

### ETHICS REFORM TASK FORCE DISSOLVED

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to learn that Speaker GINGRICH had suddenly dissolved the ethics task force, and this Tuesday night massacre I hope does not effectively end bipartisan ethics reform.

After 4 months of work, a bipartisan task force voted 11 to 1 in support of an ethics reform package, but none of us will ever see the fruits of their labor, just hours before it issued its report. While the task force reviewed the rules and made its recommendations, both Democrats and Republicans agreed to a 6-month moratorium on all ethics complaints.

□ 1015

Now it appears that the entire process was merely a political device to shield Members from ethics complaints and to delay investigations. Speaker GINGRICH is the last person who should be thwarting ethics reform. He should not have the final word on this. He should allow the task force to issue its report, and allow the House to vote on this bipartisan reform proposal.

### AMERICANS DESERVE A TAX BREAK TODAY

(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, we are all familiar with the advertising phrase "You deserve a break today." Americans deserve a tax break today. It has been 16 years since Americans have had any tax relief. In fact, we have suffered through the two largest tax increases in history in just the last half decade. Working families deserve a tax break, \$500 per child tax relief, reduction in capital gains, reduction in death taxes, credits for investing in college. It all boils down to more freedom. It includes more control of your money, and it means stoking our economy, making more money available for investments. That means more jobs.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, America does deserve a tax break today.

### THE REPUBLICAN COMPANY STORE

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, in the last Congress we had a debate about minimum wage. There were many people in the Republican leadership that got up and took the well and said that they were opposed to increasing the minimum wage. It caused me at that point to muse that somewhere between Abraham Lincoln and NEWT GINGRICH the

Republican Party had changed its opinion of slavery.

Eventually we decided in a bipartisan fashion to give America's lowest paid workers a raise. We increased the minimum wage. Now as we are in the process of getting some 1 million people from welfare into workfare by a time certain, the Republicans have changed their mind again. They have decided that slave labor guaranteed by the Federal Government is all right, that those people that we are moving from welfare to workfare should not be paid a minimum wage.

We are time-limiting their welfare benefits, forcing them into the work force but not guaranteeing them a minimum wage. Thus we are trapping those same people economically. This really is a Republican version of the old company store, when at the end of the year the workers owed the company store more than they had paid; so what we are telling these people is: At the end of the year, you will owe us for the benefit we gave you of being able to work.

To the Republicans I say, "Get real."

### URGING MEMBERS NOT TO WASTE THEIR VOTE ON H.R. 1270

(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 have been in this well many times to discuss the facts surrounding the nuclear waste debate. I have largely concentrated on the issues of transporting nuclear waste across this Nation's highways and rail system. Over and over I have stressed that there are very real safety issues that must be addressed and resolved before we as legislators mandate a life-threatening policy on the American people who live in our districts.

To further illustrate my point, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a recent mishap. On May 22 of this year an unexpected pressure buildup forced the top off a large metal shipping container at the U.S. DOE's Fernald site near Cincinnati, OH. The container held five 55-gallon drums of radioactive waste. This happened to a container that was a stationary container, not in the transport arena. If these caps are this unsafe, how can we pass a bill that would endanger the lives of every citizen in this country? I urge Members not to waste their vote on H.R. 1270.

### NO JUSTICE OR FAIRNESS IN THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, the Scripture tells us or asks us, "What then is required of us but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God?"

Mr. Speaker, there is very little justice in the Republican tax plan that is going to be presented to this House. According to the Treasury Department, the vast majority of the tax cuts in the Republican bill would go to the wealthiest of Americans. Specifically, the Treasury Department information tells us that two-thirds of the Republican tax cuts would benefit families with incomes of over \$100,000 per year. The richest 1 percent would receive an average tax break of over \$12,000. Not many of my constituents earn \$100,000 a year. There is no justice, no fairness, in the Republican tax bill. We need tax relief for America's working families.

### SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR FEDERAL TRIO PROGRAMS

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I extend my prayers to Dr. Shabazz in her recovery in New York.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise because yesterday the Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education, Training, and Life-long Learning of the Committee on Education and the Workforce held a hearing on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

For over 30 years this act has provided postsecondary education opportunities for millions of Americans. This is a shining example of providing national leadership and resources to help educate all Americans. In the hearing yesterday they reviewed Federal TRIO programs. TRIO provides academic counseling and outreach to students from families who earn less than \$25,000 a year. It helps students who would not otherwise receive postsecondary education by giving them a chance and giving them an opportunity.

TRIO, Mr. Speaker, is making a difference. A 1993 study by the Department of Education found that TRIO is extremely effective at counseling young people in their elementary and secondary school years, for it is based on the Jeffersonian principle that education should be provided to those who have an ability to learn and not just an ability to pay.

Recently released results of the Third International Math and Science Study found that American third and fourth graders, Mr. Speaker, rank highest in math and science worldwide. Let us give TRIO a chance. Refund it, and allow us the opportunity to train those eighth-graders when their scores dropped.

### A WARNING TO AMERICANS: THE PRESIDENT HAS BROKEN HIS WORD

(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 rise today to warn the working men and women of this country that the President has broken his word. He says he is going to veto a tax bill that contains exactly what he agreed to, badly needed tax relief for families and children.

Through his spokesman, the President says he will not sign a tax bill that contains a \$500-per-child tax credit, estate tax relief, and a capital gains reduction. I am outraged, first, that he would once again break his word, and second, that no one is holding him accountable. Every American who is faced with high taxes deserves an explanation. It is time for the President to quit playing games.

Mr. President, honor your commitment. America needs tax relief now.

#### INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO GUARANTEE TAX FAIRNESS

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the hallmark of any tax system has to be fairness and justice. No system of taxation, particularly in a republic like ours, can be supported if it is not fair and just. What the majority here in this House is trying to do is to perpetrate on the people of this country a system of taxation which is neither fair nor just.

The best example of that in the recent bill that they have proposed is a proposal to eliminate the alternative minimum tax. The alternative minimum tax was established back in 1986, when it was discovered that major American corporations with huge profits were paying absolutely no taxes to the Federal Government.

On one occasion, for example, a major American corporation, in spite of the fact that it had \$5.5 billion in profits, paid no taxes to the Federal Government whatsoever, while the average taxpayer in my State, for example, was paying \$34,000 of their hard-earned money in taxes that year. Obviously if we reduce the taxes for major corporations, others are going to have to make up the difference. That difference will have to be made up by the American working people.

I am going to introduce a resolution supporting the alternative minimum tax and an amendment to the bill when it comes on this floor to make sure that profitable corporations pay their share of taxes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1813, PER- SONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

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

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out how our children's

privacy is being violated. Last week the Wall Street Journal told how a jelly bean manufacturer uses its Web site to pump kids for personal information.

Lured by a free sample of jelly beans, children are asked to give this company their name, address, gender, age, and where they shop. The fine print disclaimer states that any information disclosed is the property of the candy maker to use any way it wants.

Jelly bean makers are not the only ones taking advantage of our children on the Net. Other on-line sites frequently require children to fill out questionnaires about themselves, their friends, and their family. This practice of prodding children for information on the Web is not only unethical, it is also dangerous. Not only can marketers use this information to further prey on our children, but it also leaves children vulnerable to wrongdoers who can victimize them.

The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. BOB FRANKS, and I have introduced H.R. 1813, the Personal Information Privacy Act, that would keep critical information about children and their families from becoming fodder for marketers and potential wrongdoers. I urge my colleagues to become a sponsor of H.R. 1813.

#### PROBLEMS WITH THE CHILD CREDIT

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

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this summer during the Presidential election, everyone, Republicans, Democrats, promised the American people a child credit. We certainly should keep that promise. However, when we look at the bill that has passed out of the Committee on Ways and Means, the promise is not kept for many people. Working families can lose a child credit if they have day care expenses. What a message to send out to the 70 percent of working parents, two-parent families, with young children.

Average families can lose both the child credit and the educational credit because they are thrown into the alternative minimum tax, a great complication in the tax system, but one that was put in there to make sure very well-off families did not zero out, certainly not to get a complicated tax form for people with children.

Here we look at the bill. Poor families cannot get the child credit because they do not earn enough money. Hard-working families with children will see their credit disappear before their eyes because they are using the education credit or the child credit. Then we look at wealthy families, and they do not get it because they earn too much money. We agreed on a child credit. We should go back and do it right. Americans need that \$500. Americans need that tax credit.

#### MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICANS ARE ASKING: WHO IS ON MY SIDE?

(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, as this body begins to implement the balanced budget agreement, working middle-class Americans are asking themselves one simple question: Who is on my side?

The Republicans' tax proposal makes clear who their party is looking out for: big business and the wealthy; for under the Republican bill over half the tax benefits go to the top 5 percent of Americans, those making over \$250,000 a year.

In addition, they are giving \$22 million in new tax breaks to big business by phasing out the alternative minimum tax, which was supposed to ensure that even big corporations pay some taxes every year, the way hard-working middle Americans pay their taxes every year. But Mr. Speaker, this is wrong for these corporations to be able to limit their tax obligation. We need to provide tax relief to those families who really can use it, hard-working middle-class American families.

The Democrats have proposed a tax cut package whose benefits are targeted to these families, families struggling to make ends meet, to put food on the table, with enough left over to pay for health care for their kids. We are on your side.

#### CHINA'S SALE OF MISSILES TO IRAN

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare for the debate and the vote on most-favored-nation status for China, I wish to call to the attention of my colleagues a statement made by Secretary William Cohen yesterday in which he said that Iran this month successfully tested a new air-launched antiship cruise missile obtained from China.

□ 1030

A Member should have serious concerns about China's proliferation behavior to Iran. We spend a great deal of time, money, and effort to promote the Middle East peace, and Iran is a menace to that peace.

I would like to also call to the attention of my colleagues the statement by the Office of Naval Intelligence: Discoveries after the Gulf war clearly indicate that Iraq maintained an aggressive weapons of mass destruction procurement program. A similar situation exists today in Iran with a steady flow of materials and technologies from China to Iran.

This exchange is one of the most active weapons of mass destruction programs in the Third World and is taking