

Vote "yes" on the Farr amendment, the second vote this morning.

PRESIDENT CLINTON READY TO IMPOSE NEW ENERGY TAXES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, there he goes again. President Clinton has stepped up efforts to force compliance with the treaty limiting greenhouse gas emissions. And with a knee-jerk reaction, how does he propose to accomplish this goal? Simply by raising taxes. That is right, a tax increase. A tax increase on energy.

The ink is not even dry on the newly enacted tax cut package and the President is proposing a new tax, a green tax, that will place an unbearable burden on our most vulnerable citizens. And for what? The treaty exempts 132 of the 166 nations of this world. This places the entire burden of reducing greenhouse emissions on the industrialized nations. That is us. This will not eliminate greenhouse gases, it merely changes the point of origin, the point of production.

By itself the Clinton-Gore-Browner Treaty will have a devastating effect on the American workers, but now the President wants to add insult to injury with his green tax. I ask the President to think hard about his ill-conceived green tax.

EVERY AMERICAN CHILD DESERVES A QUALITY 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, I want to disassociate myself with any of this green tax stuff, but what I am here for this morning is to talk about the fact that every American child deserves a quality education. Quality education needs to be available to all students whether or not they can afford it.

Many families in our districts cannot afford to send their children to private schools even with vouchers. School vouchers only address a small percentage of the children and they take away scarce dollars from public education.

It is not our American heritage to make quality education only available to a few select children and then forget the rest. Unlike other countries, we strive to educate everyone, not just the elite. Education needs to be available to all Americans, not just the ones who can afford it. That is why in our Nation's recent history public education is for everyone.

In a recent poll, 71 percent of Americans want to reform public education. Almost the same number support public education. We need to listen to the American people. They want to improve our public schools. There are problems in public schools and we need

to address these problems, but let us fix public education, not experiment with our Nation's future.

WHITE HOUSE SHOULD FORGET ABOUT ENERGY TAX INCREASE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, just when we think our pocketbook is safe for a while, those folks over at the White House begin to dream up yet another new tax for the American people. Apparently, those same liberal economists who gave us the largest single peacetime tax increase in American history back in 1993 are now hard at work putting together an energy tax scheme that will increase the price of gasoline by up to 25 cents per gallon and the cost of home heating and electricity by hundreds of dollars a year.

Here is what one anonymous Clinton administration official reportedly said about this possible new energy tax. Obviously, we would want to do it in a way that is least obvious to consumers, but, any way we do it, consumers are going to pay the cost. That is scary.

Mr. Speaker, working Americans are finally going to benefit from some tax relief next year, thanks to the work of this Congress. Let us let them enjoy it and let us urge President Clinton to forget about any new taxes.

VOUCHERS PROVIDE PARENTS WITH A FALSE CHOICE

(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, our Republican friends are promoting a plan to take taxpayers' dollars out of the public school system and to put it into private schools, benefiting the few and the wealthy. The majority of the American people oppose this idea for a very good reason. This proposal would steal money from the public schools, money that could be used to fix leaky roofs or buying new textbooks or computers for our kids.

My Republican colleagues like to use the term "school choice." But vouchers provide parents with a false choice. Vouchers do not even come close to covering the high cost of tuition at the best private schools, making the voucher useless for working families and providing the greatest benefit for wealthy families who can already afford the cost of that tuition.

Democrats will oppose Republican efforts to try out this new experiment, because our children are not guinea pigs. We are not going to experiment with their lives and with their future. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Republican voucher plan.

AWESOME POWER OF IRS HAS CORRUPTING INFLUENCE ON ITS AGENTS

(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, what does it say about the IRS when its own agents fear the IRS? The IRS is an agency that puts extraordinary pressure on good people to do the wrong thing, even to the point of using criminal intimidation tactics to break the hard working men and women of America.

There is an old saying out there that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Well, the awesome power of the IRS has had a corrupting influence on its own agents and everyone knows that unchecked power that is accountable to no one is a guarantee of abuse.

Notice how IRS agents who have had the courage to come forward and expose the outrage never say they are talking about a few bad apples or even the occasional rogue acts who give everyone a bad name. No, these courageous agents have all willingly said the IRS has a corporate culture that gives a green light to bullies, gives free rein to intimidation tactics and positively institutionalizes a quota mentality where success is not defined by honest work but by how much money can be seized. This agency is a national disgrace.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Republican leadership in the Senate successfully blocked meaningful campaign finance reform. So what do the rules now mean? It means that it is perfectly legal for us to donate, or a corporation or a union, this amount of money to the political party of our choice.

That might create some confusion in our minds about what that means for us. Does that mean that if we are an individual making \$24,000, \$25,000 a year, is it legal to donate \$1 billion to the political party of our choice? Yes, it is. If we are a small business that grosses \$100,000 a year, is it legal to donate \$1 billion to the political party of our choice? Yes, it is. If we are a retiree living on a fixed income, is it legal for us to donate \$1 billion to the political party of our choice? Yes, it is.

Those are the rules. Those are the rules the Republican leadership blocked from being changed yesterday.

□ 1030

WHERE ARE THE KEY WITNESSES?

(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, a great article today in the Los Angeles Times: "The Hubbell Satellite Finds a New Star 25,000 Light-years Away," an amazing story.

I have got an idea. I am writing the UCLA scientist team who pulled this together saying: "Dear Scientists: I read with much interest and excitement your discovery of a star located 25,000 light-years away from Earth. I congratulate you on this amazing feat.

"I also have a question for you: We, in Congress, have been trying to hold hearings to determine if certain people gave a certain administration illegal contributions. Our problem is that key witnesses have inconveniently disappeared. This upset lots of good Democrats and Republicans who want to get to the bottom of this scandal.

"Question: Do you think that we could use the powerful infrared eyes of your amazing telescope to find the following people?" And I have them listed here. These are Charlie Trie, Ming Chen, Stanley Ho, John Muncy, Ng Lap Seng, folks who are big Democratic donors who have disappeared.

If we could use the Hubbell, we could find these folks and get to the bottom of this scandal. I hope the scientists write us back and tell us we can use the telescope.

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of early childhood development.

A few months ago, I attended the White House Conference on Early Childhood Development. Recent research suggests that the first 3 years of life are crucial for a child's emotional and intellectual development. The formation of neuro pathways in the brain is directly related to the quality of care young children receive in the first 3 years of life.

Early and developmentally appropriate care and education are vital to the health and well-being of our children. But today, one-quarter of all children in this country are growing up in poverty. Teachers and principals of Maine elementary schools tell me that so many kids today lack the basic social skills that allow ordinary interaction with others.

We have had lots of rhetoric about education. What is missing is the national will to leave no child behind and the resources to make it happen. I believe that a country that can support the salaries of the NBA and NFL and major league baseball can take better care of our kids.

TRIBUTE TO CARLINVILLE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DICK SPOHR

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the building was destroyed by fire. The walls were the only thing left standing. In September 1987, the Carlinville High School, which lies in the 20th District of Illinois, was destroyed by fire.

In a move that is common in my area of Illinois, Carlinville High School Principal Dick Spohr rallied students, parents, and community leaders. Principal Spohr organized a community-wide effort to rebuild the school so that classes could resume immediately.

Ten years later, Mr. Spohr was named the 1997 Illinois Principal of the Year by Metlife Insurance and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. However, this kind of effort is nothing new for Mr. Spohr, who believes that people make up the real school. It is the teachers, the parents, the staff, and especially the students.

As Congress tackles the tough issues, like the voucher system, national testing, and higher education reauthorization, each Member must keep in mind Mr. Spohr's sacrifice and resolve. Principal Spohr believes in the system and is always willing to give the students the freedom to make their own mistakes and rejoice in their own victories.

IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OF ALL OUR CHILDREN

(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, from the early days when the word was, "Go west, young man and young woman," and as the wagons circled in the West, the one-room schoolhouse was a symbol of opportunity for Americans. Those new Westerners, those pioneers, wanted to make sure that all of our children had the opportunity to be educated.

But, Mr. Speaker, what do we have today? We have our Republican friends pulling the plug on public education. Whom do they have as a guinea pig? Washington, DC, with the misguided proposal for 2,000 children, in a city with multitudes of children, some \$3,200 voucher as a bribe to accept this thing called vouchers.

It is easy to escape from boosting the quality of public education, easy to escape from reinforcing the teaching of math and science throughout this Nation, easy to escape from rebuilding the infrastructure of our schools, fixing leaking roofs. The whole idea is to pull the plug on public education.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we will not stand for it. I am here to say that I stand for public education and the education of all of our children.

RAISING PRIVATE BONDING AUTHORITY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listen with sadness to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE], because good people can disagree, and to impugn the motives of those who simply want to give parents parental choice, all parents parental choice.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. I have 1 minute, ma'am, and I will use my 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I wish you would yield for false statements.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the gentlewoman's words be taken down.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If he is accusing me, I will interrupt him.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I regret to ask that the gentlewoman's words be taken down. She just issued a false statement.

Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to withdraw the request in the spirit of civility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Does the gentleman insist that the words be taken down?

Mr. HAYWORTH. No, Mr. Speaker. If I can indeed control the time and offer my point of view, I will be glad to do it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman withdraw his demand?

Mr. HAYWORTH. With respect to the civility of the House and with the knowledge that I control the time, I will withdraw the request.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, good people may disagree. It is sad when people cannot allow free and open debate.

What I am simply saying to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE], and to all my colleagues who may disagree with me on a myriad of issues, is that there is nothing wrong with parental choice, there is nothing wrong with giving parents of every race and political persuasion and every ethnic group a chance to decide how best to educate their children.

And for those who want to join with me to help educate in the public sector, as we should, I would invite them to cosponsor the Education Land Grant Act that I am working on for public schools and to join with my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], and me in raising the private bonding authority through private banks and financial houses from \$10 million to \$25 million so we can get a handle on education.

The fact is, education is too big a problem to ignore and we will all do better when we quit impugning each other's motives.

NO CONSULTATION WITH RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

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