

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, like every day in America, 3,000 more young Americans began the path on their addiction to nicotine.

And three other significant things happened concerning the plague of nicotine addiction, the most significant cause of preventable death in this country. The first was a positive one. President Clinton called for a comprehensive strategy to address youth smoking as we evaluate this tobacco settlement.

The second was also positive in a way. This House, which, along with the Senate, had snuck into the balanced budget agreement a \$50 billion tax break for the tobacco industry under the claim of small business protection, quickly repealed that when it became known to the public at large.

And the third thing that happened was that this House adjourned at the end of the day and a private jet from a U.S. tobacco company came over and took a plane-load of our colleagues to a Republican fund-raiser in New York. We need to address the campaign finance issue at the same time we address tobacco usage.

SUPPORT TAXPAYER DIVIDEND ACT

(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 Republican Congress has done what many of our liberal colleagues have thought impossible. We balanced the Federal budget while at the same time providing much-needed tax relief for hard-working families of this country. To top it off, the Congressional Budget Office says that we will actually show a surplus as a result of this historic agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues not to take their eye off that ball. Any tax surplus generated represents too much money the Federal Government has taken from the hard working American people. This money must be used either to reduce the national debt or return to the people in the form of additional tax benefits.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER] for introducing the Taxpayer Dividend Act, which will ensure that this very important goal is met. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important bill.

PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION REGARDING FORMER MEMBER

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. I come before the House today to urge my colleagues to do what they know is right.

As many of my colleagues personally witnessed, Robert Dornan, a former

Member of this House, verbally assaulted me on the House floor yesterday. He used profane language, accused me of religious bigotry, called my integrity into question, and by tone of voice and the context of his remarks clearly attempted to lure me off the floor into a physical altercation.

I offered a privileged resolution to make clear that behavior like Mr. Dornan's is never acceptable on the House floor. Now there is some talk that some may seek to table the resolution when it comes to the floor today. With the American people watching us on C-SPAN, what kind of message does that send to the public about this institution? What kind of standards does that set for this House? What kind of example does that set for our children, that profanities and threats are the way to solve differences of opinion?

Mr. Speaker, I hope and trust that, as a body, we truly are above that and that my colleagues will vote against any motion to table. Vote for the resolution and for maintaining the highest standard of conduct and decorum in the House.

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY: UTAH'S SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO PAY FOR CREATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today is the 1-year anniversary of President Clinton's declaration of the massive Utah monument in my district. Within the monument are 175,000 acres of school trust lands. They contain vast deposits of coal, large quantities of oil, gas, and hard rock minerals. The total value is in the billions of dollars.

A year ago, the President stood in Arizona and promised that creating this national monument should not and will not come at the expense of Utah's children and vowed to create a working group, including Utah's congressional delegation, to find equivalent lands for exchange. A year later, no working group exists, no member of the Utah delegation has been contacted, and the Utah School Trust has been unable to open negotiations.

Mr. President, I ask for your help. With 48 of my colleagues, I am sending you today a letter asking for the creation of the promised working group. The burden of your decision to create the monument should not, and it must not, fall on Utah's schoolchildren.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The Chair would remind the gentleman that Members should address the Chair and not the President.

BRING UP THE MENENDEZ RESOLUTION

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I come today as a member of the Committee on House Oversight who, for 9 months, has been looking into scheduling special meetings for the investigation of the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ].

I come to Members today to ask that the integrity of the House be maintained, that we bring up today the Menendez resolution, and that we put this 9-month investigation to rest. It is imperative, Mr. Speaker, and I call on the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS], the chairman of our Committee on House Oversight, who has scheduled a meeting next Wednesday to discuss the Sanchez investigation, come to a close.

The results show that the gentlewoman from California won the election favorably. It is very unfortunate that a former colleague would come on this floor and insult the integrity of this House. I urge the Speaker and Members of the Congress, bring up the Menendez resolution today. Do not table it. Let us get on with the business of the American people.

INTRODUCTION OF MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask bipartisan support for a new legislative initiative called the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, legislation which will bring substantial tax relief to over 21 million American working couples who have been penalized with higher taxes just because they are married.

Let me ask this question of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Is it fair that the tradition of our most basic institution in society, marriage, is punished under our current Tax Code? And is it fair, is it right, that it is really to a married couple's advantage to divorce and to live together because they would save money on taxes?

That is the current situation, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-one million American couples pay about \$1,400 a year in higher taxes just because they are married. That is approximately equal to 6 months' worth of car payments, tuition for a child's education in parochial school, or for mom or dad to go back to a community college and pursue education. It is unfair. It is wrong. Let me share an editorial in the Kankakee Daily Journal, a paper in my district. "The marriage tax is an unfair imposition. The Code should be rewritten to eliminate it."

I ask bipartisan support, and I ask my colleagues to join with the 180 cosponsors of the Marriage Tax Elimination Act.

SUPPORT THE MENENDEZ RESOLUTION

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of our democracy is to debate our differences in an open and civil manner. Without respectful disagreement, there can be no freedom. When we lose elections or when we lose battles in this Chamber, we understand that this is the will of the people. These are the hallmarks of our society, and they are the reason that our democratic system has survived for over 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, these principles are under attack. A former Member of this body has chosen to violate the principles that have governed this House for so long. He has used his floor privileges to advance his personal agenda. He has verbally attacked a Member of this Congress, and he has disrupted the democratic process.

I rise today to support the privileged resolution being offered by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ]. We must not allow any former Member of Congress, of any party, to set foot in this Chamber if it discredits and violates the integrity of this House.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, some education reforms weaken the control of parents over their children's education while others strengthen them. For those interested in increasing the control of the Federal Government over the education of children, A-plus accounts will be something you will want to attack.

A-plus accounts put more power in the hands of parents to ensure what is best for their kids. And what is best for their kids always includes a school where kids can feel safe, where teachers are dedicated to giving students the best education possible, and, most of all, where children are surrounded by an environment that inspires hope and confidence that a bright future belongs to them. This is not the case for millions of children across America today.

A-plus accounts are education savings accounts that will give hope and a better education for many of those children who are trapped in schools that rob them of a bright future. If letting more children share in the American dream is more than a slogan, then A-plus accounts should be supported by Republicans and by Democrats alike.

IN SUPPORT OF MENENDEZ RESOLUTION

(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, I rise in support of the privileged resolution being offered this afternoon by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ].

Yesterday, I stood on the floor of this House and I listened to my colleague be verbally accosted by a former Member of this body. This former Member has pressing business pending before this House, and he should not even be allowed on this floor while the matter is being considered. This is the U.S. Congress, the people's House. This is no place for this sort of language and for this sort of behavior.

If this body is to retain any integrity, we must bar all former Members from the floor when they have any matter pending before this body. The American people have lost so much faith and confidence in this body over the course of the last several years. Let us not give them another reason to lose any more.

KEEP THE HOUSE FLOOR FREE OF INTIMIDATION

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to this side of the Chamber because I wanted to speak especially to my Republican colleagues.

Later today, the House will consider a privileged resolution regarding the conduct of a former Member of this House. I do not want to get into the particulars of what the former Member said and did during his visit on the House floor yesterday. What I want to do is to appeal to my Republican friends to stand up for the integrity, order, and decorum of this House when a vote is taken on this resolution.

No Member of this House should be subjected to verbal abuse, harassment, or intimidation by anyone, not on the floor of the House of Representatives. This vote goes to the heart of this beloved democratic institution. I appeal to my Republican colleagues to stand up and later vote for the privileged resolution. Send a message that offensive language, threats, and intimidation will not be tolerated on the floor of the House of Representatives.

□ 1030

COVERING UP FOR THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DNC

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, as always, I was inspired by the talk of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS]. He was a leader in the sixties. I think he still is a leader here. I want to come to this side of the aisle to impress upon my friends on the Democratic side to start moving forward and

doing things to clean up their own house on campaign finance before they go to the other side and talk about how we need to reform laws that they are not even obeying.

Today, Bob Woodward writes, "New documents provide stark new evidence that the party advertising in the Democratic scheme was illegal." On the front page of the New York Times, not regularly a Republican supporter, it says in one instance, "blatant improper lobbying of the President's security council, Ms. Heslin, told of her amazement that the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Donald L. Fowler, dared to call in October 1995 to say that a CIA agent would be telephoning" to lobby to let this dangerous international criminal into the White House. Of course, we know the rest of this shady scheme.

What this is amounting to on the side of the Democrats is covering up for the White House and the Democratic National Committee. Do your job. Do the American people's job. Clean up this mess.

SUPPORT PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION TO BAR FORMER MEMBER FROM FLOOR

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, if there is any principle that Republican-Democratic Members of Congress should be able to agree upon, it is that no outside person should be allowed to walk onto this floor and verbally attack in crude vulgar language any Member of this House. For that reason, I want to urge all Members, from both parties, to support today the privileged resolution to bar former Member Robert Dornan from floor privileges.

Mr. Speaker, if I used in this statement the crude language used by Mr. Dornan against our colleague yesterday, my words would be struck from the House RECORD and I would be denied the right to speak, even though I am a sitting Member.

Why should an outside member, someone not an elected Member of this body, be treated any differently?

Mr. Speaker, this historic House should be a sanctuary of democracy, where all elected Members from both parties should be able to exercise their constitutional obligations to be the voice of their constituents. No Member should exercise that authority and that right with fear of being attacked by an outside member of this body. Vote for this privileged resolution today.

DO NOT LOSE SIGHT OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, as much as I appreciate my colleagues on the other