

scored high on their tests. She has always been punctual and we can count readily her attendance record as almost perfect.

The in-depth analysis of Dr. Davis' education and her numerous accomplishments as an educator, her work in the church and her volunteer work in education with children and extending charitable contributions to Riverside Hospital has made her a legendary character.

In an early age, Dr. Davis was trained in the Christian concepts of the "Golden Rule." Such training came from her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Davis.

Growing up in the Third Ward, she noticed early the challenge for a black teenage girl from Douglas Elementary School; she went to Jack Yates High School, which was then on Elgin Street. She studied so hard and at graduation time she was designated class valedictorian.

Upon leaving Jack Yates High School, she enrolled at Texas Southern University. At TSU she pursued her mission as a teacher in the School of Education. She graduated from TSU in 1953 receiving the B.A. and B.S. degrees with the highest honors. Summa Cum Laude was bestowed on her for such diligent study. Seeking to learn as much as she could, Dr. Davis in 1960, received a M.A. in English and History with the same distinction.

Her further study leading to doctorate was centered at Texas Southern University, University of Houston, and New York University. Determined to get her doctorate, she enrolled at Albany State College, from 1974–77, and she received the E.D.D., the highest degree in the field of education.

Her teaching career began in 1953, when she taught at Booker T. Washington, Junior High School under principal Bryant and principal J.R. Cunningham at Blackshear Elementary in 1954. For the past 25 years, she taught at Blackshear Elementary School under principal George Mundine.

I am pleased to join Dr. Edna Davis' family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating her on her life's accomplishments in education. Dr. Davis your monumental effort has given the gift of knowledge to your students who have become valued members of our society. Your commitment to excellence in education provided many of our children with the good news that studious pursuits, hard work, determination and perseverance will lead to success in life. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks for your commitment, without which, your students would not have the promise of an unlimited future. Your gift of knowledge to the Houston community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in recognition of a wonderful teacher, Dr. Edna P. Davis.

GROUNDHOG DAY IN WASHINGTON, DC

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

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many of my colleagues have had the chance to enjoy a great movie; it is called "Groundhog Day." And in there, Bill Murray had the recurring problem of waking up and it was Groundhog Day again and again and again, and he had to live the same experiences over and over and over again.

Well, we have our own version of Groundhog Day right here in Washington, D.C., because it was just 4 years ago, it seems like yesterday, that the Clinton administration proposed a Btu tax, and it was met with absolute outrage from across this country. Republicans and Democrats, people from all corners of America, rose up in indignation over a Congress, then controlled by the Democrats, that would move forward with such an onerous and burdensome tax that hits the elderly, the poor, the working middle class so unfairly, so regressively.

Well, it is Groundhog Day all over again. And we wake up to find what? That the Clinton administration has not learned the lessons; they want to relive that day over again of proposing another Btu tax on the American people.

Saturday, the Washington Times reported that the administration has an interagency analysis team that is looking at tax alternatives to fund the costs associated with the so-called global warming treaty that they are considering signing in Japan later this year. Of course, they want to keep this quiet. They did not want to let this get out. But out it has come.

That information from the Washington Times, combined with information uncovered by the Committee on Commerce, on which I serve, indicates that the severity of the tax that they are talking about makes what happened in 1993 look like child's play.

Let me just tell my colleagues about it. What they are talking about is, decreasing so-called greenhouse gases by just 20 percent by the year 2010 could require an increase in the Btu tax five times greater than that proposed by the Clinton administration in 1993.

What would that mean? A tax of just \$200 per ton on carbon could result in a 60 cent per gallon gasoline tax increase. I did not say the total tax would be 60 cents a gallon. The increase would be 60 cents a gallon. Thank you, Mr. President.

They are also talking about, on top of that, a 50-percent increase in the cost of home heating fuel. For those of us who need to heat our homes in the winter, that is devastating. It harms older Americans disproportionately, the working poor, middle-class taxpayers. It will hit nursing homes, veterans' hospitals, right between the eyes.

It will result in economic disaster, a 4.2 percent reduction, or \$350 billion reduction in our Nation's Gross Domestic Product in year one of this Btu tax, a loss of over a million jobs in the first year and 600,000 jobs lost every year after the first year right through the year 2020.

I just do not believe we can afford Groundhog Day, to live this nightmare all over again that we experienced in 1993. That is why I am filing a sense of Congress resolution putting us on record in opposition, making clear to the administration that we have no in-

tention in this Congress, this Republican Congress, of passing any Btu taxes and putting that burden on the backs of the American people.

I am very pleased that the National Taxpayers Union, the foremost organization fighting higher taxes, has come out in favor of this sense of Congress resolution and is going to join with us in this effort. But there is going to be a fight. I know there are a lot of people in this body who think this is a no-brainer, there is no chance this is going to move.

Let me tell my colleagues, we have an administration official who was quoted, on background of course, or anonymously, in the Washington Times as saying, in regard to this, yeah, it is going to be tough, but "we have a lot of educating to do."

□ 1815

I do not think there is enough educating to do to convince the American people that this Congress should take out of their pockets that kind of money, a 60-cent-a-gallon gas increase, or a doubling of home energy costs. That is just wrong. We cannot afford it, families cannot afford it, and it has to stop.

This is particularly unfair when we consider the fact that the administration has already exempted countries like China and India, and of course they will not have to pay these energy costs to pay for the global treaty being put in effect, only American taxpayers. That is just wrong and it is going to harm us even more.

My colleagues, I do not think there is any question that this excessive greenhouse tax appears to have all of the makings of a global group hug, leaving America's working poor, the middle class and the elderly flat out in the cold. We cannot afford it. I just hope for a change that Washington learns its lessons.

Usually Washington, under this administration, learns lessons slowly. This time, I am hoping that the American people will contact their Congressmen and women and when we gather back here, I know we are going to hear about it from each other, that when folks at home find out about this they are going to be indignant. They are saying we cannot afford a 60-cent-a-gallon gas tax increase or anything close to that, or any increase in our home energy costs.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to send a message loud and clear to the administration: We are not going to repeat the mistakes that they have tried to put on the backs of this country in the past.

TROOPS IN BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak briefly about three very important, but unrelated, topics.

First, it has now been more than 1 year since the President promised he would have our troops out of Bosnia. There is no vital U.S. interest there. There is no threat to our national security there. We should not send young American men and women to overseas battlefields unless there is a definite threat to our national security or a vital U.S. interest. The American people do not want us there.

I remember reading 3 or 4 years ago on the front page of the Washington Post that we had our troops in Haiti picking up garbage and settling domestic disputes. Now we have our military doing social work in Bosnia. U.S. soldiers should not be turned into international social workers.

We have spent many billions in Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti, and now Bosnia, trying to settle disputes that we cannot solve unless we continue pouring billions and billions and billions of dollars into those countries. These are billions that some day we will very much wish that we had back to help our own people.

INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR IRS IS UNFOUNDED

Mr. DUNCAN. Second, Mr. Speaker, a few days ago on the floor, I criticized on this floor as strongly as I could the Treasury-Postal appropriations bill for giving the Internal Revenue Service a \$538 million increase in funding. What I did not know then and could hardly believe when I found it out later was that in conference \$120 million more was added.

Many of us voted against this, but the Congress passed a \$650 million increase for the IRS just at the conclusion of hearings on the IRS showing horrible abuse of the American people by that agency.

The cover of this week's Newsweek Magazine really says it all: "Inside the IRS: Lawless, Abusive, and Out of Control." Those are not my words, Mr. Speaker, those are the words of Newsweek magazine. Newsweek says the IRS is lawless, abusive, and out of control.

Mr. Speaker, the people want us to do away with the IRS, or at least drastically simplify the Tax Code. They especially do not want us giving the IRS huge increases in funding. If this is done next year, there is at least a small but fast-growing group of us that will attempt as hard as we can to defeat any increase in funding for the IRS.

SPORTS SALARIES HAVE GONE BERSERK

Mr. DUNCAN. Third and last, Mr. Speaker, is something that makes almost everyone in this country feel underpaid, and that is the scandal of ridiculously lavish sports salaries. The sports world quite simply has gone berserk.

A 21-year-old basketball player that very few people have even heard of signed a contract a few days ago for \$123 million over the next 6 years. A couple of years ago my two sons and I were driving along and we heard that a baseball pitcher signed for \$18 million for 3 years.

I asked my sons, "Do you know how much \$6 million a year is?" The average person in my district makes between \$21,000 and \$22,000 a year. If a person averaged \$25,000 a year for 40 years he would make \$1 million. If a person is way above average and making \$50,000 a year he would make \$2 million over a 40-year career. A person would have to average \$150,000 a year for 40 years to make the \$6 million this pitcher now makes pitching a baseball one day out of every four. This is totally out of whack, Mr. Speaker.

An earlier speaker tonight discussed what he called a matter of fairness. Americans pride themselves on being fair. This is not fair at all, to pay even mediocre athletes several million dollars a year. No one can really earn or deserve some of these salaries, yet we are all helping pay these salaries through higher prices for everything.

I have always fought against higher taxes, but we really should greatly increase the taxes on all of these athletes, movie stars and CEO's who make over \$1 million a year, and lower taxes on middle-income people, even if only as a simple matter of fairness.

We also should begin a boycott of all of these major league sports teams who are paying these ridiculous salaries, and especially a boycott of all products with their nicknames on them because they take in so much money in this way.

I know we will not do this, Mr. Speaker, but if these salaries continue to escalate in such a crazy manner, the Congress should at least take action on the tax front. Already, mainly thanks to big government, the gap between the rich and the poor is growing rapidly. We need to recognize this problem and do everything we can to make sure that America once again becomes the fair Nation that it was in the past.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE CAUGHT UNAWARES

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we are caught unawares without any warning. Last month there was a commuter strike in San Francisco where over 270,000 commuters found themselves without a way to work and a way home, when the 60-day cooling-off period expired on a labor dispute out there and the San Francisco Bay area's commuter railroads were shut down.

About the same time here in Washington, afternoon commuters who were going home on VRE suddenly found that their trains were not leaving Union Station, and tens of thousands of them were stranded when dispatchers at Norfolk Southern called a wild-cat strike. Now, these were regional strikes, they were unforeseen but they caused a great deal of disruption.

What may be happening to our Nation that I think most of the Members

of this body are unaware of is another strike on the magnitude of the UPS strike. The gentleman from New York mentioned "Groundhog Day," where suddenly Bill Murray woke up and it was the same day all over again.

We could very well be facing that again later this month. The date: October 22. Amtrak is faced on that day with a possible national shutdown because of an impasse between the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way employees and themselves over wages and work rules.

What precipitated this latest crisis was a Presidential emergency board, actually ruling 232, recommending that Amtrak pay the union employees what amounts to \$25 million in wage increases, including some retroactive payments, and left another \$30 million in arbitration. If this pattern were to continue, if this Presidential emergency board ruling were applied to all 27,000 Amtrak employees, it would cost Amtrak an additional \$136 million. Amtrak, which as we all know is financially strapped, has simply taken the position that it cannot pay what it does not have, and it cannot pay these increases.

As I said, this 30-day cool-off period expires on October 22. That is one day after we return from recess. At that time, I fully expect that Congress will be in the middle of resolving a strike or taking steps to prevent a strike. If Amtrak is shut down, it will not be a commuter authority, it will not be like San Francisco or Virginia, it will be nationwide. It will not be thousands of commuters, it will be millions.

On the northeast corridor alone, think about this impact: Not only does Amtrak operate several hundred trains, but also commuter authorities in Boston, the MBTA operates over Amtrak territory; Connecticut DOT, Long Island Railroad, New Jersey Transit, SEPTA, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority; MARC and VRE. We are talking about commuters all up and down the northeastern corridor being unable to get to and from work. We are also talking about 73 freight trains on the northeastern corridor alone that would not be able to get to and from their customers.

If this happens, the strike in San Francisco will pale by comparison and it will not be one city.

What can we do about this? I would urge the Members of this body to come together and push for reauthorization of the Amtrak bill, or to authorize the Amtrak bill that has been reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on which I am a member.

I would also urge labor not to take this position of a win-at-all-costs position. Unfortunately, they are holding up the authorization legislation this year because they are opposed to the same language in the bill that two years ago they wrote, language which would have been enacted as part of this year's tax bill and given Amtrak access