

Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), the Chair appoints the following Member of the House to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Mr. YATES of Illinois.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, February 12, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 127 of Public Law 97-377 (2 U.S.C. 88b-3), I hereby appoint the following Member to the House of Representatives Page Board: Mr. KILDEE of Michigan.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

FREEDOM WORKS AWARD
PRESENTED TO EMMIT SMITH

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, this past week in my district I had the privilege and the opportunity to present the first-ever Freedom Works Award to Emmit Smith, runningback for the Dallas Cowboys. It was a great privilege for me to do that in that in my initial discussions with Emmit about the opportunity to receive this award, which was created to acknowledge and recognize individuals for their personal service in their communities, that Emmit Smith insisted that, if the award were to be given, that it should be about neither football nor politics but about service. I applauded him for his point of view and said that he was exactly right.

Emmit Smith is a person that has done exemplary service in his community in a quiet way through Emmit Smith Charities. He has followed up on his initial expression of service and appreciation by keeping his promise to his mother, and in his off-season, even though he obviously has no economic need to do so, Emmit Smith went back and completed his college education and received his degree as a tribute to his mother and the promise that he made.

In addition to that, through Emmit Smith Charities he has personally provided over 9,000 meals to distressed families in the community during holiday seasons and using that as an opportunity to express his conviction that freedom works best when it is expressed in service to people other than yourself.

What really touches me most about Emmit Smith and his work in the community is that he actively seeks out

through Emmit Smith Charities distressed children in distressed communities in distressed homes and provides for them his personal encouragement; that if you will attend to your studies and if you will keep yourself clean of drugs, violence, and crime, and if you will do your work in your home and in your own community, that Emmit Smith himself will pay for their college education.

What better illustration of an individual who does not need to but feels compelled, out of his own commitment, to serve, to look after the needs of other people? I was proud to have that time with Emmit Smith. I hope that his receiving of this award will stand as an example to others to put freedom first through service to others.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of the Working Families Flexibility Act of 1997, H.R. 1.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

HELP REPAIR OUR PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, to prepare our children for the 21st century, our public schools must be safe and modern places to learn. Up-to-date schools send every student in America a clear message: You are important to us. We take your education seriously.

A recent GAO report shows one-third of our Nation's schools need a major repair or outright replacement. To keep our children from growing up in schools that are falling down, President Clinton has proposed \$5 billion to help communities finance \$20 billion in needed school construction over the next 4 years.

Many of our schools were built over 50 years ago. They are rundown, overcrowded, and lack even the basic electrical wiring to support modern technology. In my own district, kids are going to schools that were built when Ulysses S. Grant was President of the United States.

We have high expectations for our students, teachers, and schools, but we cannot expect our children and our teachers to build strong lives on a crumbling foundation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of real urgency. Support the President's proposal on school construction and modernization.

END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS
FOREVER

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, everyone will recall that the government shutdown last term and all the ramifications that followed. Many can make the case that it was the President who was at fault because he could have signed the appropriations bills that would have let government go on and he could have said, as he did on the welfare bill, well, there are some things wrong here but we will fix them later. But he chose to veto that bill.

Others can make the case that the Congress failed because they did not produce an appropriations bill to the liking of the President. And so what happened? The government shut down.

I have introduced legislation for several terms now which can end government shutdowns forever. I implore the Members of the House on both sides to join in cosponsorship and support of this legislation. It would mean that at the end of a fiscal year, if no budget has been enacted by the time the clock chimes in for the next budget year, that there would be an automatic instant replay of some percentage of the last year's budget so that government can go on while the negotiators proceed with producing a new budget for the new fiscal year.

We will hear more about this as the time goes on and even today under special orders.

EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to address the most important issue that we could ever address, and that is the education of our children.

We have, and the President as well as Members from both sides of the aisle, have talked about education as being a high priority. In Rhode Island just last week I began to address that not with just teachers or parents or administrators but with the greatest consumers of education, our children. What I did was I brought together a roundtable of high school students and asked them, what about education, what about the issues that we have been talking about, teacher preparedness, drug abuse in the school systems, mastering the basics, computers in schools, what about fixing our schools?

I was impressed with their knowledge, their understanding and what they felt was right to do about education. They agree wholeheartedly with our President's plan and with our plan to revise education. But more importantly, what they were saying is they felt that they were gifted; they had the opportunity for computers in schools; families that participated; they had good schools and teacher preparedness. They were concerned about their fellow students who did not have those same opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues, we should be working to make sure that all students have that opportunity, not just a few. I urge the Members of the House to conduct and to support legislation in that way.

ORCA WHALE PODS

(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 rise today to express my deep concern over the recent capture of orca whales off the coast of Japan. Earlier this month five orca whales were netted and separated from their whale family, called a pod. A whale pod, like a human family unit, is vital for the survival of orcas. These captured orcas are scheduled to be sold to marine amusement parks and a whale museum.

The capture of orcas was allowed under a permit to gather them for research purposes. Clearly, the use of whales for business and entertainment purposes blatantly violates the conditions of the permit.

It is my understanding that orca pods appear very infrequently in Japanese waters. Destroying even one orca pod can cause great harm to the small orca population in that area.

The captured orca pod will certainly suffer as a result of so many of its members being separated, and could even cause the pod's complete disintegration. I cannot condone this act and will do whatever I can to see that the five whales are released immediately.

□ 1415

GIVE TEACHERS A BREAK

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk in Washington these days about education. The President is talking about education. Business people are talking about education. At just about every level someone is talking about education, and every politician I bump into wants to talk about education.

But as a former two-term State superintendent of schools, I can tell you talk is cheap, ladies and gentlemen. That is why last week I went into the classroom and began a program I call Give Teachers a Break. I took over a history and political science class and taught a group of students in Lee County High School in Sanford, NC in an effort to really give a teacher a break.

This program puts Congressmen in the classroom where children are so they can understand what is happening day in and day out with a teacher, the problems they face, the difficulties of education, so we can learn from what is happening and we can look into the face of the next generation and have a reminder of what is at stake.

I am proud that a number of my colleagues in this House have already decided to join in this program, and I challenge every Member of the U.S. Congress to do it. Mr. Speaker, it is no great feat to talk the talk on education. Today I challenge every Member to walk the walk and give a teacher a break.

MAKE COLLEGE DEGREES ACCESSIBLE

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, in today's America the price of the American dream comes attached to a college tuition bill. Yet rising college costs are steadily making that dream a mirage for many working families. In all too many cases, parents face the awful choice between deep debt and telling their child something they could never have imagined: "We'd like to send you to college, but, we're sorry, we simply can't afford it."

One of our Nation's great poets once asked, "What happens to a dream deferred?" If college tuitions remain out of reach for average American families, we will find the answer to that question in a lost generation of our children.

Mr. Speaker, we must make the American dream a reality again before college degrees become the exclusive possession of the privileged. We must make it a reality again so college degrees can serve as pathways to a lifetime of opportunity.

The best way to start is for this Congress to pass President Clinton's plan to increase the Pell Grant Program. We all know that a college degree is not a right and the American dream is not an entitlement, but it is our duty to make college degrees accessible, and by doing so we can make the American dream a reality for millions of people who want nothing more than a chance to get ahead.

AMERICANS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE ON THE RISE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to draw attention today to an article that was on the front page of the New York Times that found through a recent survey that the number of uninsured in New York City is dramatically on the rise. I am talking about the national crisis of health insurance and the fact that increasingly more and more Americans have no health insurance. This of course was in New York City, but it has implications nationwide.

Interestingly enough, the biggest problem is with children, children that have no health insurance. We know that the President has put forward a proposal to expand health insurance

options for children so that more and more children are insured, and I think that this report, which I will call more attention to in the next few weeks, really explains why that is important.

It says right here that most uninsured families in the city make between \$15,000 and \$45,000 a year. These are working people. And the report found the number of children without insurance has gone up twice as fast as the number of adults. This was a report that was put out by the New York City public advocate Mark Green, and in his report it also finds that the proportion of children who have no health insurance rose to almost 20 percent in 1995, up from 14 percent in 1990.

The report is very informative because it really throws aside a lot of the myths that we have about who is not getting the health insurance. It is the working people, it is the children, it is the people that have a lot to contribute to this society, and we need to address it in this Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SOL-OMON). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall vote, if postponed, will be taken on Wednesday, February 26, 1997.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND TAX REINSTATEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 668) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the Airport and Airway Trust Fund excise taxes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 668

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Airport and Airway Trust Fund Tax Reinstatement Act of 1997".

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 2. REINSTATEMENT OF AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND EXCISE TAXES.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—

(1) AVIATION FUEL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 4091(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

"(A) The rate of tax specified in paragraph (1) shall be 4.3 cents per gallon—