

the Republican majority in the State House of Florida to 65 versus 55.

Mr. Speaker, as most people know, 1996 was the year for the first time since Reconstruction that the Republican Party had taken the State House in Florida, and now the State House majority is 65. My congratulations go out to Deborah and to all the Republicans who got involved in that race.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a quote from Tom Slade where he said, "Perhaps a key moment came in the endorsement of Martinez," the Democrat, "by one of the local editorial boards." The endorsement favored the Democrat in the race because of her willingness to raise taxes.

Mr. Speaker, Deborah Tamargo won on Republican principles of less taxes and less government.

□ 1015

IRS REFORM: WELCOME ABOARD, MR. PRESIDENT

(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, during the congressional recess I was back home meeting with constituents at townhall meetings. A recurring frustration expressed to me was, "you Republicans are the ones that proposed tax cuts, and you got them through; the President, who opposed them all along the way, now is taking credit for it. You Republicans proposed balancing the budget; the President opposed it all along the way, and now he is taking credit for it."

I always smile at such comments, because I view it as proof that the Republican agenda and ideals are winning.

Now, with IRS reform at the top of our agenda, we Republicans have pledged to the people of this country that we are going to overhaul from top to bottom the way the IRS conducts business. We are going to simplify the Tax Code, and make what is left of the IRS accountable to taxpayers. Since we made this proposal, the President and his advisers said they were going to oppose us. They defended the IRS and claimed it was running satisfactorily now.

Lo and behold, today, I picked up the Los Angeles Times. The front page story reports that "after weeks of vehement opposition," the President "has made an abrupt reversal" and is now supporting our call for IRS reform.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that in the near future the President will forget his original position, and will be taking full credit for our IRS proposals, too. When I think of President Clinton's tendencies in this regard, I am reminded of the sign Ronald Reagan kept on his desk: "There is no end to what a person can accomplish if they do not mind who gets the credit."

IRS reform. Welcome aboard, Mr. President.

SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the success of America is a direct result of its public school system. We were among the first nations in the world to provide for universal public education for all our children. I would venture to say that the majority of Members of this House and the overwhelming majority of their staff are products of the public school system in this country.

Why then, Mr. Speaker, is the Republican leadership of this House so hostile to our public schools. Let me say a word about the public school system in the Third Congressional District of Massachusetts, which I represent. In the city of Worcester, the families and community enthusiastically embrace the public school system. Eighty-seven percent of the children eligible for grades K through 12 attend public schools.

Working together as a community, Worcester School Superintendent Jim Garvey, teachers, parents, business leaders, area colleges and universities, and neighborhood groups have created a school district with topflight teachers providing education to every child.

This effort deserves our respect and our praise. Mr. Speaker, I will not support the majority's plan to dismantle our public education system. I urge my colleagues to reject these efforts on the House floor this week.

EDUCATION

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, reading, writing, and arithmetic are the basic building blocks of education. Today, I would like to talk about an education issue that just does not add up, no matter how we do the math.

A recent study found that 14 billion is allocated to the Department of Education for elementary and secondary programs. Of that \$14 billion, \$2 billion never reaches local school districts. This must be some crazy form of new math, because I cannot quite see how this adds up.

The Department of Education is spending our tax dollars on something our children never see in the classroom. We can apply algebra, geometry, calculus, but no matter how we look at this equation, we get the wrong answer.

That is why I support House Resolution 139, the Dollars to the Classroom resolution. This measure puts 90 percent of the Department of Education's elementary and secondary funds where they belong, in the classroom. It is pretty simple. Subtract the money from the Washington bureaucracy and add it to the local school districts. That equals better education for our

students and a better buy for taxpayers.

REFORM OF THE IRS AND TAX CODE

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to Congress, people told me that to be successful in Washington I had to know how to count my votes. I did not come to Congress to count votes. I came to make my vote count. One issue I want to speak out on today is the IRS.

Recent hearings in the Senate have only confirmed what millions of Americans have always known, the IRS is outdated, out of touch and out of control. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder the American people are growing frustrated with the way the IRS does business. The IRS recently spent \$4 billion on a computer program which was completely unable to function because it was literally overwhelmed by a Tax Code which is too complicated and too convoluted.

How can we expect the American people to comprehend a Tax Code when a \$4 billion computer cannot?

Mr. Speaker, I raise these issues not because I wanted to indict the IRS. I raise them because I want to improve it. We owe the American people more, much more. We owe them an IRS that is reasonable and we owe them a that is readable. Mr. Speaker, the world's freest people deserve the world's fairest tax system.

I do not think that is too much to ask. Let us tear down the Tax Code and build up the American people.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

(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, in 1992, there was one charter school in the United States of America. Today, there are over 1000. In the next 3 years, there are expected to begin 3,000 more. What.

Is a charter school and why do they seem to be growing and seem to be so popular? A charter school is a public school. It is publicly funded, but unlike most public schools these days that have all their rules and regulations dictated by Washington bureaucrats, charter schools have their own rules, their own goals and their own set of regulations. That is why they are so popular.

Every day when I speak to a teacher, she or he tells me about the paperwork that they must do, 2 to 3 hours' worth each week to send off to Washington or to Atlanta to the State Capitol. They tell me about going to seminars where they are told not to hug children, not to touch children, never to walk into a bathroom alone with a kid because of

harassment and so forth. I talked to parents who will no longer go to PTA meetings because they say it does not matter. We have no control anymore.

Mr. Speaker, charter schools return local control to those parents and those teachers and that classroom. That is why charter schools are so important and that is why the Republican conference is supporting them.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV.
JESSE JACKSON

(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, I rise this morning to pay tribute to the Reverend Jesse Jackson. The reason I do so is because I am delighted that the President of the United States has decided to select this man for all seasons to be Special Envoy to Africa.

Many of us have seen the works of Reverend Jackson and know full well his compassion and intellect, his commitment to world peace and humanity. What better position than to assign him as a Special Envoy to Africa, working with this great continent on humanitarian issues, on issues of peace, economic development, and social justice. It was Reverend Jackson who was at the pivotal point of working against apartheid in South Africa, one of the strong, eloquent agitators who provided for the freedom of the now distinguished statesman, President Nelson Mandela. Certainly a child of the movement and of the civil rights era, a protege of Dr. Martin Luther King, he was raised in the arena of understanding how to achieve peace.

We wish him well and he will make us very proud. Reverend Jackson is an American, but he is a world leader and we are delighted to have his leadership as a Special Envoy to Africa. Congratulations, Rev. Jesse Jackson.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON RULE FOR
H.R. 1270, THE NUCLEAR WASTE
POLICY ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is expected to meet on Friday, October 24, this Friday, to grant a rule which may restrict amendments for consideration of H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997. Any Member contemplating an amendment to H.R. 1270 should submit 55 copies of the amendment and a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules no later than 5 p.m. on this Thursday, tomorrow, October 23. The Committee on Rules office, for those who are not aware of it, is upstairs in H-312.

Members should draft their amendments to the Committee on Commerce reported version of the bill, which the

Committee on Rules intends to make in order as the base text for the purpose of amendment. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the distinguished Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 269 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 269

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 97) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1998, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The joint resolution shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend, the gentleman from South Boston, MA [Mr. MOAKLEY], the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule makes in order House Joint Resolution 97, which makes further appropriations for fiscal year 1998. It is a closed rule providing 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The continuing resolution made in order by this rule is very simple and noncontroversial. It simply extends until November 7, funding for those agencies and programs that have not received permanent appropriations on the terms and conditions imposed by the previously adopted continuing resolution, which as we all know, expires tomorrow.

As we all know, approval of this continuing resolution is necessary to prevent a Government shutdown since only 5 of the 13 appropriations bills have been signed into law, although 2

more are pending Presidential action right now. Hopefully, by November 7, differences over the remaining appropriations bills can be resolved, and the Government will be operating under more normal conditions.

I also know that a number of my colleagues are troubled that the continuing resolution extends section 245(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

□ 1030

I share their concern that in its current state section 245(I) may continue to encourage illegal immigration, although it is not the source of our illegal immigration program, and I am not convinced that allowing it to totally expire is the right solution. The issue needs to be resolved, preferably through compromise language that both opponents and proponents of the law can agree on.

My Committee on Rules colleague, the gentleman from Sanibel Island, FL, [Mr. GOSS], has a thoughtful solution, and I hope it will be part of any discussions we have. Our Republican leadership is also working with both sides to resolve the differences.

But this rule, and the continuing resolution it makes in order, are not the appropriate vehicles for settling this dispute. It is totally appropriate to grant section 245(I) a 2-week extension because this and other issues pertaining to the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill are still being addressed in conference with the Senate.

Let us debate section 245(I) and all of the other differences that have yet to be resolved, but let us do it at the appropriate time and the appropriate place.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank my very dear friend, my colleague, the gentleman from California, Mr. DAVID DREIER, for yielding me the customary half hour.

Mr. Speaker, we are doing the second continuing resolution because, despite the late date, despite the President's very clear decisions, my Republican colleagues still have not done their job and they still insist on playing politics.

The 13 appropriation bills should have been sent to the President for signature 3 weeks ago, but 4 of them are being stalled because my more radical Republican colleagues insist on attaching very controversial provisions to these bills. And as far as the President is concerned, those partisan provisions just beg his veto.

Mr. Speaker, the Government shutdown looming on the horizon may sound very familiar to us. Last Congress, when my Republican colleagues picked politics over pragmatism, they closed the Federal Government several times to the tune of hundreds of millions of wasted tax dollars.

For the sake of veterans and for the sake of Social Security recipients, Mr.