

someday my two sons will be to theirs. Fathers like it simple. So to mine and all of ours, I simply say, thanks, Dad.

FATHERHOOD PROMOTION TASK FORCE

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member from North Carolina, it is a high honor to serve the people in the House. Yet an even more important role in my life is that of being a father. As I approach my 14th year of being called "Dad," we must all realize that fathers do make a difference in the home.

The statistics speak for themselves and are staggering. Four out of ten children in America will go home tonight without a father. The time a father spends with a child averages, one on one, only 10 minutes a day. Violent criminals too often are males who have grown in a home without a father. As leaders of our country, we must do better.

I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Fatherhood Promotion Task Force. We will explore ways to challenge fathers to that type of commitment, not just another law or another government program, but encouraging fathers to fulfill the calling that they have in their lives.

The future of our country lies in the hands of our children. Through this task force, we will ensure that those hands are properly prepared with persistence and purpose and ready to lead. Please join us in this important mission that we not fail.

PROTECTING THE SACRED SYMBOL OF THIS NATION, THE AMERICAN FLAG

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the eve of Flag Day, in strong support of House Joint Resolution 54, a constitutional amendment to prohibit the desecration of the American flag.

More than 1 million men and women have sacrificed their lives defending this country and the freedom that it represents. It would be a great dishonor for us now to turn our backs on those who gave so much to protect the American flag and what it symbolizes. We must now fight for them in protecting the sacred symbol of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as a veteran of both Vietnam and the Desert Storm wars, I proudly support this legislation and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

PROMOTION OF FATHERHOOD IS CRITICAL

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as we approach this Father's Day, many of us are fortunate to reflect upon the positive influence of our own fathers and to feel the sense of joy that comes from being a father. We understand that the experience of having a father is critical to shaping our lives, and we know that there are numerous studies that have been done that point out that loving, committed fathers help children get a better start in life.

According to the Journal of Family Issues, interaction between children and their fathers improves the child's early mental development and physical well-being. We know that children who grow up with committed fathers are less likely to get involved with gangs and drugs and turn out to be better parents themselves. That is why the Book of Proverbs tells us to train the child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

A group of Members in this House have joined together to form the Fatherhood Promotion Task Force for the purpose of examining Government policies to ensure that those policies promote, encourage, and support families. Every child deserves the love and care of a responsible adult, and the promotion of fatherhood is critical to our future.

REDUCING THE TAX BURDEN ON FATHERS

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, Sunday is Father's Day, and I would like to start by paying tribute to my father, who has done such a great job in helping myself and my brothers and sisters in getting to where we are in our lives today. Certainly, without his support as we were growing up, we would not be here and would not be able to be doing the things we are doing here today.

I also have to think about in the society that we live in how many fathers are forced to work two jobs because of the large tax burden. And I have to hope that the work we are doing out here this week in Washington, working to reduce that tax burden on our American families by providing a \$500 per child tax cut and by providing a college tuition tax credit, let us hope that that work and that effort that we are going through this week out here in Washington will somehow allow our fathers to not have to work that second and third job out there in America so that they can in fact spend more time at home with their families and spend more time with their children, providing them the guidance to make this a bet-

ter nation in the long term for everyone.

CLEAN DISASTER RELIEF BILL

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend the 20 Republican House Members who sent a letter to the Republican leadership to urge passage of a clean disaster relief bill. These brave Members are acknowledging what the American people already know, that the Republicans have played politics with the lives of flood victims.

One Republican said that she is exasperated with the her party's leadership. Another Member admitted that the Republicans have made a mistake and that this should only have been a disaster relief bill. Another accused the Republican leadership of acting irresponsibly.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have spoken. Some brave Republicans have spoken. But more importantly, the American people have spoken. Please let us send the President a clean disaster relief bill and help those in need. They must not be made to wait any longer.

CUT TAXES, HELP RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the American dream is not a dream about more government. It is not a dream about higher regulation or higher taxes. No, Mr. Speaker, the American dream is about freedom and opportunity. It is about having your children do better than yourself. It is about having your own business and handling your own responsibilities.

For the first time since 1969, this Congress is taking steps so that literally millions can again dream the American dream by having a balanced budget. For the first time in 16 years, we will have tax cuts. Cutting taxes is perhaps the most fundamental thing we can do here in Congress to help every American, no matter how much money they make, no matter where they are in life, to dream their dreams with confidence.

Mr. Speaker, we will hear that tax breaks will only go to the rich. But remember, the same people that make that untrue argument are the same people who raised taxes in the first place. Let us cut taxes and help restore the American dream.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

(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, the President asked Congress for disaster relief funding 85 days ago, nearly 3 months. American families are suffering. Why has Congress failed to provide urgently needed disaster assistance? It is because the Republican leadership chose the disaster relief bill as their vehicle to extract political concessions from the President.

Newspaper accounts in the last several days have said that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH], who appeared here this morning, never expected the President to sign the bill by adding the provisions. They were done in order to embarrass the President, the same Speaker who brought us two Government shutdowns.

The Republican leadership has blocked \$5.6 billion for disaster victims in 33 States, \$1.9 billion for U.S. military operations in Bosnia and elsewhere. People are hurting and they need our help.

Congressional Democrats held vigil on Tuesday night to send a simple message: We are willing to work around the clock to get the job done. I applaud those Republicans who are finally saying, enough is enough, forget the political games, let us get disaster assistance to those in this country who need it.

CLONING BAN VERSUS PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon the Subcommittee on Technology will conduct a hearing to review the President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission Report on Cloning.

When the President accepted the Commission's report and announced legislation to ban the use of cloning technology to create human beings last Monday, he stated the following, and I quote:

Our scientific explorations must be guided by our commitment to human values, to the good of society, to our basic sense of right and wrong. Nothing makes the necessity of that moral obligation more clear than the troubling possibility that these new animal-cloning techniques could be used to create a child. Attempting to create a human being is unacceptably dangerous to the child and morally unacceptable to our society. Creating a child through this new method calls into question our most fundamental beliefs. It has the potential to threaten the sacred family bonds at the very core of our ideals and our society.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the President on his remarks, and I intend to support the Cloning Prohibition Act. But how is it, Mr. Speaker, that our President can ban a technique to create a human life but veto legislation banning the grisly procedure known as partial birth abortion?

EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF BILL

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today the House can help a lot of fathers, today; we do not have to wait until Sunday, on Fathers Day, by passing the emergency flood relief bill. Today the House has a chance to do what should have been done many months ago, for fathers yes, mothers, children, a whole lot of other people, by passing a flood relief bill that helps West Virginia, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, the Dakotas, the Midwest, California.

The Senate has already agreed to take out the nonrelated matters, the things that do not have anything to do with flood relief. But yet the House has not yet gone along with that. But it can. Why are we arguing about how we shut the Government down or do not shut it down or the census, how we count in the year 2000?

The fact is, if we do not pass this bill today, a lot of local governments may be shutting down and there may not be enough people to count in some of our flood-torn areas. If the House passes it today, West Virginians can begin rebuilding the river banks in Cabell and Putnam County. They can begin working on Herbert Hoover High School and the others that were damaged; farmers can begin getting that emergency assistance because they lost their fences and suffered other damage.

If this bill does not pass today, Mr. Speaker, then Sunday a lot of fathers and their families can ask whether this leadership really cares.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, the Committee on Ways and Means continues to debate the details of what would be the first major tax cut enacted in 16 years. This proposal is consistent with the balanced budget agreement. The proposal contains permanent tax relief covering people throughout their lives from the childhood years to the education years, from the saving years to the retirement years. It offers a \$500 per child tax credit covering 41 million children.

Education incentives are offered by creating investment accounts to allow parents to save tax-free for their children's higher education. A 10-percent capital gains tax cut rate would cover 5 million Americans, including 2 million senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this package represents a clear and more simple vision: Allow the American people to do more by letting them keep more of their earnings.

SUPPORT EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in 1989, northern California was struck by the Loma Prieta earthquake. Families lost their houses, their homes, their personal possessions, their family photographs. It was a terrible disaster and a tragedy.

Before we could even ask, Chairman Jamie Whitten, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, came earlier to work than usual and started to prepare the Federal response. He knew that the American people and the American Government have a compact between them that, when disaster strikes, the Federal Government is there to provide comfort and meet the needs of the people.

The Republican leadership in this House of Representatives have broken that compact with the American people, they have violated it. For their own political agenda, they are holding hostage the families of the disaster stricken areas of our country. These families have suffered tremendous losses. They have serious doubt about how they will be made whole. Instead of having the comfort and the embrace of the Congress of the United States, they are ignored.

Despite the best efforts of President Clinton and indeed even the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the radical Republican leadership refuses to help the families of America. I hope our colleagues will join the 20 brave Republicans and our Democratic leadership in supporting the emergency disaster relief bill today.

REPEAL THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, in America today there is a growing sentiment to repeal the Federal estate tax, commonly known as the death tax. After a lifetime of hard work, many family farmers and small business persons know the death tax will destroy a large portion of their life's work.

The death tax in many ways, Mr. Speaker, is like a disease; and like a disease, treatment is expensive, complicated, and not well understood. In order to prepare for death taxes, a business person must call in a variety of financial specialists. The average family business will spend \$20,000 on attorneys, \$12,000 on accountants, and \$11,000 on other financial advisors just to prepare for death taxes.

Mr. Speaker, that is over \$40,000 which could have been used to create jobs, buy new equipment, pay higher wages, or increase benefits for employees. All of these items would help grow the economy and improve our quality