

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PELL GRANTS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union address last week, the President of the United States discussed his plan to make college more affordable and more accessible to working families by increasing funding for Pell grants.

Pell grants serve as the very foundation of student aid for low- and middle-income families. The President's proposal would raise the maximum Pell grant award to \$3,000 and would raise the total number of Pell grant recipients to over 4 million.

Mr. Speaker, I promised the people of Massachusetts that the first bill that I introduced in this House would make college more affordable for working families. This month I intend to keep that promise.

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I will be introducing a bill that expands the President's proposal and expands the maximum Pell grant award to \$5,000, bringing the award to the level at which it was created, adjusted for inflation. More students will be eligible for larger awards, giving more families the chance to send their kids to college and to realize the American dream.

I thank the President of the United States for his leadership on this issue, and I ask my colleagues to join me in making education more affordable and in making our children's future even more bright.

MYTH: WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS KNOW BEST HOW TO SPEND AMERICA'S MONEY

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I was amazed again yesterday when I read Secretary Rubin's statement in Congress Daily, implying that tax cuts would unduly harm our economy.

Think about it: What Secretary Rubin really thinks is that Washington bureaucrats know better how to spend the American people's money than the American people themselves. It takes a lot of nerve to suggest to the American people, who have to balance their own budgets, pay their own bills on time, that the Federal Government, which does not do these things, will make better decisions about managing money than they will.

It takes a lot of nerve, especially since this President is proposing an additional \$1 billion in spending for a bureaucracy whose financial books are

unauditable. What responsible American would put a billion dollars into a company whose books were unauditable?

This is not about tax cuts. It is about arrogance, the arrogance of the President and his advisors suggesting that a dollar spent by Washington bureaucrats is better spent than a dollar spent by parents, families, across America.

NO TIME TO WASTE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, while Democrats and the President have developed sweeping plans to strengthen our education system and provide health care for the 10 million children in this country who currently have no coverage, the Republicans have offered no specifics in return. Instead of immediately turning Congress' focus to programs that make a real difference in people's lives, like tax breaks to help pay for college, the repair of decaying elementary schools and insurance for uninsured infants, today instead the GOP has scheduled a vote on term limits.

If history is any indication, Mr. Speaker, time will show the GOP's interest in term limits today is nothing more than a delay tactic. Term limits will do nothing for schools badly in need of repair. Term limits will not teach a child to read or ensure our children receive medical attention when they fall sick.

I think we have a lot more important things to consider and we do not have time to waste. The sooner the Republican leadership learns this, the sooner we can provide quality education and health care to our children instead of spending the time today on term limits.

FEDERAL ESTATE TAX SHOULD BE REPEALED

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to speak about my first bill and to implore my colleagues to repeal the Federal estate tax. This tax hits millions of families and small farm and business owners.

This unfair tax for too long has been burdening people of this country at one of the most difficult times in their lives, at the time of the death of a loved one. It forces them to sell assets just inherited by them so they can pay unreasonable sums to the Federal coffers.

Mr. Speaker, numerous people across the country stand to lose family farms and businesses that they have worked their entire lives to build. Faye Givler, owner of Steckel Printing and em-

ployer of 94 people in Lancaster, PA, stands to lose her life's work with this tax. Her children, just because of this tax, stand to lose it all.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. With 65 cents of this tax going to enforcement and compliance, what sense is there in inflicting such stress on Americans who work hard to build their children's future? This tax threatens that simple dream. I urge my colleagues to repeal this unfair tax.

WHERE IS THE APPLE FOR OUR TEACHERS?

(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, today I am meeting with representatives from the education community from the State of Texas. I want to give them hope and, most importantly, I want to answer the question, where is the apple for our teachers?

Interestingly enough, as the bipartisan team met with the President last evening, education was high on the priority, but yet today we will spend 9 hours or so talking about term limits, when the American people can elect or unelect their elected officials every 2 years.

Two years ago the Republicans were talking about slashing title I programs by \$4.9 billion. If education is so important, let us get about the business of doing what we are supposed to do. Let us ensure that we have the right number of Pell grants for our college students, and our college student direct loan program. Let us really talk about education so that something happens.

Let us not just fool around with political gimmickry and term limits when we all know the American people will elect us or unelect us every 2 years. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and make education my priority and make this Nation the very best it can be for the rest of this 21st century.

SUPPORT A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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, it happens in every household, in every business, both large and small, in every school system, in every city council, in every county government, in every checking account across the Nation, everywhere but here in the Federal Government. This Government has not balanced its budget since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. It should be easier to balance the Federal budget than to get someone to the moon.

When we borrow money for all these lofty enterprises for the Federal Government, for each dollar that we borrow it takes at least \$3 just to cover the interest to pay it back. So let us

vote for a balanced budget amendment. I urge my colleagues to vote for it, to put in place the necessary discipline so that we can secure an economic future for our children, not one at their expense.

HIGH SCHOOL IS TOO EASY

(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, a headline in yesterday's Washington Post provided a sad commentary on the state of our educational system. The headline read: "Teens Tell Researchers High School Is Too Easy."

The article revealed the findings of a recent study by the nonprofit group Public Agenda, and it was entitled, and I quote, "Getting By." The survey of 1,300 high school students found that most students think their classes are not challenging enough, often lack exemplary teachers, and are filled with too many disruptive students.

We all know there are no easy answers to the ills that plague our Nation's schools, but here are some obvious first steps that we can take to address the feelings expressed by students in the survey: getting back to basics, setting rigorous standards for students and teachers, and returning discipline to the classroom.

These may sound like old-fashioned techniques but, according to this survey, a new generation of students would welcome these old ideas.

What we ought to be doing, instead of spending 9 hours in debating term limits today, is I call on the Republican leadership to please let us get to what the people want to talk about, and that is education, the affordability of it, the standards that exist in our classrooms. Let us put the Nation's business first before politics.

CONGRESS MUST WORK SERIOUSLY ON THE ISSUE OF CHILD ABUSE

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I welcome to the Chamber many people from the safety patrols from around our Nation's Capital.

I urge our colleagues to work seriously on the issue of child abuse. Not a day goes by we are not reading another detail of the sad, tragic ending of JonBenet's life, JonBenet Ramsey's life in Colorado, and daily we read in our newspapers about the violence that affects our children: sexual violence, physical violence, a lack of a decent home.

If there is a plague on America, it is our treatment of our children and our lack of response for our children. So I urge my colleagues today, as we build this bipartisan Congress, that we focus

on children. On education, yes, but also their safety; that they are not intruded on, that they are not the victims of a nasty crime of sexual abuse, and that we look out for the young people of our communities to make certain that they will grow to be productive leaders in the future.

TERM LIMITS DEPRIVE PEOPLE OF CHOICE BETWEEN CITIZEN LEGISLATORS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives will vote on term limit legislation. I have always believed in citizen legislators who work hard for the people, who accomplish things to make their communities a better place to live and then step aside after a few terms to let others into office to achieve new goals. It is what I have believed in and the kind of representative I am.

At the same time, I also believe in devoted public servants, citizens who dedicate their lives to learning the laws and doing good things for others. I believe Congress needs people like Senator Bob Dole and PATRICK MOYNIHAN, people who spend their lives working to improve our lives.

Term limits will deprive people of their choice between citizen legislators and public servants, and we do not need that. Term limits come from the voters at the election booth and from the legislators themselves, not from the Congress.

TERM LIMITS WILL ASSURE A SYSTEM BASED ON THE CONCEPT OF A CITIZEN LEGISLATURE

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I launched the struggle for term limits in the Washington State Senate more than a quarter century ago. It was clear then and it is even more clear today that long-term service concentrates power into the hands of a few power brokers and thus reduces effective representation by the citizen legislator as visualized by our founders.

Our system is based on the concept of a citizen legislature. People should serve a limited time in a legislative body and then return to live under the laws that they have passed.

My State has passed term limits and I will abide with our three-term limit whether it is upheld by the court or not.

REPEAL THE 1993 SOCIAL SECURITY TAX ON SENIORS

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, our senior citizens have worked their entire lives to protect the savings that can assure them a safe and secure retirement. Social Security is one of the two pillars of retirement security for our seniors.

We owe it to them to protect the benefits that they planned for and depend upon. That is why I have introduced legislation to repeal the tax increase on Social Security that was adopted in 1993.

Our seniors helped make America the greatest country in the world. The Federal Government should not jeopardize their quality of life by punishing them with high taxes on their Social Security benefits. Repealing this increase is a matter of fairness and will help senior citizens, especially those with moderate incomes keep more of their own money in their own pockets.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this critical legislation for our senior constituents.

CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS AMENDMENT

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 47 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. RES. 47

Providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The first reading of the joint resolution shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the joint resolution and shall not exceed two hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the joint resolution shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. No amendment shall be in order except those specified in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order specified in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, may be considered notwithstanding the adoption of a previous amendment in the nature of a substitute, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report of the Committee on Rules equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to amendment. If more than one amendment is adopted, then only the one receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall be considered as finally adopted. In the case of a tie