucracy, more control over small businesses. I know what it is my colleagues on the other side of the aisle consider great fun, and that is growing the size of government. Mr. Speaker, the folks back home think it is a good day's work when government does not get bigger and bigger every single day, every single year.

Mr. Speaker, the IRS, just take them alone. The IRS right now is up to 111,000 employees. Americans spend over \$1.8 billion man-hours a year just filling out their IRS income tax forms. Businesses spend \$3.6 billion complying with their paperwork. That is too much government, too much bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, passing more laws and increasing the size of government is not the key to utopia, much to the disappointment of some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

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THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY DO-NOTHING 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, I just want to let the gentleman know that it costs the Federal Government \$288,000 a week to cart Members back from their districts, across this country, to bring us here to do nothing because the Republican majority of this House has no agenda; Mr. Speaker, \$288,000 a week. Think about what working middle-class families in this country would be able to reap the benefit of if they had that kind of money.

Earlier this week, the Washington Post labeled this Gingrich Congress the do-nothing Congress. It is true. This Congress has spent the last 3 months doing a whole lot of nothing. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle