

Mr. Speaker, this is the American dream as the Republican Party has worked for it. We have worked in a bipartisan fashion. We believe that families like the Collins' are all over America.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(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, we have seen great cooperation in the House Democrats, Republicans, the White House, all coming together on some incredibly complex issues. Taxes, health care. Now we can take our time and finally act on the promises we have had from the Speaker and from others in this institution over the last 3 years. Let us do campaign finance reform. Let us at least end soft money. Americans are being driven out of the political process when they see hundred-thousand-dollar contributions given to both political parties.

The Speaker says there is not enough money in politics. Every indication is, the more money that goes into politics, the less people are participating. Get rid of soft money. Let us take a first strong step to clean up of the election process.

WEARING OUT OUR WELCOME

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this week angry Haitian mobs protested the planned 4-month of extension of the U.N. mission to Haiti, an extension that received surprise Chinese sign-off for an as yet undisclosed price. Frustrated and victimized Haitians accused U.N. troops of only guarding the palace and Aristide's house instead of providing the law and order they are there for.

Ironically the United Nations also had to issue an apology recently for what Haitians saw as too much attention from U.N. troops in Port-de-Paix, where the U.N.'s soldier had to be rescued from the mobs by airlift. Haitian parliamentarians have also demanded an end to the occupation.

If we have worn out our welcome in Haiti, let us send our troops and the United States trainer/builders out of range of rock-throwing mobs and save further wear and tear on American taxpayers' wallets. Aside from time, what can we buy in Haiti in a 4-month extension that \$3 billion could not buy in the past 2½ years?

EVERYONE TAKES CREDIT

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday everyone in the leadership took credit for getting the budget deal. It demonstrated that leadership means that we can get things done when we pull together.

But where is the leadership in campaign reform? The President stood here in this room and asked for it by the Fourth of July. Members of the House and Senate have both introduced comprehensive legislation. They have introduced legislation to do it in small ways or big ways. Yet nothing is moving, Mr. Speaker. Nothing is moving.

However, soon we will see big contributions moving into the coffers of the Republican Party. It seems only smart that we should have a vote on campaign reform before someone suggests that there is a link between tax breaks and campaign contributions. The public wants a vote, Mr. Speaker. The President wants a vote. I authored a comprehensive campaign reform, H.R. 600. I want a vote. This House wants a vote. When do we get it?

GOOD NEWS FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about the good news that is here for America. It is good news.

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For the first time since 1969 we are going to have a balanced budget in the United States of America. For the first time since 1969, the people that are here in Washington are not going to spend more money than what they take in. They will do the responsible thing.

The news even gets better. After a balanced budget, in addition to a balanced budget we are also going to pass bills that lower the taxes on the American people.

I have heard a lot of rhetoric about who gets these tax cuts. I want to cut through all that rhetoric and get down to what it really means to a family of five in Janesville, WI. A family having three kids living in Janesville, WI, earning \$40,000 or \$50,000 a year because both parents are probably working, they have that income coming in, what they should do on January 1 of next year, this is not Washington rhetoric, they should walk into their place of employment and tell their employer they want to keep \$100 more every month of their own money. Because that is what this tax cut package means to a family of five in Janesville, WI, or anyplace else in America.

For each of the children in the family there is a \$400 per child tax cut, \$1,200 for a year. That is \$100 a month. And on January 1 the American people should start keeping that money instead of sending it to Washington.

BOTH PARTIES CIRCUMVENTING CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as the ongoing Senate hearings and news reports have revealed, both parties are circumventing our campaign finance laws to raise hundreds of millions of dollars in soft money. The time has come to ban soft money.

Over 2 years ago the Speaker and President Clinton shook hands on campaign finance reform, but since that time nothing has been done. How many more pressing issues will Congress fail to address because of the insidious influence of money and politics? As we all know, delay means death for campaign finance reform.

Recently 25 Members and I wrote to the Speaker asking for a floor scheduled vote on banning soft money in the 1998 election cycle. If no such schedule is designated before we leave this week, Mr. Speaker, all Members should be prepared to arrive at work early and stay late, because regular order is intolerable while campaign finance reform remains absent from our calendar.

WHY CHANGE THE SUBJECT?

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, this is fun. We have just agreed to the largest new budget proposal in generations, a balanced budget, tax cuts for everyone in America, and they want to change the subject to campaign finance reform.

The fact of the matter is both sides do not do it, the only side accused of taking illegal foreign contributions are the Democrats. The fact of the matter is, when Bob Dole accepted \$75 million of taxpayers' money to run the Presidential campaign, that is all he spent. It was the President that took \$75 million and then spent \$40 million more illegally. They are not arguing with that. They want to say the system is broken because everyone does it.

That is not the evidence. That is not the evidence before the Thompson committee. But if I were in as deep a trouble as they are with respect to cheating on the current laws, I would want to change the laws too.

STOP HARASSMENT OF HISPANIC CANDIDATES AND VOTERS

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

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have singled out the gentlewoman from California [Ms. LORETTA

SANCHEZ] and the voters of the 46th District of California for the kind of scrutiny and harassment this body has never seen before.

The Committee on House Oversight and former representative Bob Dornan, whom the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Sanchez) defeated, have led a widespread, abusive and costly search for voter fraud, claiming that the gentlewoman won her seat in Congress because of massive illegal voting by non-citizens and illegal immigrants.

After 9 months of inquiry, Mr. Speaker, and more than \$300,000 in taxpayer dollars spent, my Republican colleagues have failed to prove that Mr. Dornan's loss was a result of electoral fraud.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to wrap up the House inquiry, as the Los Angeles Times said over 3 months ago. It is time to end this blatant harassment of the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] and the targeting of Hispanics in general. This effort to intimidate and harass new citizens with foreign surnames to stop them from voting must end.

BALANCING THE BUDGET, THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, having heard the comments of my colleague from the Virgin Islands, and indeed the comments of several of my liberal colleagues this morning, it is small wonder that the American people say, will we ever stop the partisan bickering and go to work on behalf of the American people?

Are there concerns we should all have with campaign finance laws? Absolutely. But paramount today is the subject of financing for the family and making sure that American families hang onto more of their own money and send less of it to Washington.

And, Mr. Speaker, this day and its significance should not be lost on the American people, as we pass the first balanced budget in a generation, as we save Medicare for the next decade and make preparations to deal with those serious questions, and as we offer tax relief in a tax cut for working families and providing tax relief at every stage of life for Americans for the first time in 16 years.

Try as they might, the professional politicians want to change the subject, but the American people know that balancing the budget and putting our family finances in order is the proper first order of business.

DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES REFLECTED IN BALANCED BUDGET BILL

(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, for the last several months Democrats have been urging budget negotiators to include important Democratic priorities in this budget bill; to include \$24 billion for kids' health care, to include \$35 billion in education tax credits, and to provide the child tax credit for all of America's families who work and who pay taxes.

Meanwhile, our Republican colleagues have been fighting for huge tax breaks for the richest individuals and corporations in this country and calling tax breaks for hardworking low income families welfare, including some of the families that they have brought up here this morning. Only a few days ago they were saying that those folks were on welfare.

Well, I am proud to stand here today and say that by standing up for Democratic priorities, tax cuts for working families, tuition credits for college, health care for uninsured children in this country, that in fact those Democratic priorities have prevailed. The long and the short of it is the hardworking middle income families of this country have benefitted from this tax package.

RENEW SUPPORT FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, sadly and regrettably I rise this morning to inform my colleagues of two devastating explosions that rocked the city of Jerusalem today in which 18 people were killed and 150 wounded. This busy marketplace in Jerusalem known as the Mahaneh Yehudah was infiltrated, apparently by two suicide bombers, who set off explosions within seconds of each other. More fatalities are expected.

Although PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat called Prime Minister Netanyahu to express his condolences, the latest violence indicated once again that Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian authority are not doing enough to root out terrorism. It is not enough to express mere condolences.

Apparently, that may be why the State Department has not issued a PLO Compliance Report in advance of any presidential certification for more money for the PLO. We now know what the State Department failed to acknowledge, that the PLO is not in compliance with its commitments and must do much more.

Legislation regarding this devastating loss is being prepared by the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] and myself. We invite our colleagues to cosponsor the bill and to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to the families of the dead and injured, as we renew our steadfast support for peace for all the people of Israel and throughout the Middle East.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. RICHARD L. LESHER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(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, I wish to make a few comments on the retirement of Dr. Richard L. Leshner, who is retiring after 22 years as president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

During his tenure, chamber membership has grown to 215,000 business members, 3,000 State and local chambers, 1,200 trades and professional associations, and he guided the creation of BizNet, the American Business Network, and its two award winning television programs, First Business and It's Your Business.

He oversaw creation of the Center for Workforce Preparation, which helps ensure that Americans are ready to meet the challenges of a new economy. And he credits retired Virginia Justice Lewis F. Powell with the high profile that the chamber has taken. He implemented many of Powell's suggestions over the years.

Congratulations to Dr. Leshner on his successful years at the U.S. Chamber and best wishes on his retirement.

ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD ON ANOTHER TAX PACKAGE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased, and I know others are too, to hear that an agreement has been reached between the Congress and the White House on the tax cut package. I am especially pleased when I recall the last time Congress and the White House reached an agreement on the tax package Republicans were definitely not celebrating. They were not celebrating because that tax package was the largest tax increase in the history of this country.

So today marks a much different kind of agreement. And although I am pleased with the agreement on tax cuts, we should put this in perspective. Now, listen to this. The amount of net tax cuts over the next 5 years will be \$91 billion. The amount of spending over the next 5 years will be \$9 trillion. Nine trillion. Tax cuts \$91 billion, spending \$9 trillion.

So I would just like to say that this tax cut package is only a first step toward deeper tax cuts, more money in the pockets of Americans, and we also want to have some fundamental tax reform. I cannot wait to get going on another tax cut package.

CELEBRATION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHT BROTHERS FIRST FLIGHT

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House