

now, college will be affordable only for the rich in America.

I have cosponsored a bill with the gentlewoman from California [Ms. ESHOO] called the Higher Education Accumulation Program. The bill will help make college affordable for middle and working class families by allowing parents to set up IRA's for their children's higher education. Parents will be able to make tax deductible \$5,000 contributions for each of their children for higher education. To deny a child an opportunity for an education is to deny that child a lifetime of opportunities.

The President and the Senate majority leader have endorsed this concept, and they have slightly different plans of their own. I ask that Members of the House, on a bipartisan basis, support the Higher Education Accumulation Program, H.R. 53, the HEAP Act, to help make college affordable for working and middle class families in America.

□ 1115

THE DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES ACT OF 1997

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

URGING ASSISTANCE FOR FLOOD VICTIMS IN 10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND OTHER AREAS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I just arrived back in Washington from my district, which was hit very hard by the recent flooding. I want to commend the Clinton administration for agreeing to provide disaster aid, and urge this body to help those of us in my district and around the country that have been so devastated by these high waters.

I am also here this morning, Mr. Speaker, to introduce new legislation, with the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT], and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], called the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997. This legislation recognizes that the very serious and growing drug problem in this country is not going to be solved here in Washington, but is going to be solved at the local level, in our communities and neighborhoods.

The Federal Government has a role to play, of course, but even that role needs to be more focused on our communities. In order to receive Federal support under this new approach in our bill, a community must first show its commitment to reducing drug abuse in a comprehensive and long-term fashion.

There has to be substantial volunteer participation from kids, parents, businesses, schools, law enforcement, the media, and so on. A community must also show that the local effort can be sustained without Federal support. We do not want them to be dependent on the Federal Government. There is accountability in this bill. A community must evaluate whether it is actually

having an impact in reducing drug abuse.

Importantly, this is not a matter of new money, but rechanneling existing monies will be used. We are rechanneling the existing \$16 billion we spend every year in fighting the drug war. This bill, Mr. Speaker, has grassroots support from around the country, from hundreds of communities.

I hope Members will join us in this bipartisan effort to create a drug-free America, neighborhood by neighborhood.

REPUBLICAN LACK OF A BUDGET PLAN WILL HURT 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, we are over 2 months into the 105th Congress, and yet the House has not taken any effort on a serious budget. We hear the complaints as a result of the President's plan on moving our country forward on education, and yet the Senate voted on a balanced budget amendment but we have not voted here in the House. We can hear the complaints about the President's budget, but where is the Republican plan; or where is our plan, as a House Member?

The expression is, people in glass houses should not throw stones. This comes to mind in response to complaints about the President. I may not agree with his budget, but we do not have one either. Republicans cannot criticize the President's plan when they do not even have an alternative suggestion.

The Democrats have set up some priorities in the new budget. One of them is education. That effort is shared by over 80 percent of Americans. The President's 10-point plan on education is adequate. His proposals would boost funding for elementary and secondary education, for school construction, and improved classroom techniques. His proposals would help boost post-secondary education with \$1,500 HOPE scholarships for the first 2 years of college. We have illustrated what we want to do in the future for America. Let us get the budget to reflect those priorities, including education.

THE BLOOD OF THE PEOPLE WILL BE ON THE HANDS OF THE BUDGET CUTTERS

(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, every day we hear more and more about what is wrong with the President's budget, yet his critics have not put on the table one plan, one proposal, one budget, or even one idea, except to talk about cutting and balancing, cutting the heart out of the neediest people in our country: children, senior

citizens, the mentally ill, disabled, and the poor.

Balancing with the idea that we can get blood out of a turnip, that we can provide services and provide opportunities with very little or no money.

There are a lot of things that I do not know, but I do know one thing. I know that as Frederick Douglass taught, in this world we may not get all that we pay for, but we most certainly must pay for all that we get. We cannot have a great, civilized, and humane nation without paying the cost; if all we can do is cut, cut, cut, all that we will get is blood, blood, blood.

I tell you, the blood of the people will be on the hands of those who did the cutting.

URGING MAJORITY TO JOIN IN BUDGET PROCESS BY PRESENTING THEIR PLAN

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as a freshman Member of this House, I have heard a lot of stories about the frenetic pace of the opening of the previous Congress. I heard of votes being taken late at night and working weekends. Now that I am here, elected by the people of the Ninth District of Texas, I cannot help but wonder what happened.

Is this what the majority means when they talk about wanting less Government?

Mr. Speaker, if this is the session when we are going to agree to do a balanced budget plan, we need to see activity from the other side of the aisle. They have criticized the President's plan. They have even called on the President to submit a second budget plan before submitting their own first budget on the most important issue this Congress will debate. I and many of my freshman colleagues are still waiting to see the evidence of the bipartisanship that we have heard so much about.

I join the Democratic leadership today in asking the majority party to join the budget process by presenting their plan. There are only 13 legislative days left until the April 15 budget deadline.

WE MUST MAKE CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE OUR TOP PRIORITY IN THIS SESSION OF CONGRESS

(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, we are voting today on a resolution regarding the display of the Ten Commandments. Whatever Members vote on this resolution, I think we can all agree: This is not the most pressing issue that is facing our Nation today.

Today the American people are much more concerned about the 10 million

children living without health insurance in this country than they are with the issue of whether or not we hang the Ten Commandments on the wall.

We all know actions speak louder than words, and the Ten Commandments are important words; important words to me. But what about our actions? What is this body doing to help the children in this Nation, over 70,000 in my home State of Connecticut alone, that will go to sleep tonight without health insurance?

We are only spending time on this issue of the Ten Commandments because the GOP operative, William Kristol, suggested that this be done in the March 10 edition of the conservative publication, the Weekly Standard. The American people should be driving the agenda of this House and not Republican conservative operatives. We must make children's health care our top priority in this session of the Congress.

INFLATION DOES EXIST

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the fix is in. The American people are not yet aware of it. If we look on the front page of the Washington Post we see it: "Greenspan Backs Panel to Rule on Inflation Levels."

The dirty little back room deal that is about to be cut here between the White House and the Republican leadership is to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy, capital gains, business as usual at the Pentagon, and still balance the budget.

How do we do that? We do that through the magic of the CPI. We define away inflation and tell those seniors whose cost of health care is doubling at twice the rate of inflation every year, oh, it is better. It might cost more, you might not be able to afford it, but we are going to reduce your cost of living because it is better health care; that does not count as inflation.

We are going to say to the middle class whose taxes are going to go up if they lose indexation, oh well, yes, your taxes went up, but you know, that is because inflation does not really exist.

If inflation does not really exist, why are Alan Greenspan and the other members of the Federal Reserve Board paying themselves and their staff healthy 5 and 6 percent salary increases every year? That must not have anything to do with inflation.

It is time to play straight with the American people. Let us not politicize the CPI and stick it to seniors, the middle class, and children once again.

TIME TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(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, as a freshman, as a Democrat in the minority, and as a member of the Committee on the Budget, we have seen so many different things come before our committee, but we have seen no action. We have talked for many days and many months about campaign finance scandals, yet the main business of the people of America is being ignored.

This procrastination cannot go on. The President has submitted a budget, a budget that perhaps Members on both sides of the aisle may disagree on certain elements, but it is time to get on with that business; debate it, argue it, amend it, do whatever we must do, but let us forget about the political rhetoric. Let us move together in a bipartisan fashion. Let us work on the issues of Medicare, Medicaid, education, all of the real important issues to the people of my district in Rhode Island and in America.

Let us stop this bickering. Let us move forward with a budget and let the Republicans, if they truly believe in making sure that this is an effective Congress, come forward with effective changes. Let us debate it and vote on it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each 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 votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 1 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA ON SUCCESS OF RECENT NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH PEACE PROCESS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 17) congratulating the people of Guatemala on the success of the recent negotiations to establish a peace process for Guatemala.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 17

Whereas on December 29, 1996, the Government of Guatemala and the representatives of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca signed an historic peace accord ending 36 years of armed confrontation;

Whereas the peace accord includes the creation of a commission to implement a wide range of reforms to the political, economic, social, and judicial systems of Guatemala, including an enhanced respect for human rights and the rule of law, improved health and education services, attention to the needs of refugees and displaced persons, and the role of the military in a democratic society;

Whereas the peace accord represents the completion of a long and important negotiation process with the goal of achieving lasting peace, national reconciliation, political stability, and renewed economic growth in Guatemala; and

Whereas lasting peace, political stability, and economic development in Guatemala is in the best interest of all nations of the Western Hemisphere, including the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) congratulates the Guatemalan Government of President Alvaro Arzu for its extraordinary accomplishments in negotiating an end to hostilities and beginning the process of national reconciliation and reconstruction;

(2) recognizes the commitment of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca in Guatemala to agree to end the devastating warfare and to resolve their differences in a peaceful manner within a democratic political arena;

(3) commends all of the people of Guatemala for their determination to achieve a lasting peace and encourages their strong commitment to democratic principles and social justice for all; and

(4) affirms the commitment of the United States to help support a sustainable peace and development of strong democratic institutions in Guatemala.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. GALLEGLY], the original sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 17, a resolution I sponsored which congratulates President Arzu, the URNG, and the people of Guatemala for their recent success in concluding a peace agreement which brings to an end a civil war which has raged more than 30 years and has cost the lives of over 100,000 Guatemalans.

This resolution is one of those good news stories involving the Western Hemisphere which, as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I am very happy to report to my colleagues. The signing of the peace accords on December 29 concluded 6 years of negotiations between the two sides and established a framework within which the country will now embark on a process of peace, reconciliation, and reconstruction.

The Guatemalan people now join nations such as El Salvador and Nicaragua in choosing peace over war, democracy over anarchy, economic development over poverty and chaos, and social justice over exploitation and abuse.

The accords pose numerous challenges, and their success will surely test the wills and commitment of all sides. But the goals established in the