

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has estimated that \$76 million more is needed to see that the WIC program through the end of the fiscal year is appropriated. Otherwise, the WIC rolls would be cut by as many as 360,000 participants.

WIC improves diet. It reduces low birth weight. It reduces infant mortality. The program works. It delivers on its promises.

I am glad that we have been able to deliver on ours. I want to thank my colleagues who worked so diligently in succeeding in getting that job done.

IN SUPPORT OF TAX CUTS

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the average American today pays about 40 percent of his or her income in taxes when we count taxes of all types, Federal, State and local. Then the average person pays another 10 percent in regulatory costs passed on to them in the form of higher prices. This is why today the average family has one spouse working for the government and one spouse working for the family. Many people do not realize how much they are paying, about half of their income going to support the government.

Today we are proposing in our budget an \$85 billion tax cut. Some people have implied that this tax cut is just too much, yet this cut is spread over a 7-year period. During that time period, this amounts to a tax cut of less than 1 percent per year. I know we can afford this. The Federal Government wastes far more than 1 percent each year.

I urge my colleagues to support this very needed tax relief for the families of America, a large part of which is a \$500 per child tax credit. Let us support the families of America instead of wasting more through our Federal bureaucracy.

THREAT OF DEPORTATION

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is affecting many of my constituents on a very personal level. A number of Irish nationals living in my district in New York and elsewhere have been unfairly targeted for deportation. Many of my colleagues and I have sent letters to President Clinton, Attorney General Reno and other United States and British officials raising this issue and calling for justice for these members of our community.

Most of the individuals who are facing deportation have established their lives here. They are married to American citizens, have American children and have been productive members of their communities for many years.

The threat of deportation has taken an enormous emotional and financial toll on these families every day. They wake up to the possibility that the lives they have worked so hard for will be shattered by deportation. We must demand that these families are treated fairly. They deserve at least that much.

AGAINST DEPORTATION

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my colleague from New York, Mrs. LOWEY, and other Members and as chairman of the Friends of Ireland to speak out strongly against the Justice Department's decision to appeal the decision of a court and to attempt to deport a citizen of the United States currently back to Northern Ireland. These men, and there are a number of them, served time in prison in Northern Ireland. Many of them are trumped-up charges and very questionable judicial processes.

They came to the United States, married, raised their kids and have become excellent and productive citizens of the country. Now they may be forced to return and, if they do, they are marked men in Northern Ireland. It would be wrong to send them back where they and their families would be subjected, again, to possible injustice and physical harm.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing their dissent from the Justice Department.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE TO THE INS

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on behalf of Brian Pearson. For the last 9 years Brian has lived in Pearl River, NY, in Rockland County working construction, being a loyal husband, raising a daughter, paying his taxes and taking part in his community.

In short, Brian Pearson has lived the American dream. And now the INS wants to snatch that dream from Brian and his family. Why? Because Brian was a political prisoner two decades ago. Yes, a political prisoner. And

those are not my words. Those are the words of the British Government, the same British Government that convicted him in a kangaroo court with no injury. Brian Pearson paid his debt to the British Government. Brian Pearson is no threat to us. In fact, Brian Pearson makes Pearl River a better town, New York a better State, and America a better country. Do not trust my words on this. Trust the words of Mary Gill and Kathleen Conway and Cornelius Buckey, his friends and neighbors who have written to me asking for justice.

So this morning, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I say to the INS, Brian Pearson's case and at least six other cases like his are just ones. Keep the Pearson family together and leave Brian Pearson alone.

TAX CUTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I go back to my district every weekend. Since there is a lot more common sense, in my view, in Cincinnati than there is here in Washington, I try to listen to as many people as possible when I am back home.

The one question that keeps coming my way is this: "Why can't you folks in Washington cut our taxes?" That is a question they have got every right to ask us. It is their hard-earned money that comes to Washington every year in bigger and bigger chunks. The Government keeps getting bigger, and Federal programs up here grow and grow and that money comes right out of the paychecks of hard-working people in my district in Cincinnati.

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Well, Mr. Speaker, I am with them. I am one of those Congressmen who is going to work very hard in the next few weeks to see that any budget agreement considered by this House contains serious tax cuts for the working families in Cincinnati and all around the country.

We have a golden opportunity to let the people of this country keep more of the hard earned money that they make and they send up here to Washington. For the people's sake, let us not blow it this time, let us cut taxes on people all over this great Nation.

ADMINISTRATION SHOULD KEEP PLEDGE OF NO MORE JOE DOHERTY'S

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

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about seven families who are being unjustly targeted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for deportation to the north of Ireland.

I was first informed about the plight of these families after I met Charles Caulfield, his wife Kathleen, and their four children, who reside in my district. I learned that despite the fact that they committed no crime in the United States and despite the fact that neither the Irish, nor British Governments are seeking to extradite them, the Federal Government is going to extraordinary lengths to force their family to return to a dangerous conflict.

Mr. Speaker, Kathleen Caulfield has been harassed and detained by British security forces in Ireland while being over 6 months pregnant and without being charged with a crime. I believe the threat of persecution and harassment for these seven families due to their beliefs in a united Ireland is genuine.

Immigration Judge Williams has recently ruled that one of the men facing deportation, Brian Pearson, should be granted political asylum due to the fact his acts in Ireland were political in nature and the threat of persecution is great. I am deeply disappointed with the INS.

President Clinton, by the way, in 1992 stated there would be no more Joe Doherty's. I ask that this administration be true to that pledge.

CONGRESS STILL RESPONSIBLE TO DEBATE, CRAFT, AND PASS TAX BILLS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I commend the hard work of our budget negotiators for coming to an agreement that balances the budget by the year 2002. It is a positive step. But let me make it perfectly clear, as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, I take seriously my responsibilities and constitutional authority to debate, craft, and pass tax bills out of this committee. In no way should the President dictate or bind our committee as to what should and should not be in any tax bill. That is what the committee process and this Congress was designed to do.

We will give full backing to the gentleman from Texas, Chairman ARCHER, when he says we will accept the number given to us by the budget negotiators and the President, but we reserve the right to craft the provisions that are in any tax bill that comes before the committee and we may make them higher in the interest of the American people. It is that simple.

BLOCK GRANTS DO NOT WORK

(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, already there is evidence that the Republicans' mindset on block

grants do not work. Why I say that, in my home State of Texas, unfortunately, the Medicaid block granting process has hit home in the 18th Congressional District.

Yesterday, the Texas Health Department issued its contracts on HMO's for our community. Is it not interesting that the largest hospital district that serves the poor, the Harris County Hospital District, did not get a Medicaid contract from the Texas Department of Health? Is it not interesting that Eric Baumgartner and the Texas Department of Health decided to exclude the Harris County Health District in this Medicaid contract, the one district that serves the largest number of individuals who are indigent.

There exists a serious lack of African-American, Asian, and Hispanic representation within the top management and decisionmaking groups within the six HMO award recipients for Harris County, which has a Medicaid majority population of African-Americans, Asians, and Hispanics.

It seems outrageous that in this time when we say block grants work, I am saying they do not work because they had denied opportunity to the bulk of my constituents in the 18th Congressional District.

EFFECT OF CAPITAL GAINS TAX REDUCTION

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment again, as I have in the past, on one of the most important pieces of legislation that has been introduced in this Congress. It is H.R. 14, which is designed to take the top rate on capital gains from 28 to 14 percent.

Now, many people have in the past called this a tax cut for the rich, but we all know from every bit of empirical evidence that we have that it would in fact do more for working families in this country than virtually any of the so-called family tax cuts that we have.

In fact, a study by the Institute for Policy Innovations found we could increase the take-home pay for the average family by \$1,500 per year if we were able to reduce the top rate on capital gains from 28 to 14 percent.

The gentleman from Texas, [Mr. ARCHER], and others on the Committee on Ways and Means very much want to do this. I am pleased that the President has indicated his support for a broad-based reduction in capital gains. It should be zero, but I will accept 14 percent.

BATTLE AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS SHOULD GO ON

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I realize the election is over, but just because

an election ended our drug war should not end. The battles against illegal drugs should go on. I am very concerned that the President of the United States, who had backed away and we put a lot of pressure on in the last year and a half and he responded, he appointed Barry McCaffrey drug czar.

General McCaffrey has done an excellent job in speaking out and bringing to the attention of America, and through the election, that both parties were united against the drug war. What happens when the election ends? Now apparently we are going to nominate for an ambassador a man who blasted our drug czar for saying he was going to enforce the drug laws of the United States over this so-called medicinal use of marijuana.

There is no medicinal use of marijuana. There is a THC component that is available in other drugs. It is a backdoor way to legalize drugs in America. Why would we send an ambassador to Mexico? Mr. Weld, the Governor of Massachusetts, why would we send him to the country that we have been trying to send the message that they need to work to crack down on drugs coming into America?

Then the House, where we said we would take the lead against illegal drugs, is apparently going to take back the right to certify or decertify countries for their drug behavior. How can we as a House point our finger at others if we do not lead ourselves? I hope we can change this bill before tomorrow.

WILL THE STATUS QUO IN CHINA BECOME THE STATUS QUO IN HONG KONG

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this week, Newsweek magazine, which is the country's premier news magazine, focused on Hong Kong and its return to China later this summer. The world is waiting to see if what has become the status quo in the People's Republic of China will become the status quo in Hong Kong.

How long will it take until those who desire to express their love of a Democratic system be banned from public process? How long will it take for pastors and priests and religious leaders to be barred from practicing their faith freely and leading believers in worship and obtaining Bibles and other spiritual material?

If we want to protect Hong Kong, the best thing that we can do for this House is to vote to deny MFN for China, because that will send a message to the Chinese Government like no other message that we could send. I strongly urge my colleagues to read this article in Newsweek.