

George W. Crockett who recently passed. Congressman Crockett was a fighter for justice, a student of the Constitution who believed that the Constitution should apply to all of America's people.

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We honor you, Judge Crockett. I want you to know from the bottom of my heart, as my Congressman and for the people who are now in the 15th Congressional District, we will carry your spirit, we will continue the fight, and we too believe that the Constitution of the United States is for all of its citizens.

Rest assured that your memory will live, that your spirit will instill in us the power to continue, the power to fight, and the power that the Constitution really is for the people, by the people. May you rest in peace.

REJECT WHOLE-SCHOOL REFORM

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, as a parent there is no issue, absolutely no issue more important to me than the education of my children. For us as a Congress there ought to be no issue more important than education, and that issue is critically important to the American people. But, Mr. Speaker, the Labor-HHS bill, H.R. 2264, which we will debate today, holds in it a wolf in sheep's clothing on the issue of education.

I am deeply committed to education reform, but, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the parents and the teachers and the students and the administrators in my school and in any school district know how to reform my school and give our children the best education possible. This bill contains a wolf, a wolf which says, well, we are going to support school reform but only whole school reform, only top-down dictated Federal school reform. Do it by our model, and get the money; do not do it by our model and do not get the money.

We do not need top-down school reform. I urge my colleagues to reject whole-school reform.

VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM SHOULD BE SCHEDULED THIS MONTH

(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, many of us this morning are demanding that Speaker NEWT GINGRICH schedule a vote on campaign finance reform this month. Rest assured that we will continue to make this demand until it is complied with.

This is not an issue that either party can avoid. Massive unregulated contributions of the so-called soft money

have corrupted both parties and have corrupted this institution. Yet it is the Republican Speaker of the House and the Republican Leader of the Senate who are today standing in the way of reform.

Today, money in politics affects everything lawmakers do, even our health and safety. For example, the Meat Institute and the Grocery Manufacturers reportedly spent over \$300,000 in the 1996 elections. And today they are in the Congress actively lobbying against new proposed meat inspection standards in the wake of the massive outbreak of E. coli.

America should make it clear to those in charge of this House; they should tell Speaker GINGRICH and tell those in charge of the Senate, Majority Leader LOTT, that they want him to ban soft money; that they want the Congress back so their voices can be heard and they want it done this month.

ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable to hear Democrats talk about campaign finance reform and the need for it while they are strangely, strangely silent on the subject of criminal violations apparently by Members of their party in this administration.

Point in case. U.S. Code 18-1956 prohibits the solicitation or acceptance of laundered campaign contributions intended to conceal the nature, source, ownership or control of the funds. This prohibition would cover the tens of thousands of dollars donated to the Democratic National Committee by dirt poor Buddhists.

If they do not like that law, here is another one; 18 U.S. Code 600 prohibits promises of contracts or other benefits as consideration, favor or reward for political activities such as the Democrat Department of Commerce trade missions in exchange for political donations.

Or this, 18 U.S. Code 601 prohibits the withholding of a benefit or program of the United States from any person who refuses to make a campaign contribution.

There are dozens and dozens of laws that are already on the books that have apparently been violated and the Democrats have no interest whatsoever in trying to enforce the existing law. Let us do not try to confuse things. Let us enforce existing law, then move on to campaign finance reform.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY IS LEADING SOFT MONEY CONTRIBUTOR IN THE COUNTRY

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, if there is even a single violation of the existing laws, be it Democrat or Republican, prosecute it fully, but do not hide behind the latest tabloid news to thwart campaign finance reform.

To any American who wonders why we need that reform, thumb through the bipartisan budget agreement and come across title XVI, entitled Technical Amendments Related to the Small Business Job Protection Act and Other Legislation. Under that title turn to page 322 and learn that one of those small businesses that just got protection was \$50 billion for the tobacco industry.

Anyone who thinks that is unrelated to campaign contributions is probably sitting at home waiting for the tooth fairy to arrive.

Ladies and gentlemen, the fact that the tobacco industry is the leading soft money contributor in this country demonstrates the need along with this provision to reform our campaign finance laws in time for the 1998 elections. But Speaker GINGRICH, one of the beneficiaries of the current system, refuses to schedule it for debate. That is why we will have yet another motion to adjourn because of the refusal to deal with this issue.

VOTE AGAINST NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong opposition to H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997, which the Committee on Commerce is expected to address soon.

This legislation will have devastating impacts not only on the State of Nevada but on 43 other States in the Union. H.R. 1270 proposes sending thousands of high-level nuclear waste shipments from 109 locations across 43 States to a single repository in Nevada.

More than likely, these shipments will cross Members' districts, by their schools, their churches, hospitals and playgrounds in the process. Here is a very small sampling of the possibilities of that nuclear waste, as it travels across the country, if there is an accident.

Before we vote in support of H.R. 1270, we should ask ourselves: What if this was my district? The possible consequences are chilling. We must all be responsible stewards of our constituents' best interests and vote against H.R. 1270.

DEMOCRATS FAVOR MORE INFRASTRUCTURE MONEY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(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 issue is, I believe, my Republican colleagues have lost their way to school. Rather than filling up the Labor-HHS bill with all kinds of distracting issues dealing with education, they do not realize that our children are in crumbling schools, our children are in schools that are overcrowded.

School enrollment in the United States last year broke the all time high record set by baby boomers in 1971 and has continued to grow. A new Department of Education report found more than 52 million children enrolled in our schools, and yet Republicans rejected the idea of Democrats that wanted to infuse infrastructure money into our communities so that we could rebuild our schools.

Do my colleagues realize that our schools in America need extensive repair, that our children are being threatened by peeling paint, falling ceiling tiles, and crumbling walls? Our Republican friends will mess up the Labor-HHS bill and fill it with all kinds of amendments that are not relevant to providing protection for our children.

Yes, our Republican friends have lost their way to school. We, the Democrats, will find our way, continue to support public education, provide for moneys to improve and encourage our children to learn the right way, the safe way, and rebuild the falling infrastructure in our public schools. That is finding our way to schools in America and that is the side Democrats will be on.

LIMIT USE OF TAX DOLLARS FOR FREE NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

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

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, coming before us today is a bill that has an allowable thing for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to control, and it is called free needle exchange programs.

The reason I am up here talking about it is we know a whole lot about how to help people succeed. Our Government is getting ready to spend our tax dollars to help people fail by enabling drug addicts to have needles available to them, to violate the law, to use our tax dollars to have clean needles.

There have been two studies in North America on this subject. Both of them show there is an increased transmission of HIV associated with free needle exchange programs and that there is an increased usage of drugs. We know that that happens. We know that in alcoholism.

One of the precepts in treating alcoholism today in our country is do not enable the patient to fail by enabling their alcoholism. We need to apply that

same thing when it comes to drug addiction in this country.

I hope that my colleagues will support this limitation on using American tax dollars for free needle exchange.

STOP THE ATTACK ON WORKERS' SAFETY IN THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at the continuous efforts to cut occupational safety and health, efforts to scale back protection for workers in dangerous, hazardous, and unsafe situations, efforts to take back and turn around those hard-won gains which have only come about as a result of tragedy after tragedy.

I have even heard individuals on the floor of this House talking about taking money from OSHA in order to help disabled children. And surely disabled children need all of the help that we can give them, but why run the risk of injuring, maiming, or even killing workers in order to help children?

I say let us stop the attack on workers' safety in this country.

SOCIAL SECURITY WILL BE SHORT OF FUNDS AS EARLY AS 2005

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about what I consider one mistake in our balanced budget agreement. I would start by asking the question: What tax has this Government increased 36 times since 1971? The answer is the Social Security tax.

More often than once a year we have been increasing the Social Security tax on American workers. It needs explanation. When Congress enacted the Social Security law in 1935, it was financed by a pay-as-you-go program, where existing workers pay in their tax to support the benefits of existing retirees. It has always been so. As there are fewer and fewer workers contributing their taxes to more and more retirees, Social Security keeps running short of money, and the tax is increased. It is not a sustainable program. That is why it is a mistake for this Congress, for this Government, for this President not to start working on long-term solutions for Social Security.

Dorcas Hardy, a former Commissioner, says we are going to be short again of enough money coming in from those workers as early as 2005. Last year I introduced the Social Security Solvency Act that holds seniors harmless and does not increase taxes on workers. The Social Security Administration predicts that the legislation would keep the System solvent for at least the next 75 years. Let us do something about it Social Security.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD PARTNER WITH STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOLS TO SOLVE EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

(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, there are 52 million students in public schools today. Fifty-two million students. That is more than at the height of the baby boom generation. The question is are these students receiving the best education?

Students from kindergarten to high school need a positive learning environment, an environment where students can ask questions, and teachers are accessible for individual tutoring, where students and teachers want to teach and want to learn. Students are not receiving enough help and enough support to learn at an adequate level.

This is not the fault of the teachers. Look at the numbers. Fifty-two million students. There is a serious overcrowding problem. Schools are overcrowded, the buildings are unsafe. Thousands of students across our Nation go to school in buildings with leaky roofs and broken windows while students in the District of Columbia here wait until the roofs are fixed to start school.

Teachers are stretched to their limits. In some classrooms teachers are teaching more than 40 students. We need more teachers and more help for teachers. Teachers provide that personal contact and that mentorship. With an increase in teachers, they can accurately assess the needs of their students and focus on that learning.

These are concerns affecting children every day. We need to partner with our local schools and our States to make sure we solve our educational problems.

LOW-DOSE IRRADIATION FOR RED MEAT

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about something important to the health of our citizens. In 1994, the Food and Drug Administration was asked to approve the use of low-dose irradiation for red meat. Irradiation kills bacteria like E. coli. It could prevent meat recalls and public scares like that we witnessed for Hudson Beef last month.

Statutorily, the FDA had 180 days to act on this petition. To date, they have failed to do so.

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Mr. Speaker, I have a personal interest in this. As a physician, I know that low-dose irradiation is safe and it could prevent a lot of illness relating to ground beef. I also was sick from food poisoning last summer and I can tell Members that had I been