

that they can forget about more money for their party unless they have these tax cuts for the wealthiest at the top.

What about providing health care for the 10 million kids who have no health insurance in this country? What about education for our folks? What about a tax break for education for those who want to go on to college? What about school-to-work programs for the 70 percent of our population who do not graduate from college?

Let us have priorities for working men and women in this country and their families and not for the wealthiest few in the Nation.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(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, now we hear it from the administration that brought American school kids hepatitis strawberries. They now want to handle kids' health care. Let me see if this makes sense. I am a father of four children. I do not want the Government getting involved in my kids' health care if that is the way they are going to handle the school lunch program. It is absurd.

Are we going to talk about campaign finance reform? Let us talk about the sweet deal for the Chinese leasing an American shipyard. What is the connection here?

Let us talk about American security. Let us talk about the \$235,000 in foreign funds given to the Democratic National Committee that had to be returned. Let us talk about Webster Hubbell and the money that was given to him when he resigned. Was it hush money or was it just a mere coincidence? Let us get into the Cuban drug dealers and the Chinese arms dealers who have been wine and dined at the White House. Is this the campaign finance reform we are talking about?

I am curious. I join Democrats in trying to get to the root of this.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 400, THE 21ST CENTURY PATENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we take up H.R. 400, the 21st Century Patent System Improvement Act, a bill supported by the entire Committee on the Judiciary and the vast majority of American inventors and developers of advanced technology.

I commend the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. COBLE], our subcommittee chairman, and the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK], the ranking member, for the diligent and fair-minded way in which they have worked with all interested parties to perfect this legislation over the past 3 years.

As a new member of the subcommittee, I can sympathize with those of my colleagues who feel somewhat overwhelmed by this complex, arcane subject. Unfortunately, much of the information circulated over the past few weeks has been misinformation which has not made it any easier to get to the truth.

I cosponsored this bill because of the benefits it offers to every U.S. inventor and our Nation as a whole. Passage of this bill is absolutely essential if we are to maintain our leadership in technology and successfully compete in the global economy.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICA'S FAMILIES

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago Democrats in Congress passed the largest tax increase ever to hit the American taxpayer. As a result of 40 years of continuous tax and spend policies, voters decided to put Republicans in charge of Congress.

In the last Congress, Republicans made it easier for millions of families and hard-working Americans to keep more of the money that they earn. This Congress will be no different. We will maintain our commitment to reducing Government waste and to providing tax relief for millions more families and hard-working Americans.

Americans believe that no more than 25 percent of their income should be taken from them. Right now taxes at all levels consume more than half of an American worker's income. This is immoral and it is unsustainable. America's families and workers need tax relief so they can do more for themselves, their children and their communities.

EMERGENCY FOREIGN AID TO RUSSIA

(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, in 1994 Boris Yeltsin fell off a stage in Germany. He then was unable to get off a plane in Ireland. He then was on his way to a summit meeting where he begged for emergency foreign aid; and the White House complied, giving Boris and Russia \$12 billion in foreign aid and millions more to build houses for Russian soldiers.

In 1994, Boris, to get the money, promised no more weapons sales to Iran. Records now show that with American dollars Boris built planes, tanks, missiles and helicopters and sold them to Iran.

Beam me up here, Mr. Speaker. The only thing we should be sending Boris is a counselor from Alcoholics Anonymous.

The truth is, under the weight of all that emergency cash Congress, Boris

has fallen and he cannot get up. And if we have any money left over, let us use it in America, not Russia.

Think about that. And I yield back the balance of any money left over from these Ruskies.

MULTIMILLION-WORD TAX CODE

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, only in Washington do people systematically create a mess and then stand up before America and declare, I am just so proud of this mess that I have created.

That is right, Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the politicians who created our multimillion-word Tax Code. It just saps 40 percent of the family budget so that you cannot afford your own healthcare or any other necessity.

It is truly a bizarre Washington ritual where the politicians come to town year after year, make the Tax Code more and more complicated, more and more illogical and then leave town and tell their constituents how proud they are of their work in Washington, DC.

For 40 years my liberal friends on the other side of the aisle were in power. In 1995, that 40-year attack on freedom came to an end, but their legacy to the American people is a Tax Code of one gigantic, multivolume embarrassment, an embarrassment of which they are nonetheless enormously proud.

I, on the other hand, want no part of that legacy, Mr. Speaker. I, on the other hand, can only look to our tax system as a cruel joke that is the enemy of common sense.

CANNOT CUT TAXES AND REDUCE THE DEFICIT AT THE SAME TIME

(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, I am honored to be here today and follow my colleague. I am not proud of this Congress either because we are a doing nothing Congress. But before we condemn the Republican leadership for their inactivity, I would like to remind my colleagues that it could be worse.

We could have a repeat performance of 2 years ago, when the Republicans were busy trying to pass legislation that cut taxes at the expense of Medicare.

While the Republican leadership missed yesterday's deadline for a budget resolution, we are still hearing that my colleagues want to pass tax cuts again. In fact, we have Senate Republicans demanding cuts in Medicare and House Republicans wanting to eliminate estate taxes.

A great plan: We will cut your taxes after you die, but we are going to take your Medicare away from you while you are alive.

We cannot cut taxes and reduce the deficit at the same time.

Following my colleague from Ohio, beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Does this make sense?

REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, my father took home about 85 percent of his paycheck. My brother will take home about 45 percent of his paycheck. My daughters, at the current rate of taxes and spending, will take home between 10 and 16 percent.

Yogi Berra once said, "Ladies and gentleman, the future ain't what it used to be." When I grew up, if you worked hard and tried to save and put money back, you may have a little bit of a life with your family. More and more, that is increasingly different.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce the amount of Federal spending and have an effective government. The President wants a \$3 billion literacy program. There are already 14 literacy programs in education, all with bureaucracies, to where we get as little as 23 cents on the dollar down to the classroom. That is cutting education, Mr. Speaker.

We need to work on both sides because American families are endangered in this country. A billion dollars a day, but not one penny goes to any of those.

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HOW FAR WE HAVE COME, HOW FAR WE HAVE TO GO

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to wear an official Jackie Robinson 50th anniversary shirt licensed by Terry Manufacturing, the largest African-American manufacturing apparel company in the United States.

Fifty years ago this week Jackie Robinson shattered not just the color line in baseball, he also shattered the myths upon which Jim Crow America was built.

A few brave men in major league baseball took the courageous step to hire one player. But in major league baseball, just as in other areas of American mainstream life, there are still many more barriers to tear down before we have reached our true ideal as a nation.

Monday the world watched in awe as Tiger Woods shattered every record held for the Masters Tournament at Augusta National. Unfortunately there remain golf courses in America where families like Tiger and his family are not welcome and minorities cannot play.

It is right and appropriate that we take the time now to celebrate how far we have come. Let us also reflect on how far we still have to go.

ILLINOIS' LADY INDIANS BASKETBALL TEAM DEMONSTRATE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND COMPETITION

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise this morning to acknowledge an exemplary group of young athletes from Illinois who have persevered in reaching a common goal for the second year in a row. This group of young women have demonstrated the true hearts of champions, and have aspired once again to the highest level of sportsmanship and competition.

This team of student athletes hailing from Carlyle, IL, are known as the Lady Indians basketball team. In March the Lady Indians won the Illinois high school Class A women's basketball championship.

En route to their second State championship and third straight visit to the Illinois finals, Mr. Speaker, the Carlyle Lady Indians rolled to a record 33 wins and no losses, including the championships in the Cahokia Conference Tournament, the Mascoutah Holiday Tournament, and the Highlands Invitational. In the last three seasons the Carlyle ladies high school team has racked up an impressive 94 wins to only 8 losses, which demonstrates a selfless commitment to excellence and a willingness to forsake individual accolades for the good of the team.

Mr. Speaker, this team, led by Courtney Smith, the 1997 Illinois Ms. Basketball, and Angie Gherardini, the Illinois Class A coach of the year, is an outstanding example of hard work, dedication and excellence which every young athlete can learn from, and truly symbolizes the selflessness and devotion of all the people of the 20th District of Illinois.

So today Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate these 12 devoted players and the assistants who guided this team to their second straight Illinois State Championship in 1997: Michelle Donahoo, Leslie Dumstorff, Heather Hitpas, Kristin Hustedde, who recently visited my office as part of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, Tara Kell, Erin Knuf, Summer Knuf, Lindsay Macon, Stacey Pollman, Jessica Robert, Brie Sheathelm, and Courtney Smith.

H.R. 2 ABANDONS COMMITMENT TO HOUSING THE VERY POOR

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week the Speaker of the House announced that he wants to give a \$300 billion tax cut to the wealthiest people in this country. This is a disgrace. But the story gets worse, much worse. Today Republicans are going to try to pay for those tax breaks by taking money from poor people in public housing.

Today in the Committee on Banking and Financial Services we will debate H.R. 2, a bill that abandons our Government's commitment to housing the very poor. Under H.R. 2 many poor families will end up spending more of their income on housing or be forced into homelessness. Meanwhile, people making over \$350,000 a year will get a tax break.

Mr. Speaker, is this what the Republicans stand for: Giving tax breaks to the rich while throwing poor children onto the street? H.R. 2 is extremely unfair and must be stopped.

DO NOT CUT MEDICARE TO PAY FOR TAX BREAKS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the debate over how to balance the Federal budget, I rise today to express my frustration over some of the recent proposals for dealing with our Nation's Medicare Program.

Last week I was concerned to learn of the President's offer to take an additional \$18 billion out of projected Medicare spending. Then, Mr. Speaker, I was utterly outraged to learn of the response of the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget to the President's offer. The gentleman from New Mexico said an additional \$18 billion was not nearly enough.

Republicans have threatened to call off budget negotiations with the President unless he accepts Medicare cuts of up to \$30 billion or more. A cut of this magnitude without balanced reform would devastate the Medicare Program and cannot be justified.

And why are the Republicans scrambling so furiously for these deep, unsustainable cuts in Medicare? Not to extend the life of the Medicare trust fund, not to improve the quality of health care for 38 million seniors, but because they need the money to finance massive tax breaks for the very wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, I will not support any budget, whether Republican or Democrat, that uses the Medicare Program as a piggybank for giant tax breaks for the rich.

TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH AT THE EXPENSE OF MIDDLE CLASS WORKING FAMILIES

(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 the same old song and dance here on Capitol Hill. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are proposing large tax cuts for the rich at the expense of middle class working families.

The latest tax proposal put forth by the Speaker of the House is to eliminate all capital gains and estate taxes,