

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, over the last 4 years an increasingly permissive attitude, even a tolerance in some circles, of illegal drug use has regrettably developed. The lack of institutional leadership from the President and from the media on this issue is reflected in the dramatic increases in the use of marijuana and other drugs by our young people. Overall drug use by teens in America has more than doubled since 1992, more than doubled. We need real leadership and we need it now.

Today Speaker GINGRICH will join the Florida delegation in a hearing to look at the troubling reemergence of Florida as a major drug trafficking route. This hearing is an important step in fighting the complacency and focusing, once again, on winning the war on drugs rather than settling for a stalemate or a draw. I hope the administration will join us in renewing our effort to kick our Nation's drug habit. We could use the help in Florida.

REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are beginning to fear that they are not going to be able to win the President's support for their tax cut plan for the rich. So what do they do? They threaten to shut down the Government again.

Many Americans remember in the last session of Congress when the Republicans did not get their way and so they decided to shut down the Government. Now the Speaker fears he will not get his way with his tax cuts for the rich so he wants to hold the Government hostage once again.

Mr. GINGRICH told a meeting of Ways and Means Republicans Wednesday that the GOP-controlled Congress would not send any appropriation bills to the President for his signature until the President signs a Republican tax cut plan. This is according to two GOP sources that spoke to Congress Daily.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have been working hard to push our plan that would truly benefit middle-income families. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership is not honoring the agreement they made with the American people. First they broke their promise to middle-class Americans, and now they want to shut the Government down again.

PROMISES AND ASSURANCES

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be a big week for Americans. We want to talk about tax cuts and what we can do to help children. But Carol

Browner, Director of the U.S. EPA, is at it once again. She has made her final ruling, with agreement by the White House, that there are going to be some new ozone rules.

They did not look at the sound science. We know that from George Wolf that heads up the subcommittee. They did not release the information when we asked for it. Now in fact they might have cut some deals across the country that some areas do not have to go under these new rules, but they will not tell us whether they have or have not.

We need the truth, Mr. Speaker. The American people need the truth. These policies are not going to help people with respiratory problems. They are simply going to throw people out of work.

Most important, Mr. Speaker, this is the United States. It is time, no matter where we stand on these issues, that we do not let unelected bureaucrats decide national law. The people send Members of Congress here to talk about national law. The Director of the U.S. EPA is trying to mandate that we will do a certain policy without addressing the give-and-take of talking to the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to get behind the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] in his efforts.

NO TAX BENEFIT UNDER REPUBLICAN PLAN FOR MIDDLE-INCOME AMERICANS

(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, the real question this morning is, what do the schoolteacher, the police officer, the firefighter, the bus driver, and the single working mother have in common? No tax benefit under the Republican tax plan.

Many will say that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Let me say, not so. The Republicans have absented themselves from the 1994 Contract on America, which says that they would give a tax refund to those who pay income tax, those who receive an earned income tax credit, and those who pay payroll taxes. Not so.

They all signed it. They have all forgotten. Now they call the schoolteacher, the police officer, the firefighter, the bus driver, and the working mother, they are on welfare, because they do not want to give them a child tax credit.

Absence does not make the heart grow fonder for the working people of America. The Democratic alternative recognizes when you go to work every day as a bus driver, a schoolteacher, a single working mother, you deserve a tax credit for your child. That is the plan that is for all working Americans.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I hope the American people that are observing this debate over taxes now realize why tax cuts come so slowly in this Congress. There are some elitists in this Chamber and a lot of egos that think that Washington can spend your money better than you can.

The tax bill currently before Congress is going to benefit every American, whether it is a \$400 more in your pocket or \$1,500 more in your pocket. Middle class working families are going to gain a little bit from this tax cut. But this tax cut is just a little bit. Compared to the \$250 billion tax increase that we just had 4 years ago, this is an \$85 billion net tax cut, just a portion of the huge tax increase that just happened a few years ago.

If we are going to have a country that has been as successful as we have, we have to get back to a system where we let the people keep more of the money in their pocket, where we reward the people that work hard, that try, that save, that invest, and the people that work hard are better off than those that do not.

IN SUPPORT OF TAX FAIRNESS FOR WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago the Republicans signed a contract with the working families of America and promised to provide them with tax relief. They proposed a law called the American Dream Restoration Act, which calls for a \$500-per-child tax credit for families making up to \$200,000. This was item 5 on their Contract With America.

Amazingly, the Republicans will give a \$500-per-child tax credit to people making \$200,000 but they want to deny this tax relief to families making \$20,000. Yesterday the New York Times reported that the Speaker of the House might finally give the child care tax credit to all working families. Then he changed his mind.

My colleagues, what is going on here? Are the Republicans going to keep their promise or not? Are the Republicans going to make good on their contract they signed or is this just another case of promises made, promises broken?

BOGUS AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had the administration officially come forward with its national ambient air quality standards,

otherwise known as BAQS, bogus air quality standards.

Mr. Speaker, the administration tells us this is to save the children. But, Mr. Speaker, what do you tell the child whose family cannot afford a home because the so-called new air standards put the cost of those new homes beyond their family's means? What do you tell the child whose father is out of work because these so-called new air standards shut down his business? What do you tell the community that cannot build a new hospital because these new so-called standards cannot be met?

Mr. Speaker, America's children do not need weird science. They need homes, parents with jobs, new schools, new hospitals, all which would become endangered species if these so-called new standards are allowed to go into effect.

ROBIN HOOD IN REVERSE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, it appears as though the Republicans are going to treat us to another episode of their favorite show, Robin Hood in reverse. He takes from the poor and the middle class to give to the rich. This is also known by the term "tax relief for the rich." The issue is not whether there ought to be a tax refund. The issue is tax fairness.

If you look at the Republican tax package, 60 percent of the tax benefits go to the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans. They give millionaires \$12,000 to \$24,000 in tax relief through estate taxes and indexed capital gains, but when we suggest that teachers, bus drivers, entry-level policemen ought to get a child tax credit, they have the audacity to say that is welfare. No, that is tax fairness.

The working people, the working middle class in America ought to get the lion's share of the tax relief, not the wealthy millionaires who are collecting large capital gains tax breaks.

We believe in tax fairness. The Democrats are advocating a child tax credit for everyone. When they had their Contract on America, they said it was a good idea: Give working America a tax break. They reneged on that promise. Promises made, promises broken.

MEDICARE OVERPAYMENT

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, today the New York Times ran a very interesting article but a very sad article. It is entitled "U.S. Overpaid \$2.3 Billion Last Year" in Medicare and it reads:

"In the first comprehensive audit of Medicare, Federal investigators said

Wednesday that the government overpaid hospitals, doctors and other health care providers last year by \$23 billion, or 14 percent of all of the money spent in the standard Medicare program.

"The books and records of the Medicare agency and its contractors were in such disarray that they could not be thoroughly audited," said the inspector general. She said that there was no way to tell how much money of the overpayment resulted from fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I think the buck stops with the President on this issue. I think before we get into the next cycle, I think the President absolutely must pay attention to this fraud and abuse in Medicare.

HOUSTON OILERS MOVE TO TENNESSEE

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, recently the Houston Oilers received the final agreement to leave Houston and become the Tennessee Oilers, playing in Memphis, TN, this year and later on in Nashville, TN.

As a long-time Houston Oiler fan, I am looking for a new professional team to adopt. I worked as a 13-year-old at the old Oiler football games at Jeppesen Stadium, now Robertson Stadium, on the University of Houston campus.

Today I am cleaning out some of my Oiler paraphernalia like a lot of people in Houston are doing. I want to present them to the gentleman from Nashville, TN [Mr. CLEMENT] and say, "You can have this hat, you can have this glass that says Houston Oilers," even a bumper sticker from our local radio station that plays the Oilers and their games, and even a pin that says, "Love You, Blue."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman [Mr. CLEMENT].

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I thank him for remembering Sam Houston and Davy Crockett and the countless volunteers that fought for Texas and independence. I have always heard all my life, if it had not been for Tennessee, there would not have been a Texas.

Well, we are not going to get Houston oil but we are going to get the Houston Oilers. We appreciate it very much. Payments are in full, and we deeply appreciate the gentleman realizing that we now have bought a great team. We want him to come see them play in the near future in Memphis and then in Nashville, TN. We have a lot to be proud of, and we will sure help the gentleman and work with him to get another team.

BOEING-McDONNELL DOUGLAS MERGER

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the European Commission's Merger Task Force voted to disapprove the Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger. The Economic Community charged Boeing would have to make greater concessions if they would receive approval from the EC.

I have sent a letter, developed a letter to the EC and I have sent it to every congressional office. At this time I am urging every Member of Congress to send that letter and show solid support for keeping their nose out of our business.

CROP INSURANCE

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, later today there may be an amendment to take Federal crop insurance from the American tobacco grower, yet it will be left for wheat, rye, barley, and all the other crops. Some do want to destroy the American tobacco grower. In 1896 William Jennings Bryan said, "If you destroy the American farmer, grass will grow in the streets of every city of the land."

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In 1997, if we destroy the American tobacco farmer, 350,000 good jobs will be lost. We will be buying Chinese cigarettes, we will be buying Brazilian cigarettes, and we will be wrecking our trade surplus that agriculture so richly provides this Nation.

Save crop insurance and help the American economy.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 858) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 858

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.