

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

of life. Mr. Speaker, I encourage the House to repeal the death tax now.

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STOP PLAYING GAMES WITH DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, almost 3 months ago, floods forced thousands of people from their homes, their businesses, their schools, their farms. They lost their possessions, they lost things that meant so much to them like family albums. And they called for help. They asked us to do something to help them.

What did Republicans do? Well, they high-jacked the disaster relief bill. They loaded it up like a pack horse with extraneous measures to advance their own partisan political agenda.

Americans know what an emergency is. They are disgusted with the political games the Republicans are playing with the lives of flood victims just like they were disgusted when Republicans shut the Government down twice.

Now we hear that the Republican leader in the other body is proposing to cut back this emergency relief by 25 percent, cut emergency relief in order to give it. Well, you go figure. I cannot figure that one out. I cannot figure how they have acted on this whole thing now for the last 3 months. Stop playing games. Let us not trade too little for too late.

WHY THE PRESIDENT VETOED THE DISASTER RELIEF BILL

(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, the reason the President vetoed the flood relief bill was because he wants to have the ability to shut the Government down. We put in a provision that said that if we cannot reach an agreement, we will continue Government. We will continue it at fiscal year 1997 levels.

But no, that was not good enough for him. He wants to shut the Government down. The President wants to shut the Government down. The President wants to shut the Government down, and that is why he vetoed the disaster relief bill, not because of us, like the Congress wanted to shut the Government down. It is the President. We had a provision to prevent it from happening, and he simply wanted to say I want the right to shut the Government down and blame Congress, like he did last year, in 1995 and 1996. It is very simple.

Once the truth is out and people understand it, they will understand why we want to continue the Government, we want to preserve what is going on. It is very simple. The President wants to shut the Government down.

BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, the year was 1974 and that year Patty Hearst was kidnapped. In the same year Hank Aaron hit his 715th homerun. Those two stories were major headlines, but not many people knew that it was the last time the Government will have spent less than 20 percent of the Nation's economic resources. With the new balanced budget, Mr. Speaker, it is going to happen again.

Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget will have \$350 billion in gross tax cuts over 10 years for families, for education costs, and for economic growth. Last, Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget agreement will finally do what its name says. It will balance the budget. It will be balanced by 2002, and then keeps it in surplus.

In summary, the agreement means smaller government, lower spending, lower taxes, and a balanced budget, all in one agreement. It cannot be emphasized enough that this happens in one agreement.

INSIDIOUS EFFECTS OF THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the death tax, known to the IRS as the estate tax, has profound effects on the American public, both direct and indirect. Directly, it forces the liquidation or dismantling of a lifetime of work, building of a family farm or a small business. Indirectly, and more insidiously, it forces taxpayers to undergo complex, expensive planning with lawyers and accountants to help minimize its bite. Workers are laid off when a firm or a farm is dismantled, and local economies are disrupted. This distorts economic activity and increases the cost of doing business in communities.

Throughout the Fifth District of Texas, and this country, the very people who deal in these income distributions are faced with this and really what it is needed to do is to help people rather than putting them on the lower rung of the economic ladder. It harms. The death tax hurts America and it hurts everyone. I am urging this Congress to repeal the death tax now.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, the budget agreement and the legislation that will implement that agreement is a good thing for America. It balances the budget by the year 2002 and keeps the budget in surplus thereafter. It pro-

vides \$350 billion in gross tax cuts over 10 years for families, for education costs, and for economic growth. It ensures Medicare solvency for 10 years, it does not touch Social Security, and it provides \$600 billion in entitlement savings.

This budget is pro-business, it is pro-family, and it is economically responsible. It keeps faith with our children so that they will have a sound government, a growing economy, and a brighter future. It is good for farmers, for small businesses, and for agriculture because it makes important relief in the area of estate taxes and capital gains tax relief.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the average family in America in 1950 paid about four percent of their income in taxes to all levels of government. Today that tax load on the typical American family of 4 is about 24 percent; 24 percent of their gross income goes to government at some level.

That is why Republicans in our Contract With America some 2½ years ago decided it was very important to provide tax relief to the American people. We tried over the last 2 years, unsuccessfully to provide this type of permanent tax relief to American families.

Today the Committee on Ways and Means of this Congress will bring a bill to reduce taxes on American families. This will be the first tax decrease from Washington in 16 years. Seventy-five percent of the benefits of this tax package will go to middle income families making between \$20,000 and \$75,000 a year.

This is Republicans continuing to keep our commitment to the American people. This was the cornerstone of the Contract With America, and I am proud of the work that we are doing in continuing to meet the commitments that we made to the American people.

THE REST OF THE STORY

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to hold my tongue on the matter of disaster relief to Americans who have been affected by flood, but I could not help but read today's paper when I saw that the President is sending thousands of troops to build parks and other facilities in Central America as Commander in Chief, that in fact in this disaster relief bill there are billions of dollars for Bosnia, which the President wants to keep our troops in Bosnia, and we have spent tens of millions, hundreds of millions of dollars in building bridges and roads in Bosnia at the behest of the President and his policy.