

finding reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

He is also the founder of the John F. Kennedy Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the Washington area, so I do want to recognize Pat Troy for all that he has done for our community and for this country.

#### INFORMING COLLEAGUES OF THE NEWLY-FORMED MINING CAUCUS

(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, today I rise to inform my colleagues about the newly formed Mining Caucus, of which I proudly serve as the cochair with my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Wyoming [Mrs. CUBIN]. The purpose of the Mining Caucus will be to educate Members on how the wealth of this Nation is produced by the mining industry, which improves the lives and livelihoods of citizens of their districts, and how in turn it is used to sustain the economic growth and job creation of this great Nation.

Nearly 300,000 Americans are employed directly by the mining industry. Indirectly, mining accounts for about 3 million jobs, 397 out of 435 congressional districts have a mining presence. This industry plays a hugely important role in our national economy. I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Mining Caucus. As a reminder, I would say that if it cannot be grown, it must be mined.

#### REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN TO ATTACK WORKING AMERICANS, LABOR UNIONS, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled that the Republican majority has hijacked \$1.4 million of public funds to pursue a devious, fully orchestrated campaign to attack working Americans, labor unions, and the Department of Labor. The Republicans are going to spend \$1.4 million of tax money to intimidate labor leaders, harass the Department of Labor, and attempt to repeal labor laws that have protected the rights of workers for over a half a century.

This plot was never discussed in a public hearing of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and it was approved by the House oversight committee without any witnesses testifying to its need. Although the majority is trying to dress up their mission statement, the real attempt is to pursue an extremist antiunion agenda. The Republicans are scheming to attack union members as payback for labor union participation in the 1996 elections. This \$1.4 million ill-advised use of taxpayer dollars is aimed at di-

minishing worker protections under OSHA, the National Labor Relations Act, and the Davis-Bacon Act; mind you, all at taxpayers' expense.

#### THE EFFECTS OF THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY'S IMPUTED INCOME

(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, I have gotten a few calls over the past weeks about the Treasury Department's use of imputed income. Imputed income means if you own your own home, you could move out and rent it to another family, and therefore you could be making some more money, and it should be taxed.

There are a lot of taxpayers that are feeling a little bit insulted by this concept that has been developed by a bunch of out-of-touch bureaucrats here in Washington, DC, who think that people can count income that is not really income. Maybe the President can rent his home out for a lot of money, but most people do not own or live in a home that they own free and clear.

Telling the average American families that their incomes are actually \$30,000 or more higher than they think is truly bizarre. Telling middle-class families that they are actually rich and therefore do not need some tax relief is just the latest outrage from the bureaucracy in Washington, DC, that does not live in the real world. Most Americans know it is time for some tax relief here in America.

#### THE SPEAKER'S MAKE-A-WISH SLUSH FUND IS FUNDED BY TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I have an apology to make. When I saw the \$7.9 million the majority Republicans were going to put into a slush fund, they call it a slush fund, it is not a slush fund. It turns out it is the taxpayer-funded Speaker's make-a-wish foundation. His first wish is, guess what, class warfare, go after working Americans.

On this side of the aisle the majority has initiated about \$50 million of taxpayer investigations. What we have from it I cannot figure out, but I see where they are going. From the first day they took over 3 years ago, they started class warfare. They do it in the tax bill. They do it in their investigations.

They have gone too far. Even Members of the Republican side of the aisle say this last grab of funds to go after working people in America is just wrong. It is going to come back to haunt them. They can spend \$50 mil-

lion of the taxpayers' money. Do not run home and try to tell them you are balancing the budget. The Speaker's make-a-wish funds are funded by the taxpayers. It is a rip-off.

#### CLASS WARFARE BY DEMOCRATS, WITH IMPUTED INCOME SCHEME RAISING MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICANS' TAXES

(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, let us talk about class warfare. According to the Census Bureau, the median family income in the United States today for a family of four is \$47,000 a year. Let me be clear, that is \$47,000 American dollars, not Euro-dollars, not imputed dollars, not even bus tokens. We are talking about real money here.

Let us imagine such a family. Let us give them names, Al and Betty Jones, with a son in eighth grade and a daughter going to college this fall. Under our tax relief plan, the Joneses would get to keep an extra \$1,900 of their money. Using the imputed income scheme that the Democrats want to use, the Jones' income magically rises from \$47,000 to nearly \$80,000. Congratulations, Al and Betty, you are now rich. You no longer qualify for family tax relief under the Democrats' own plan.

Worse yet, if we carry this bizarre arithmetic to its imputed conclusion, these rich Joneses would now owe almost \$8,000 in new taxes. So instead of getting \$1,900 in tax relief under our plan, Al and Betty get a hefty tax hike. I guess that is just the Washington liberal way of keeping up with the Joneses.

#### DEMOCRATS NOW AGREE THAT THROUGH JOHN HUANG, CHINA ATTEMPTED TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN POLITICS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Democrats now agree with Republicans: China tried to influence American politics. No kidding, Sherlock. I think Barney Fife could figure that out.

Check this out. Hip Hing Holdings, a California company that only owns an abandoned parking lot in L.A. and who lost \$1 million, gave \$67,000 to the Democrat National Committee. Hip Hing got the money from Lippo Group. Lippo Group has ties to China. The money was gotten for Hip Hing from Lippo by John Huang. John Huang worked for Lippo and also worked for Hip Hing. John Huang later worked for the Commerce Department and later worked for the Democrat National Committee, but John Huang now says, "What is the big deal? I also gave money to the March of Dimes and the Boy Scouts of America."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. John Huang was not hired to raise money for the Boy Scouts; John Huang was hired to raise money to help China. I yield back the balance of all of this mess.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO DEFEAT AMENDMENTS WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT TO REWRITE THE FARM BILL ON AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I come here today because today or tomorrow we are going to be taking up the agriculture appropriations bill. There will not be a rule on this bill, and the reason there is not a rule is because the appropriators and the authorizers are together. We know what is good for agriculture.

But there are those in this body who want to rewrite the farm bill on the agriculture appropriations bill, and at the expense of American farm families. In the name of cutting Government, cutting expenses, when the farm bill passed no-cost programs to the Government, they want to change those no-cost programs. That is substantive legislation on an appropriation bill.

Agriculture groups and Members of this body who have agricultural interests in their districts have come together to support America's farming men and women. I hope we will deny those Members their success on those amendments.

□ 1115

#### REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Republicans to come clean about their tax bill. Republicans want a tax cut for people working on Wall Street, not people living on Main Street.

Let us take an example. Al works 40 hours a work at the factory. Al works hard and supports his wife and two children on his \$25,000 salary. He pays thousands of dollars in taxes. What does Al get from the Republican tax bill? Nothing. Zero. Zip.

Democrats want to give Al and millions of other working families a tax cut. These are the people Democrats want to help. What do the Republicans say about Al? They say Al is on welfare.

Billions of dollars in tax breaks for millionaires. Nothing for Al. Nothing for millions of hard-working American families. That is the Republican plan.

#### LIBERAL CLASS WARFARE CONTINUES

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, in response to the preceding speaker, the gentleman from Georgia, I would suggest to him that there are very few people in this country earning \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year who are employed as the rich on Wall Street. Yet that is exactly how the Democrats in this House view people who earn that much money—rich.

There are two competing philosophies between the major parties. Republicans believe that individuals who work for a living ought to be able to make the decisions on how to spend their money. Democrats who controlled this House for 40 years believe that families do not have the compassion or the wisdom to make those spending decisions, and that we should send more of their money back to Washington so bureaucrats can make those spending decisions. That is their legacy to America during the 40 years they controlled this Chamber.

In each Congress that the Republicans have controlled this Chamber since we took control in 1995, we have cut taxes for American families. That is our legacy to America. It is a legacy that continues with our present tax cut proposal.

#### INVESTIGATION OF LABOR UNIONS

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, in January of this year I became the ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. I had the promise of the chair of that committee that we would work together closely, that we would coordinate the activities that the Republican majority wanted to pursue.

And thus far, I have gone along. I have cooperated. I have allowed the Republican majority to follow whatever agenda of investigation they wanted to pursue. It was basically a crossroads investigation to see whether money in education and labor were being wisely spent on the idea of what works and what does not work.

Suddenly a week ago we are told that the Committee on House Oversight of the whole House of Representatives has authorized my committee \$1.4 million for an investigation that has never been raised in my subcommittee. We have never spent 1 minute on it. I am not against investigations. If there is corruption, let us go after it. If there is abuse of power, let us go after it. But let us not waste taxpayers' money for sheer partisan political purposes.

#### STICKING IT TO THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to those on the other side who would like to turn Medicare and Social Security into another welfare program. Are they seriously suggesting that the tax credit should count against the payroll taxes that are paid by American workers?

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if the liberals who are proposing this understand the consequences of what they are proposing. They are proposing that the politicians in Washington, get this, should create a brand new entitlement, the greatest something-for-nothing entitlement of all time.

So instead of people paying their way during their working lives so that their retirement and health care needs will be met in old age, they should not have to pay into the system at all. Let us recap. Pay nothing but collect hundreds of thousands in benefits from a system that everyone else has to support.

Payroll taxes are not income taxes, Mr. Speaker. Payroll taxes are for Social Security and Medicare. Let us not turn Social Security and Medicare into a massive welfare program that sticks it yet again to the middle class.

#### CAMPAIGN TO INTIMIDATE LABOR

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week the Republican leadership engaged in a back room deal to spend \$1.4 million in taxpayer funds to investigate labor unions. This funding came from the \$7.9 million emergency slush fund which we can now see was set aside by Republicans to finance purely partisan projects.

This abuse of taxpayer funding is intended to intimidate, to coerce and to harass political opponents, Americans who just do not happen to share the same views as the Republican leadership. It will be used to punish working men and working women who depend on employment protection provided by labor representation.

A recent Washington Post poll said that most Americans believe politicians in Washington waste too much time and money in trying to dig up dirt on their opponents. It is no wonder the Republican Congress is better known as the witch-hunt Congress.

#### SUPPORT H.R. 1333, THE WORKING AMERICANS WAGE RESTORATION ACT

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to issue a challenge to all Members on the other side of the aisle who wish to target tax relief to middle-income Americans. We have heard a lot about that this morning and in the