

have been interested in. With him aiding and assisting us in this particular effort, I believe that we will also be successful.

I want to go out of my way, though, to thank the individuals who came here tonight to speak in behalf of this issue: The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. BLAGOJEVICH], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. SHIMKUS], the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SESSIONS], who joined us, and, of course, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT].

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude this special order, there are a few comments that I would like to make in regard to this subject. In recent editorials, both the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun-Times called for the United States to adopt a phased-in approach to open skies if Japan continues to resist complete deregulation of air service between our two nations. The Sun-Times wrote, "Negotiations should not be allowed to collapse into an all-or-nothing conclusion." The Tribune said, "The choice doesn't have to be between immediate open skies or the status quo. The United States and Japan can allow more flights and new alliances that will promote business and growth."

Our largest aviation trading partner is Canada. Until 1995, the air transport market was extremely restricted. Like Japan, Canada feared open skies. What United States and Canadian negotiators forged was not an open skies agreement. It was something less. For example, beyond rights were and remain limited. The result, however, has been extraordinary. In the first year of the agreement, an added \$2 billion was pumped into the United States and Canadian economies.

O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, the Midwest's primary aviation hub, is the world's busiest, but it has been mentioned several times earlier tonight that it ranks only 30th in the world for international passenger travel. This is a direct result of the restrictions of the 1952 bilateral agreement.

The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. BLAGOJEVICH] mentioned that back in 1952, the Baltimore Orioles did not exist. They were still the St. Louis Browns. The Oakland A's did not exist, either. They were the Philadelphia A's. But if we go back to that period of time, to show you that the expansion that has taken place in so many areas has not occurred in the aviation industry in regards to our relationship with Japan, there were eight teams in the National League, eight teams in the American League, and look at how many teams we have today.

The same thing could be talked about in regards to the National Football League, the great expansion since 1952; the National Basketball Association; the National Hockey League. Every-

thing has expanded. More people are involved, more businesses created. Yet our relationship with the Japanese in regards to aviation has been stymied because of the Japanese refusal to liberalize the agreements that were agreed to back in 1952, before rock and roll, as the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. BLAGOJEVICH] mentioned here earlier.

The point I want to make is that we must get the relationship between the United States and Japan into the 21st century. The Japanese need it, we need it in this country, and for far too long we in the Midwest, the East, and the South have been deprived of the opportunity to expand our business dealings, our tourism with Japan.

We have a historic opportunity this month to explode the business we can do with Japan. All we have to do is have our negotiators be willing to take something less than open skies. Take the deal that I outlined the first time I spoke. It will be beneficial to every carrier in this country. It will be beneficial to every business in this country. And most importantly, it will be beneficial to every citizen of this Nation.

TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am here this evening to really report good news and bad news on the level of teen pregnancy. Because we care about our young people, and because they care about themselves, we must celebrate the good news and work to improve the bad.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that fewer North Carolina teenagers became pregnant in 1996 than in 1995. It was the sixth year in a row that the teen pregnancy rate has fallen in North Carolina, and that is good news.

The bad news is although the teen pregnancy rate has fallen, and that rate continues to fall, it has been rising in many countries including the United States. And in 1996, the teen pregnancy rate for North Carolina girls between the ages of 15 and 19 was 10th highest in the country, 89.8 out of 1,000. That is indeed the bad news.

I am here today for our young people, because they care and they need to have an opportunity. They want a job, they want a career, they want a chance. They want to be both positive and productive in their future. Our young people want an education, a career and a chance, a chance for the future to make a difference, not only in their lives, but in their communities' and in their families' lives.

I have had now nearly one dozen teen pregnancy forums in my district over the past few years, and for the express purpose of helping our young people look towards achieving their goals of having a career and having a positive future. In those forums, we focused on

the importance of both boys and girls taking responsibility to prevent adolescent pregnancy.

Premature pregnancy can affect teens physically, but more importantly it impairs their stride toward success. Each year approximately 1 million teens become pregnant. Once a teenager becomes pregnant, there simply is no good solution to that problem. The best solution is to prevent the pregnancy in the first place. The "Kids Having Kids" report released by the Robinhood Foundation gives the alarming costs and consequences of teenage childbearing. It shows that teenage childbearing costs U.S. taxpayers a staggering \$6.9 billion each year, and the cost to the Nation in lost productivity rises to as much as \$29 billion annually.

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The consequences to the families and to the children of these teen parents in health, social, and economic development are devastating.

Let me just cite a few of those report findings. More childhood health problems: They are more likely to be born prematurely, and 50 percent more likely to be born with low birth weight than if their mothers had been older when they were born.

Increased child abuse: They are twice as likely to be abused and neglected if they are born to teenage parents. Trouble in school: They are 50 percent more likely to repeat grades and to perform significantly worse on cognitive development tests.

Reproducing the cycle of poverty: The girls born to adolescent moms are more than 83 percent more likely to become teen moms themselves, 83 percent.

Behind bars: The teenage sons of adolescent mothers are up to 2.7 times more likely to land in prison than their counterparts in the comparative group.

By extension, adolescent child bearing in and of itself costs taxpayers roughly \$1 billion each year to build and maintain prisons for the sons of young teenage mothers.

Kids having kids is the most comprehensive report done on the costs and consequences of teenage pregnancy to parents, children, and society. This ground breaking report graphically illustrates the financial loss in terms of social and economic costs to our Nation. I want young people to be in the optimum position to prepare for the rest of their lives. That means postponing sexual involvement until a much later time in their life when they are mature on these decisions.

There are positive options we should make sure that all of our teenagers have as they grow to be adults. Young people should recognize those positive options. But we should make them available to them. We must provide real choices for a real chance in life.

Some of the young people in North Carolina have taken this first step, and we want to say congratulations to

them. However, Mr. Speaker, the good news is that they have done that. The bad news is not enough have done that.

We are part of the responsibility, and we are part of the solution to make sure that the bad news turns into good news.

TAX CODE NEEDS REVAMPING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk tonight about a number of issues, but before I do so, I wanted to commend the gentlewoman from North Carolina on a very, very important topic, one which I think is probably one of the biggest issues in America today, and certainly I appreciate your leadership on it. I am from Savannah, your hometown. As the gentlewoman knows, we have a tremendous problem because of so many teenage pregnancies.

Mrs. CLAYTON. I appreciate the gentleman recognizing this as an important problem, and part of the thing I have been trying to get my colleagues to recognize is we are part of the problem if we are not part of the solution. We as adults in society or parents or leaders or colleagues in this deliberative body, we have to make opportunities for young people to say yes to positive options, rather than their saying yes to negative ones.

As the gentleman and I know, there are no good solutions to teenage pregnancy. Once they are pregnant, there are a lot of consequences to that action. There is a young kid raising a kid. That kid, as I said earlier, may have societal problems where they draw on the public for a variety of their assistance. They are sometimes behind in school, the young ladies sometimes repeat that cycle, and part of my bringing this issue up is to suggest that all of us have a responsibility.

I am not here to hold them up in scorn. I am up here to say I care about young people, and if I care about them, I want them to be positive in life, and teenage pregnancy gets in the way of them developing themselves and being the adult that they could be.

Mr. KINGSTON. I agree with the gentlewoman. I was speaking the other day in Brunswick High School, to the junior school, a lot of 16-year-old kids. The young women in that class were particularly interested in a lot of issues, but we got on the success of abortion and so forth, and the subject of choice, and one of the things that I said is remember, you are 16 years old. Decisions about sex are tremendous, major league, life-affecting decisions. You may be pro-life, you may be pro-choice. Whatever your decision is, it is a major league decision when you get into that arena.

So I would say to you, young 16-year-old boys and girls, be very, very care-

ful. This is not deciding what kind of car you are going to drive, what you are going to study, what sport you are going to play or what band you are going to go to. This is a major league decision, whatever you choose.

You need to be very, very cautious about it. Sometimes I think that we as adults do not talk to the kids enough. I have a 14-year-old daughter, and in talking to her, and then turning around and talking to my peer group parents, I am alarmed at what the parents are not talking to their children about.

To some degree, and I would say it is my opinion, if my daughter gets pregnant, it is not her school's fault, at some point it is not my fault or her mother's fault, it is her fault. To put that kind of mentality in her where she is shifting the responsibility and saying you know what, look at yourself in the mirror, you have to take a major role here, and we are always reluctant to talk frankly with our young people, and yet in so many ways they can handle it. But we have got to put them on notice and talk to them.

I find time and time again, parents are not talking to them. I have some drug statistics that I will share later on, it is just unbelievable that parents do not know what is going on with their kids.

Mrs. CLAYTON. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I want to say to you young people can handle more than you think, and they are handling more than you realize. We are afraid somehow to converse with our young people, but we are conversing non-verbally with them. We give mixed signals that it is not important. We talk about those things that are important to us. We have somehow a reservation about talking about sex.

I am old enough to know my mother had reservations in talking to me about it. I probably conveyed that similar reservation to my adult children, they tell me. But as we get older, we understand that we need to embrace that.

I have looked at talking about sexuality very early, through your church, your home setting, as well as your school, so young people can see that this is not a mystery. This is God's way of procreation, but it is also having people to be positive about themselves. Just as a young man is positive about himself running around the track. He abstained from smoking and staying up. Why? Because he wants to achieve something.

We want to have that same attitude in our young people, that they want to achieve something in life, so you have to say yes to this set of things, staying in school, making sure you do not put certain things in your body, you do not engage in premature sex, that you find those kind of development skills that challenge your mind. You take difficult classes. That is because you have a goal.

So if we begin giving young people goals, rather than scolding them, I

think you would have less young people in trouble. I commend the gentleman and express my appreciation for allowing me to interact. I know the gentleman cares about this issue.

Although we come at it a different way, I think abstinence certainly is the number one issue. I also think we should do a lot about family planning. I just think to ignore that young people are engaged in conversation with people is to ignore reality. That is why family planning is so important. That is why I think parents ought to talk to the young people, because other young people are talking to them.

You would be amazed. I just had a forum with a group to talk about the media's influence on them. You would be amazed at what young people are saying to each other about the subject.

Mr. KINGSTON. On the subject of family planning, the most effective course is going to be at home in the family, not the extended institutional family.

Mrs. CLAYTON. You know, all of our young people are not blessed like your young people and mine, and to ignore that is to dump them in the streets. They need some institution embracing them or somewhere where they get factual information and credible information, not the stuff they hear on the street.

Mr. KINGSTON. I agree. Parents have got to come back into the formula. We are moving in the same direction on this.

Let me say one thing that I have been appalled about with the parents. They are bombarded. When you ask parents, well, do you listen to your kids' rock and roll? And parents think rock and roll, they think the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd or Jimi Hendrix. They think of their rock and roll generation. They do not understand the Fujis or Tori Amos or some of the groups now that are out there. They are not singing "I want to hold your hand." They are very explicit on sex. Sometimes those explicit sex labels or lyrics are not on the CDs that the kids are buying. Parents should take that opportunity to say "let me see what you are listening to," because now most of them have the words out there.

I have had this happen with my daughter Betsy, because I like music, and I like to sit down with her. I cannot believe some of the stuff, the "F" word all the time; sex, all the time. What it does is it gives parents an opportunity to see what their kids are up against every single day of their life, but it also gives, between parent and child, an opportunity to talk. Sometimes parents say "I am a little reluctant to talk to my kids about sex or whatever, and I do not know how to bring it up."

All you have got to do is open some of their magazines, maybe read some of the inscriptions in the yearbook, read some of the lyrics on their records and CDs. There is a volume of material