

Colin Powell has been going around the country talking about the fact that there are still Americans who are not sharing in that dream and ability to succeed in life. One reason they are not is because too many children live in neighborhoods with bad schools and their parents lack the resources to send their children to a private school or to a good public school, a better one in their neighborhood. One way we can help those parents who care deeply about the education of their children is to pass legislation called A-plus Accounts. These are education savings accounts that will make it a little easier for parents who want their children to share in the American dream. A-plus accounts will help those who want to get ahead by making it easier for parents to save money for their children's education, and I think this is important.

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PASS H.R. 367 AND PUT SOME CONTROLS ON THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

(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, the IRS says, "Members are picking on us." Poor, poor IRS; do I hear violins? How about a pity party? Let us tell it like it is:

When an \$80,000 disagreement turns into \$330,000 in penalties and fines in 3 short years, when taxpayers commit suicide, when taxpayers are told to their face that they just died, when taxpayers, in fact, are targeted for audits because they politically oppose the IRS, we are not picking on the IRS, we are telling the truth.

Mr. Speaker, the further truth is, when the IRS makes Vito Corleone look like a Boy Scout, something is very wrong.

Shame IRS, shame. They should hide their two faces. It is time for the Congress, like the people, to be taxed off, and pass H.R. 367 and put some controls on the executive branch and the Internal Rectum Service.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES

(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, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the tragic death of the Princess of Wales. Princess Diana in her very short life won the hearts of millions of Americans from all walks of life.

As a mother, she took her children outside of the palace gates, outside of the wealth of the monarchy, to visit homeless shelters so they could better understand life in the real world. As a

caring and compassionate leader, she shook hands with AIDS patients when many were still afraid to touch them.

Princess Diana never considered herself a celebrity; instead she thought of herself as a humanitarian, raising millions of dollars for charities both here in America and around the world as well.

Most recently, she displayed passion for victims of land mines. In this area, she worked tirelessly to change the foreign policies of all nations to ban the use of military land mines.

Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that Congress honor the life of Princess Diana today in a resolution praising her numerous achievements and contributions to the world.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TO PUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ON OUR AGENDA

(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, the cancer of soft money that is growing on our political system continues, and the cancer of soft money that is corrupting and ruining our ability to govern this Nation is continuing.

Yesterday, the Los Angeles Times pointed out that there has been a 250-percent increase in soft money contributions to the Congress in the first half of this year. They point out in the 1996 election that \$260 million was collected in soft money contributions, contributions that go around the limits that are placed on Federal elections, and that is three times the amount that was spent in 1992.

Just recently, the American public witnessed large soft money donors to the parties in this Congress, being rewarded with tax breaks in the tax bill, tax loopholes, and tax preferences that no one else could achieve but those who gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in soft money.

The time has come for the Congress to ban soft money. The time has come for the Republican leadership to put campaign finance reform on the agenda of this House so the people can go back to having their voices heard and not those of the special interests who are giving soft money contributions.

THE SOONER WE GET OUT OF BOSNIA, THE BETTER

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, NATO has announced it will now use lethal force in Bosnia. NATO, of course, means the United States, both our dollars and our troops. Little concern is shown here in Congress as we appropriate billions of dollars more for Bosnia with no end in sight.

Policing this area is an impossible task as NATO interferes with TV

broadcasts and arresting and trying so-called war criminals. Current policy is only leading to an escalation of the conflict. Ethnic hatred and border fights have been going on in this region for centuries.

Mr. Speaker, the United States will not solve these problems. It is impossible for us to do so. We are already being blamed by the Bosnians as our troops are being attacked with stones and homemade weapons. Congress must bear some of the responsibility for the coming policy disaster. The President cannot act without funds, funds which only Congress can appropriate. Our efforts in Bosnia have nothing to do with national security. We have a responsibility to our troops and our current policy exposes them to unwarranted danger.

Congress must defund the Bosnian conflict. The sooner we get out of Bosnia, the better.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO USE EXTRAORDINARY TACTICS TO ASSURE DEBATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM THIS MONTH

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this month provides us the last hope to accomplish any meaningful change in the way that the 1998 congressional elections are conducted.

Now Speaker GINGRICH has made clear that he opposes any meaningful change in the way Federal elections operate. Indeed, the only change that the Gingrich Republicans seem to favor is to have not less but more campaign spending, more campaign ads, and more campaign fund-raising. Speaker GINGRICH has set forth a narrow-minded agenda for this month that excludes even the opportunity to debate the many proposals that have been advanced by both Republicans and Democrats to change campaign financing.

I believe we need a strong ban on soft money, but whatever the approach that is taken, we need a debate this month, and we are here today to say specifically to Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership, Whether you schedule a debate on campaign reform this month or not, we are going to have one. We will have vote after vote; we will engage in extraordinary tactics to assure debate on real reform because of your extraordinary refusal to permit that reform.

ATTITUDES AND THE VALUE PLACED ON EDUCATION ARE WHAT MATTER MOST

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, in Life magazine this week there is a fascinating article about Oprah Winfrey and the influence books have had on her

life. To my mind, the article reveals more about education and whether a child grows up wanting to read books than all the useless conferences on education that go on in this town. Oprah relates an incident that happened to her as a child that made quite an impression on her. Although she is an avid reader today, her mother was not, and she recalls:

I remember being back in the hallway when I was about 9, and my mother threw the door open and grabbed a book out of my hand and said, "You're nothing but a something, something worm. Get your butt outside. You think you're better than the other kids."

Mr. Speaker, this kind of attitude has harmed the education and future prospects of many children in America. They are not told that books and an education are the ticket to future success.

During all the talk about education reform, let us remember that attitudes and values placed on education are what matters most. Loving parents and teachers who teach the importance of learning matter, plain and simple.

SAFE SCHOOLS FOR OUR CHILDREN—A COMMITMENT WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this month our Nation's children will return to school, but for many of these children a schoolroom is not a place to learn but a place to survive. Like our roads and bridges, our Nation's schools are crumbling.

In my district in New York, children are trying to learn in conditions that we should be ashamed of, crumbling walls, leaking roofs, and overcrowding. How can a child be expected to learn to read and write when the walls are literally falling down around them?

Earlier this year the Republicans killed our plan to provide \$10 billion to help rebuild our schools. The Republicans seem to think that it is OK for children to study in trailers and closets.

Democrats are committed to making sure that every child in this country has a modern, safe school in which to learn. This is a commitment we have made to our children, and it is a commitment worth fighting for.

PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT MUST KEEP HIS WORD AND CARRY OUT AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, again this morning the world is horrified by terrorist violence in Israel. Once again, terrorist bombers have murdered civilians at a Jerusalem marketplace.

When I traveled last month with several of my colleagues to Israel, we met with Prime Minister Netanyahu and PLO Chairman Arafat. In our meeting with Mr. Arafat, we questioned him about the Palestinians' authority, failure to crack down on terrorists, and their continuing incitements and encouragement of violence against Israelis. He claimed to be doing all that he could to prevent terrorism.

But this assertion rings hollow when we contrast the Palestinian Authority's actions or the lack of them with the chairman's words. The Palestinian Authority is obligated to cooperate with Israeli security services but it refuses to extradite known terrorists, and officials of the Palestinian police are themselves implicated in terrorism. It has agreed to refrain from inciting violence and try to prevent others from doing so, and yet key Palestinian officials unleash violent assaults against Israelis, Jews, and Americans.

And Arafat himself has praised terrorists as martyrs. This leads me to question what his words are actually worth. Israelis want peace. They want it so their children can be safer from constant threat of terrorist violence.

Mr. Speaker, we must tell Mr. Arafat that unless he can keep his word and carry out his agreements he has already made, he cannot expect people to take him seriously as a partner in further negotiations.

IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS AND GIVE EVERY KID IN THE NATION A SHOT AT THE AMERICAN DREAM

(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, it is our responsibility as Members of this body to help ensure that every child in this great Nation has a shot at the American dream. Education has always been a critical part of that dream because it is education that opens the doors to opportunity in our society. It is our responsibility to make sure that every American child is taught to read, to write, to compute, and taught all the other skills necessary for them to compete in a global and in a modern economy.

We need to make sure that the kids in Portland, ME are held to the same high standards as the kids in Portland, OR, and that a high school diploma earned in Albany, NY means as much as the diploma that is earned in Albany, GA.

Republicans have vowed to defeat Democratic initiatives and to reform our schools and to ensure that all of America's children receive a quality education and that, in fact, we have high standards that are adhered to in this country. My Republican colleagues even want to get rid of the Department of Education. However, Democrats are united in this effort. We are going to

continue to fight to improve our schools and to give every kid in this Nation a shot at the American dream.

DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS NEED TO WORK TOGETHER ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, do not make education a partisan issue. We have now proven that Republicans and Democrats can work together when we are doing something the American people want. We have ended up with a balanced budget, the first time in 31 years. We have ended up with tax cuts, the first time in 16 years. We have been able to work together as Democrats and Republicans because we were doing something the people want. Now we need to work together in education.

My wife was a teacher. My daughter, Juliana, is a teacher in Grand Rapids, MI. My daughter-in-law, Diane, is a teacher. We need to get back to some of the old-fashioned dedication where parents are interested in what their kids are doing in school, and spend time with their kids as well as attending school meetings. We need a renewed respect for teachers in their schoolrooms.

Look, when great people are interviewed and they are asked what was the greatest effect on their lives, they say, my parents, teachers that helped me and inspired me.

We need to get rid of 30 years of liberalism in the classroom. Republicans and Democrats need to work together, not to have the Federal Government manage education, but to develop an environment that encourages parents to be more involved in the decisions that affect their children's educational lives.

GET OFF THE TEST ISSUE AND BACK TO EDUCATION

(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, I would like to congratulate my colleague from Michigan, and I agree education should not be a partisan issue. In fact, the bipartisan budget agreement, the education tax cuts to help parents prepare to send their kids to college, increased Pell grants, HOPE scholarships, put our money where our values are. That was bipartisan although it was not part of the original budget package until Democrats talked about it. But now he is right; we need to focus our attention on kindergarten through the 12th grade, public education.

Voluntary national standards should be adopted by the States. Many States are already doing it. Texas has already