

they so much in the pocket of the Washington Teachers Union that they are willing to sacrifice America's children to educational mediocrity.

As a public school graduate and the son and brother of teachers, I am appalled by this out-of-touch, deny-reality approach to education. Just because Washington bureaucrats do not want to improve public education does not mean that Congress should be afraid to tackle the job.

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Since my graduation from high school, SAT scores have fallen. Tests on an international basis show that Americans are behind German, Japanese, and British children, and private schools and charter schools are flourishing in popularity.

Why? Because of local control. Because of less Washington bureaucrats. Not because of Washington redtape and all the status quo things that the Democrat Party seems so content to keep piling on, and piling on, on the teacher and her classroom.

I say let us improve public education. Let us start by returning dollars not to the Washington bureaucracy but to the teacher in the classroom.

SUPPORT H.R. 2649 OR H.R. 2650 TO END LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Madam Speaker, I think there was an interesting experience yesterday in the hearings before the Committee on National Security as we watched the worm turn. I noted with some sense of irony the protests that were being made about the President's recent exercise of the line-item veto, a power given to him by most of those who were protesting its exercise.

The fears that we had that this would be an invitation to an abuse of power are being borne out. It is unconstitutional. It is bad public policy.

Who do we have to blame? Ourselves.

How do we undo it? Let us start here with a better approach: Expedited rescissions, giving the President the power to flag wasteful items, but then we have to vote and vote promptly.

We have a measure for every taste. If my colleagues would like to repeal the line-item veto and replace it with expedited rescissions, H.R. 2649.

If we are purists and want to completely repeal the line-item veto, a completely defensible point of view as well, H.R. 2650.

BIG HAT, NO CATTLE

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, we know that the President and other politicians talk an awful lot

about education reform but, unfortunately, that is about as far as it gets. Because for all the talk about improving our Nation's schools, when it comes to concrete action, real reforms that will force bad schools to improve or shut down, there is no action.

It is a case once again, as they say in Texas, of "big hat, no cattle." Take for example A+ Accounts. A+ Accounts are education savings accounts which let parents save in a tax-free account so that they can send their kids to a better school if the public schools in their neighborhood are bad.

But the President and his special interest allies oppose the idea of A+ Accounts. They would rather force kids to stay in crummy schools than to take on the special interests that are incapable of reforming bad schools. But, of course, this will not stop them from talking about education reform and reforming bad schools. "Big hat, no cattle."

UNITE BEHIND PUBLIC EDUCATION, REJECT PRIVATE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, well, as we know in Texas, you do not help our public schools by siphoning off the money and giving it to private elite academies, and that is what this so-called Private School Expense Act that we are about to debate is all about.

It is at the expense of public education that we help the private elite academies that serve a small percentage of the wealthiest among us. I think it is wrong. I represent communities in the capital of Texas, the central Texas area, that will next month receive more blue ribbon school awards for quality public education than any other area our size.

Our business community supports our public schools through a massive adopt-a-school program of time and resources. But today's Private School Expense Act goes in just the opposite direction. If we want to support those efforts, those local community efforts for strong public schools, we do not take Federal resources and divert them and provide an incentive for the wealthy to leave public education.

Let us unite behind public education and reject this private incentive program.

FIND A WAY TO PRESERVE THE HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

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

Mr. WALSH. Madam Speaker, not very far from the Capitol in Southeast Washington sits the historic Congressional Cemetery. The name is some-

what misleading, since the cemetery itself is not affiliated with the U.S. Congress. However, there are over 60,000 interments there, including America's "March King," John Philip Sousa; former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover; Native Americans; military leaders; and over 50 former Members of Congress.

Over the years, the cemetery has fallen into disrepair. It was in need of a thorough cleanup, and under the leadership of our own Jim Oliver from the Cloakroom, who also heads the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, the project was undertaken last month.

It would be impossible to name the hundreds of volunteers, but special praise goes to Air Force M. Sgt. Thomas Williams and Sgt. Dave Lutzow, both stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, who saw a program on the History Channel listing the cemetery as an endangered national treasure. Also, our former colleague, Bill Carney of New York, deserves great praise.

It was a terrific effort but more needs to be done. We have to find a way to provide for permanent care and maintenance of this treasure. It is truly historic and of national significance.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, yesterday the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues held a very successful title IX hearing. This is the 25th anniversary of title IX and it has afforded the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of young women and others to attend higher education. Title IX was signed into law by President Nixon and enacted on June 23, 1972.

I am happy to also announce that today I will introduce legislation for a Congressional Gold Medal for Ms. Wilma Rudolph, a pioneer. The legislation is sponsored by original sponsors, nearly 40 of them here in this House of Representatives. It just so happens that June 23, the day the bill was enacted, is Ms. Wilma Rudolph's anniversary of her birthday, and we honor title IX.

Twenty-five years. We have come a long way, and we have a long way to go into the new millennium. It is our hope the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues will put this issue before the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, according to the Cato Institute about one-half of the 10 million correction notices

sent out each year by the Internal Revenue Service are wrong. They are wrong. Yet the IRS has a very unforgiving view when others make mistakes. For example, the IRS once fined a taxpayer \$46,000 for an alleged underpayment of 10 cents.

That is why I have cosponsored the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act: to provide taxpayers new protections and rights to address many of the abuses spotlighted in the Senate hearings. Once we provide more protection for taxpayers, we must then simplify the current system and end the IRS as we presently know it.

It is my goal, it is the Republican goal, to end overtaxation in America. It is my goal to help Americans keep more of the money they earn so they can do more for themselves, for their families, and for their communities.

I ask my colleagues to join with me to make it happen, and I ask Congress to work with us to make sure Washington wastes less of our money and our families are able to keep more of what we earn.

VIETNAM—THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw the House of Representatives' attention to statements received at a Member's briefing I co-chaired on the human rights situation in Vietnam on September 30, 1997.

This briefing included testimony from experts from international, religious, and human rights' organizations on the social and political state of Vietnam. In addition to myself, the gentlewoman from California, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, the gentlewoman from Ohio, Ms. MARCY KAPTUR, and the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. TOM DAVIS, were also in attendance to hear the recommendations from these witnesses.

Madam Speaker, I request the statements made at the briefing be submitted for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This past June, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited Vietnam to formally open the U.S. Embassy. The recent establishment of diplomatic relations reflects historic changes of the United States-Vietnamese relations since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975 and the lifting of the embargo in 1994.

I believe that with the normalization of relations between the two countries comes a great responsibility. Now, more than ever before, it is of critical importance we pay careful attention to the progression of developments.

DEMOCRATS SHOULD STOP HELPING WHITE HOUSE OBSTRUCT JUSTICE

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Madam Speaker, more and more Americans are concerned about the fund-raising scandal going on and the coverup going on over at the White House. In fact, a majority of Americans are now calling for an independent prosecutor. Yet all the Democrats give us is the "they did it, too."

But the New York Times editorial said on July 16, 1997, quote, the White House fundraising scandal cannot be covered up by the standard spin of the "they-did-it-too" or the equally shop worn "whoops-sorry-about-that."

The Detroit News says there is a pattern here. The administration appears to have perfected the art of delay and obstruction. Democrats have been dragooned into doing the downfield blocking and tackling in Congress for the sleaziest White House since U.S. Grant. And videotapes, documents, and witnesses are discovered too late to be examined before congressional hearings. That is the New York Times and the Detroit News.

I ask the Democrats to show moral courage, step forward and stop helping this White House obstruct justice.

NO PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

(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. Madam Speaker, last week I visited six schools in Atlanta: Inman Park Preschool, Morningside, Adamsville, Cook Elementary School, Walden Middle School, and Grady High School. What parents, teachers, administrators, and students all told me was we should not allow Republicans to take money away from our public schools and give it to private and religious schools.

Madam Speaker, the American people want strong public schools, not private school vouchers for a privileged few. Nine out of 10 children attend public schools. Each and every one deserves a first-class education. That is why Democrats want to invest in public schools.

What do the Republicans propose? Abolish the Department of Education, divert resources to private and religious schools. And today we consider a sneaky plan that uses the Tax Code to undermine support for public schools.

Madam Speaker, our children deserve better than easy schemes and quick-fix solutions. Stop scheming and invest in public education.

THE EFFECTS OF NAFTA AND FAST-TRACK

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, since NAFTA has begun, Florida agriculture has lost

in excess of \$1 billion; Florida tomato farmers have alone lost \$750 million.

So much for level playing fields and reduced tariffs. According to the O'Conner & Hannan law firm of Washington DC, "For tomatoes, the losses are clearly due to the dumping of Mexican tomatoes in the U.S. market as determined by the Commerce Department. The primary cause of the injuries to Florida agriculture is NAFTA and its ineffectual safeguard provisions."

The Florida Department of Citrus has further informed me, that after 3 years of NAFTA, Florida citrus is still not even allowed into Mexico. How is this possibly free or fair trade?

Congress needs to stand up to this destruction of American industries such as agriculture.

The administration and the proponents of granting renewed fast-track authority have failed to articulate the economic imperative of granting such authority.

Trade deals should be negotiated when possible on a case-by-case basis and given the stature of a formal treaty.

AUTHORIZING USE OF ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY HONORING LESLIE TOWNES (BOB) HOPE

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 56) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony honoring Leslie Townes (Bob) Hope by conferring upon him the status of an honorary veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, reserving the right to object, will the gentleman from Ohio please explain the resolution?

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KILPATRICK. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, Bob Hope, of course we all know, has been successful in all the areas of show business, but the Committee on Veterans' Affairs believes that Bob Hope's most important contribution to our American society was entertaining the Nation's troops.

He actually attempted to enlist, in his adopted country, into the service, and he was told that the greatest service he could do for the country was to entertain troops, which he has done since World War II all the way through the Persian Gulf.

He was also cited by the Guinness Book of World Records as the most honored entertainer in the world. But I think what stands out most in the American population's mind in this country is how he put himself in harm's way, although he went with