

as Ms. McGillicuddy did, and make this Congress a place that more folks can be proud of instead of simply cynical about.

Indeed, members of the freshman class, our newest Members of this Congress, under the able leadership of the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN], but including both Republicans and Democrats, have come together with a proposal to ban soft money and to make certain other modest reforms in our system. Yet their proposal, though it has been discussed briefly on this floor, has never come forward for full debate because Speaker GINGRICH refuses to schedule any proposal on campaign finance at a time that it might really make a difference for the next election.

To understand why he will not schedule this proposal, one need only look at his comments over time. A few months after he had shaken hands with President Clinton and promised bipartisan campaign finance reform, he had this to say in a committee of this Congress: "One of the greatest myths of modern politics is that campaigns are too expensive. The political process, in fact, is underfunded; it is not overfunded."

I think the people that are out there tending to their families, tending to their gardens across America, and looking at this Congress with periodic interruptions for 30-second TV spots do not share the Speaker's enthusiasm for spending more and more money on our elections. They want honest, bipartisan reform. We call on Speaker GINGRICH again this morning to give us that by scheduling campaign finance reform and a ban on soft money immediately.

END BAN ON NEEDLE EXCHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands [Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday this House voted for an amendment that would ban the use of Federal funds for needle exchange programs, programs that have been proven to reduce the transmission of HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, programs which without question save lives, and which have never been shown to increase the use of injectable or other drugs. In fact, what has been shown is that persons using these programs are more likely to enter treatment when treatment is available.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that it was recently reported that AIDS is no longer the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. While that may be true for European-Americans, it is definitely not true for my patients in the African-American community or other minorities. Women are still disproportionately affected, and in most of these cases, the

transmission is related to intravenous drug use.

Health experts have said that the greatest threat to our public health are legislative bodies such as this. Last Thursday, we may have proved this statement true again.

As a physician who has taken care of patients with AIDS and who has taken care of patients who are addicted to drugs, I look to our colleagues in the conference committee to do the right thing and delete this amendment out of the final legislation. Choose life, my colleagues. Choose life.

IN THE NAME OF OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MCGOVERN] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have taken to this well many times before to speak about the steps that my home State of Massachusetts has taken to guarantee that no child goes without proper health care. This is not a recent phenomenon. Massachusetts has long been a national leader on the issue of children's health.

Some 70 years ago, President Calvin Coolidge, a Massachusetts native, declared the first Monday in October as National Child Health Day. While an issue as important as children's health certainly merits our Nation's full attention, past generations have unfortunately let this day fall from our national calendar. With the help of my Republican colleague, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], and through the hard work of the American Health Foundation, I am proud to declare that Child Health Day is once again getting the attention that it deserves.

Mr. Speaker, no single issue has the potential to impact the future of the United States more than the health of our kids. This issue goes to the heart of our ability to compete globally and will profoundly impact America's ability to lead the world in the 21st century. As President Coolidge stated in his proclamation back in 1928:

The protection and development of the health of the children of today are fundamental necessities to the future progress and welfare of the Nation.

We know that children without adequate health care will cost our Nation dearly if we fail to act now. These children, many of whom come from hard-working families, often fail to excel in schools for reasons that are wholly preventable. No child in America should suffer academically because they cannot afford proper eyeglasses. No child in America should suffer permanent hearing loss because they cannot afford to have an ear infection treated. As a Nation that seeks to compete in an increasingly global economy, we simply cannot afford to have preventable ill-

nesses keep our young people from reaching their fullest potential.

There is a rather simple solution to the challenge of keeping kids healthy, and that is preventative care. A dollar spent on immunizations saves \$10 later in a child's life, yet some 25 percent of our Nation's 2-year-olds go without immunizations. Every year 400,000 children go without the medicines their doctors have prescribed because they are uninsured or their parents simply cannot afford to pay for these prescriptions. This simply must change.

But even children with adequate health care coverage should become active participants in Child Health Day. Too many of our Nation's youth suffer from poor nutrition, bad oral hygiene or failure to exercise. And thousands of young people each year become victims of substance abuse, including drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. These are health risks that cross all socioeconomic lines and habits that will only worsen in time.

Mr. Speaker, we can act decisively on each of these important health issues. Back home in Massachusetts I have taken several steps to bring the full weight of volunteers, community leaders, nonprofit groups and State and local government officials to bear on many of the negative trends I have mentioned. On October 6, National Child Health Day, Massachusetts will proudly unveil the first and only State report card on children's health, quantifying our Commonwealth's strengths and weaknesses. I am also inviting hundreds of people throughout Massachusetts to attend a forum on November 1 which will seek to find long-term solutions to the challenges that we identify.

On Thursday of this week, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and I will hold a bipartisan luncheon here in the Capitol to build support for National Child Health Day next month. I encourage all Members who would like to hold Child Health Day events in their districts to attend. Together we can reach across political, social, and cultural boundaries to help prepare our children for healthy and successful lives.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 53 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Remind us always, O gracious God, of those deeds we can do to be Your people and celebrate the good works of life in our world, our Nation, and our communities. May we not only be involved with our own personal needs so that we neglect our concern for the other people that You have created, all the people that You have created, and for whom You share Your love and blessings. May we not only look to our own private relationship with You but the shared blessings and opportunities that You have given to us. May Your good benediction, O God, that is new every morning and with us all the day long, be with us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this matter are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered is withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HUTCHINSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

H.R. 1270, NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

(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, the American people have been well served by the 105th Congress. This Republican Congress has created a balanced budget, given tax relief to millions of Americans, and allowed small businesses and companies to create thousands of new jobs. All this was done because the American people wanted it and, Mr. Speaker, they deserved it.

However, before adjournment Congress may consider a bill that the American people do not want, a bill that does not reflect their consolidated voice or best interests. That bill I am referring to is H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997.

Residents in cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Dallas and many others certainly do not want to put their children and loved ones at severe risk because their elected officials voted to ship toxic nuclear waste through their neighborhoods and communities.

Fellow colleagues, one mishap is all it would take to ravage one of these cities or even your community. Let us not mar the monumental accomplishments of this Congress by voting on a truly dangerous and ill-conceived bill. Vote "no" on H.R. 1270.

KIKA DE LA GARZA U.S. BORDER STATION

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, today we will be considering under suspension of the rules a measure to name the U.S. border station located in Pharr, TX, after my esteemed predecessor, the Honorable Kika de la Garza.

This is indeed a fitting tribute for an individual whom many of us here in this Chamber have had the pleasure and privilege of working with. He is a man who has dedicated his life to public service, who has been an international ambassador for American agriculture, and who is known throughout all of Texas and the Nation simply as "Kika."

This is a man who has made an illustrious institution all the more distinguished by his countenance, his acumen, and his devotion to doing what it takes to get the job done. No one deserves this honor more, and I want to take this opportunity to say from my heart, "Congratulations, Kika, for your decades of outstanding work on behalf of the citizens of the 15th District in Texas."

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, A CONCEPT AMERICANS CAN AGREE ON

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, recently in my Sunday newspaper, I saw a fascinating article in the USA Week-

end section that was entitled "What Americans Agree On." USA Weekend took a poll over the July 4th holiday and found out that 95 percent of Americans agree that freedom must be tempered with personal responsibility. Ninety-five percent, Mr. Speaker.

Now leaving aside the poll numbers, it is common sense that personal responsibility is vital to the American conception of freedom. But what if children come from homes in which blaming others for our shortcomings is a way of life? How will such children learn the basic American value of freedom in the context of personal responsibility?

The answer is education. The problem is that too many schools are failing to teach what nearly all Americans agree on that is fundamental to our freedom. Personal responsibility, a concept shared by all Americans, is where education reformers should talk more about when thinking about educating our Nation's children.

IRS AUDITS PAULA JONES

(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, just days after Paula Jones rejected a settlement and her lawyers deserted her, the IRS has slammed Paula Jones with an audit. Now, if that does not seem strange, check this out: Paula Jones has no income. Paula's husband makes \$37,000. They do not own a home. They rent. They have two children and only own one car.

Now tell me, Mr. Speaker, how many families of such meager means get audited? The IRS says, "Wait a minute. The IRS did not target Paula Jones." The IRS says, "We have nothing to do with the White House, and the IRS never has political targets."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Let us tell it like it is. The IRS did not just target Paula Jones. The IRS is nuking Paula Jones because of the sensitive politics involved. I say Congress should target the IRS and straighten those bunch of henchmen out.

WHAT DOES CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM MEAN?

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson said, "To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical." And the Supreme Court agreed in what is called the Beck agreement. They did not call it sinful or tyrannical. They called it illegal.

What is it? It is the involuntary spending of union workers' hard-earned money, their union dues, for opinions in which they disbelieve. The workers