

"You're not doing well"? They have been told that time and time again after every standardized test they have ever taken.

If this comes to the floor of the House in this manner, I would hope that all 295 would vote against the appropriation bill.

COMMITTEE HAS TRIED TO DRAFT HONEST COMPROMISE

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

Mr. OBEY. In response to the comments of the previous speaker, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], Mr. Speaker, I would like to take note of two facts. I notice a fax from the Office of Congressman SHADEGG which says, "Urgent, Republican leadership is pushing the David Obey proposed compromise, which sells us out on testing." That is what I hear from one side. Then I hear from Mr. Ralm Emanuel at the White House that the White House intends to veto this bill "because DAVE OBEY has sold the White House out on testing."

I would suggest that if Mr. Clinton, or the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] or Mr. Emanuel or the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SHADEGG] or anyone else thinks that it is so easy to put together a compromise, they sit down and talk to each other. It seems to me that that is what we need, rather than having both sides cry "sell-out" because this committee has tried to draft an honest compromise.

I have great respect for the President, and I have great respect for the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING], but I would suggest that one of them is spectacularly wrong.

LETTER FROM JULIE GORLIK

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, first in response to my colleague from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], we do not need a compromise, we need Washington out of our lives and we need Washington to leave education in the hands of the parents, the communities, and the school boards.

But that is not why I rose this morning. I rose because last night, as I was reading constituent mail, I got this letter from Julie Gorlik, who called our office. And here is what it says. It says that she is upset that there is assistance for unmarried, unwed mothers, for the lazy, for criminals, and for homosexuals, but there is never any help for married people who are doing their best to make ends meet and support a family and they cannot get any help from anyone. They are hard-working, honest, good people and they get discriminated against.

I rise this morning to invite Julie to tune in this evening when I will be tak-

ing the time to go through some of the things in the tax cut package that are specifically designed because we have heard this message from our constituents over and over and over again: \$500 per child for under the age of 17; the college tuition tax credit; the education savings credit to help parents save for their kids's education; the Roth IRA; and on and on we go. There will be more on this when I have 1 hour on the floor this evening.

VOUCHERS ARE FIRST STEP TO DISMANTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the last two speeches by my Republican colleagues. I have to say I am truly amazed at the pace of the Republican leadership's antipublic education drive. The Republicans are determined this fall to make every effort to drain resources from public schools and funnel Federal dollars into private schools.

A few weeks ago the Republicans narrowly passed a bill to force vouchers on the D.C. schools. Today, amazingly, they will try to bring their voucher experiment into schools throughout the country, and they are paying for it with Federal dollars that should be used to improve the public schools.

Mr. Speaker, vouchers are just the first step in a Republican effort to dismantle the public schools. Since taking control of Congress, the Republican leadership has repeatedly tried to shut down the Education Department and slash funding for public schools.

Democrats want to improve the public schools rather than tear them down. We put forward an agenda for first-class public schools that included money for school construction, purchases for computers. Let's improve the public schools. Do not let the Republicans tear them down.

VOTE "NO" ON NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

(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, over the past several months, I have taken the same opportunity to speak to the Members of this House on numerous times regarding a very important issue to this great Nation. Today, Members of this honorable body will have the opportunity to send a clear message. By voting "no" on H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, my colleagues will send a clear message that they do not support transporting the world's deadliest material, high-level nuclear waste, through the neighborhoods of their homes or their districts.

A no vote will also send a strong message that we do support the environmental measures, such as clean air,

clean water, safe drinking water, and the National Environmental Protection Act. A no vote on H.R. 1270 will send a message that we do support States' rights.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are very clear. Transporting nuclear waste across this country will have devastating environmental consequences. Transporting nuclear waste across this country will cost the hard-working taxpayers of America billions of dollars. Let us rely on sound science, not bad politics. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on 1270.

PRESIDENT JIANG SLEEPS IN LINCOLN BEDROOM

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, let us see if this makes sense. China helps Iran. Iran threatens Israel and all the Middle East. Iran is a known major terrorist threat to America. But Uncle Sam gives China \$60 billion a year in sweetheart trade deals.

Now, if that is not enough to massage your arthritis, after all this, President Jiang is literally sleeping in the Lincoln bedroom, being wined and dined, at taxpayers' expense, by the White House.

Beam me up. This madness has gone too far. When American foreign policy goes from honest aid to the butcher at Tiananmen Square, something is wrong, Congress, very wrong. Think about it. I yield back what national security we still have left.

WHITE HOUSE AGREES TO TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO COMMUNIST CHINA

(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, to follow the comments of my colleague from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT], the revelations are as real as the headlines in today's Washington Times: "China Aided Iran Chemical Arms." And below that, a bolder headline: "Clinton-Jiang Reach Nuclear Accord."

Mr. Speaker, let me see if I have this straight. The White House agrees to a transfer of nuclear technology to the Communist Chinese in exchange for a written promise that the Chinese will not share that technology with Iran.

We are not talking neckties or neckties or notebooks. We are not talking conventional trade here. We are talking nuclear technology. We are going to give that to Communist China? Monte Hall would not even make a deal like that on his old game show.

There must be a sweetener here, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Chinese Government is not going to try to find Ya Lin Charlie Trie.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONTINUES ATTACK ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

(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, education has always been the great equalizer in this Nation. It opens the doors of opportunity and provides every American child with the opportunity to live up to his or her potential. It is the public schools in this Nation where students of all economic levels, races, and creeds come together in one classroom to develop the skills that they are going to need for a successful future.

The right wing of the Republican Party has never believed in American public schools. Former Republican Presidential candidate Pat Robertson said straight out in 1994, and I quote, "abolish the public schools."

Today, the Republican leadership is continuing their attack on public education by advocating a radical experiment that would take precious taxpayer dollars out of our public schools and into private schools.

I have a message for the Republican leadership: Our children are not your guinea pigs. We need to support and strengthen our public schools, not siphon off precious funds. Stand up for public education. Reject the Gingrich voucher plan.

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HONEST, CLEAN ELECTIONS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, what does the other side have to hide? Why will the Immigration and Naturalization Service not comply with the law? Why will groups which have been ordered by the court to produce documents not produce those documents as required by law? Why do the Democrats refuse to come forward and demand that the LORETTA SANCHEZ election be investigated in the open for all to see to prove that only those legally able to vote did so? Why do the media refuse to get behind the calls of honest, clean elections in California?

Mr. Speaker, regardless of what the other side says, nothing can change the fact that this issue is about honest elections and the rule of law. It is not about overturning the election and declaring Bob Dornan the winner. That is simply not going to happen. It is about fair, honest, clean elections all across this country.

Mr. Speaker, again I ask the question, what does the other side have to hide?

CHINA AND FAST TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Today, coveted nuclear technology for China. But do not worry. They signed a secret non-proliferation agreement. Of course I cannot read it, my colleagues cannot read it, but they will abide by it. Ha. You bet.

Next week fast track trade authority. Make no mistake. These policies are inextricably linked by the one overarching principle of U.S. foreign policy, money, corporate profits. That is all it is about. Human rights? The United States does not care. We do not stand for that anymore. U.S. economic interests in the long term, U.S. workers? The United States does not care anymore. And even now national security is subsumed to the profits of a few huge multinational U.S.-based corporations who want to export nuclear technology. It was all last night down at the White House right here: "Forget diplomacy. Money makes the world go round."

If you like our policy toward China, you will love fast track. It promises more of the same.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that death and taxes are the only sure things in life. The difference between the two is at least the IRS cannot make death any worse. The instruction book for the original income tax form was just 15 pages long and the highest tax rate was 6 percent. When Congress debated this issue in this Chamber in 1913, some Members worried that the rate would someday reach the unthinkable level of 10 percent. Today the lowest Federal income tax rate is 15 percent and that 15-page booklet has swelled to more than 9,000 pages. The average American family pays more in total taxes than they do for food, clothing, and shelter combined. It is time for a complete overhaul of the Tax Code and the IRS, which have become overly burdensome and unfair.

A lot of so-called experts told us we could not reform welfare, we could not slow the rate of Washington spending, we could not balance the budget and provide tax relief for American families. Today we are told that we cannot replace the existing Tax Code with one that is simpler, fairer, and less burdensome. I say it is simply amazing what can be accomplished when we do not know what we cannot do.

VOUCHERS

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today unfortunately the radical Republicans in Congress are continuing their all-

out attack on the public school system. They want it to wither on the vine because, just like with Medicare, extremists in the Republican Party in Congress do not believe in public school education. Public school education is the key that unlocks the door to the American dream for more than 90 percent of America's children, including my own 2 kids. We cannot allow the radical Republicans in Congress to destroy America's public school system. Besides, what would be next? Are we going to give people vouchers to buy books if they do not believe in the public library? Are we going to give people vouchers to buy their own swing set if they find the local town park inconvenient?

No, because America is still a country that believes in the common good and the American dream. Let us fix our public schools, let us encourage charter public schools to create competition in our public schools, but let us not pilage the public school system in America. That will not be good for America.

H.R. 2748, AIR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced H.R. 2748, the Air Service Improvement Act. This is a bill which could help bring down the cost of air travel for small- or medium-sized airports. Today it costs people in cities like Knoxville, Syracuse, and many other places much more to fly a couple of hundred miles than it does for people in many large cities to fly to Europe or across the entire country. This bill would open up new slots for airlines to serve underserved cities. It would provide a special grant program to help airports attract low-cost airlines to help bring down ticket costs. It would set up new, faster procedures for handling anticompetitive predatory pricing complaints against some airlines. The bill would set up a loan guarantee program to help airlines purchase commuter planes if they agree to serve underserved airports for at least 1 year.

The Air Service Improvement Act, if passed, could be a major step in helping to end the great unfairness that exists today in the price of airline tickets. I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing this much needed relief for air travelers in our small- and medium-sized cities.

SAY "NO" TO VOUCHER EXPERIMENT

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the House is scheduled to vote today on a radical experiment with our Nation's schools. The Republican leadership wants to use school vouchers to take