

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell two stories, one of success, and one of failure.

In August, the Education Department awarded a grant to a local coalition dedicated to helping students in Lorain, Ohio, go to college. The grant is part of the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, or GEAR-UP.

Lorain County has a large number of low-income students and the lowest incidence of postsecondary education in northeast Ohio. The GEAR-UP program provides training and materials to volunteer mentors from local industry and universities. These positive role models will meet with students early, before they internalize negative messages. The program intends to motivate students to ask for, and answer to, increased academic demand.

But here is where we risk failure. Funding for GEAR-UP is eliminated in the current Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Why? Because GEAR-UP supports public-private partnerships to support local students? Because it creates dollar-for-dollar matches between local partnerships and States? Because it provides college scholarships to reinforce the message that hard work begets opportunity?

Mr. Speaker, let us make sure our failure does not deter students from future successes before they have a chance to begin. Let us fund the GEAR-UP program.

CONGRESS SHOULD REPEAL THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a portion of this 21-page report, entitled "The State of Our Union, the Social Health of Marriage in America," by David Popenoe and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead.

It says, and I quote:

Key social indicators suggest a substantial weakening of the institution of marriage in America. Americans have become less likely to marry. When they do marry, their marriages are less happy, and married couples face a high likelihood of divorce.

The report goes on to say many other things. It has many findings. It concludes that marriage is a fundamental social institution; that it is central to the nurture and raising of children. It is the social glue that reliably attaches fathers to children. It contributes to the physical, emotional and economic health of men, women, and children and, thus, to the Nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should promote policies that value, endorse, and encourage marriage, not punish it. We should repeal the marriage penalty tax.

DEMOCRATS CANNOT BREAK ADDICTION TO SPENDING

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, it absolutely astounds me. It astounds me to hear Democrats come to this floor and suggest that a 1 percent across-the-board spending cut would threaten government. I believe, without a shadow of a doubt, that our government still wastes 1 percent or more of its budget.

What those Democrats are actually saying is that they cannot find a way to break their addiction to spending money. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, when the Democrats ran this House, they were so addicted to spending that they raided every trust fund in government. They raided the Highway Trust Fund, they raided the Aviation Trust Fund, they raided the Medicare Trust Fund, they raided the Social Security Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, they cannot break this addiction to spend, even though it threatens the well-being of our country, even though it threatens the retirement of over 30 million seniors. They lack the willpower to do what is necessary to maintain the discipline we have brought to this House.

We Republicans have the discipline, the willpower, and the commitment to do what is right, and that is to stop the raid on Social Security and to do it now.

□ 1015

STATE FLEXIBILITY FOR MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, we have an exciting opportunity to give our States greater control over the minimum wage so they can continue to help those struggling to make ends meet. In 1996, we gave the States the responsibility to move people off of welfare and into productive jobs. Today, States need the freedom to tailor the best wage rates to fit the needs of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, State flexibility gives security to those who need it and opportunity to those who want it. It allows each State to choose the minimum wage increase that is in the best interests of its workers and those struggling to find jobs. More importantly, State flexibility recognizes that our governors and State representatives are no less compassionate or committed to improving the lives of our most disadvantaged citizens.

I ask my colleagues to send dollars, decisions and freedom home. Let us support State flexibility for the minimum wage.

PRESCRIPTION FOR DISASTER FROM IMF

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the IMF fiddles while the world's poorest countries burn, in poverty, disease, ignorance and debt. The International Monetary Fund uses its control over global finances to impose economic and social policies on poor countries. The result: poor people in poor countries have virtually no health care, no education, and crippled economies.

The IMF is not a doctor with a cure, it is a quack selling poison potions. The United Nations just released a report saying that over 800 million people go to bed hungry every night, and the world's three richest people, Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and Paul Allen, have more than the GNP of all poor countries on the planet combined.

The time to act is now. We must stop the IMF from imposing austerity and poverty on countries too poor and hungry to fight back.

SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, today is day 145 of the Social Security lockbox held hostage by the Senate Democrats and President Clinton. One hundred forty-five days ago, House Republicans and Democrats joined together to pass my legislation, H.R. 1259, the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999, by an overwhelming 416-12 vote. The House of Representatives has made a commitment to not spend one penny of the Social Security trust fund on unrelated programs.

Senate Republicans have attempted to bring this bill to the Senate floor seven times and on seven occasions the measure was blocked from even being considered by a straight party line vote. Mr. Speaker, American seniors deserve more from Senate Democrats and President Clinton. They deserve a lockbox for their Social Security.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE KENNETH W. STARR

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Kenneth W. Starr and thank him for more than 5 years of service of investigating and prosecuting crime and corruption at the highest levels of this Nation's government. What started out as an investigation of a land deal soon led down the road to lies and deceptions. For the 5 years of his life Judge Starr devoted in his search for truth and justice, he encountered nothing short of roadblocks,

spin control, lies, and ultimately perjury. His opponents decried his actions as a wild fishing excursion bent on criticizing the President. However, he obtained 14 convictions on guilty pleas.

At the end, his work ultimately led to the impeachment of a sitting U.S. President for only the second time in this Nation's history. His tireless and relentless efforts brought in the Supreme Court, forcing them to answer constitutional questions never before considered but important to the ultimate protection of our constitution. He may look like Clark Kent but behind that mild-mannered persona is a modern day man of steel, fighting for truth, justice and the American way.

HOPES FOR SUBWAY SERIES STILL ALIVE

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to give my deepest condolences to my good friends and colleagues from the State of Massachusetts. Last night, the New York Yankees did in the Boston Red Sox. We apologize for not doing it in four, but we did it in five to get you out of your misery.

And to my good friends in Atlanta, we know that you do not want to return to New York, so the Mets will make sure of that, for you gotta believe, the Mets in seven. The World Series, my dear friends, will be in New York, either in Queens or the Bronx. See you all next weekend.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the White House spin this morning has spun out of control again. A Washington newspaper reported today that the Congressional Budget Office says GOP spending measures have already dipped into the Social Security surplus.

Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand actual proof that that is not true. In a letter to the Speaker dated September 30, the director of the CBO reported that currently proposed spending measures will not use any of the projected Social Security surplus in fiscal year 2000. Let me say that again, will not use a projected Social Security surplus.

Republicans in Congress have painstakingly worked to craft spending measures that do not spend the Social Security surplus, thereby stopping the 40-year raid on the Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, let us be honest with the American people even if our newspapers cannot be. Current GOP spending measures do not dip into the Social Security surplus and we are committed to not dipping into the Social Security

surplus. Social Security is the people's retirement fund, not the President's personal slush fund. Stop the raid on Social Security.

URGING PRESIDENT TO SIGN DEFENSE SPENDING BILL

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, after vetoing the foreign aid bill because the President thought it was too little spending, the President now is threatening to veto the defense spending bill because he believes it is too much spending.

Mr. Speaker, this is the same bill that will correct the Clinton-Gore neglect of our military that has stretched our forces thin in the past 8 years. Since the end of the Gulf War, our military has shrunk by 40 percent. At the height of the Reagan administration, the Navy had 586 ships. Today, it has 324. Since 1987, active duty personnel have been cut by more than 800,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, the defense spending bill we sent the President will fix these problems and it will do more. Our bill would give our troops a long overdue pay raise. It will also give our troops modern weapons and a better standard of living.

I urge the President not to play politics with our military pay raise. I urge the President not to play politics with the quality of life of our troops. The American people overwhelmingly support our defense spending bill. In fact, this bill got more than 370 votes in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, our service men and women deserve more than politics. They deserve President Clinton's signature on our defense spending bill.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 337, nays 56, answered "present" 1, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 509]

YEAS—337

Abercrombie	Forbes	Matsui
Ackerman	Fossella	McCarthy (MO)
Allen	Fowler	McCarthy (NY)
Andrews	Frank (MA)	McCollum
Archer	Franks (NJ)	McCrery
Armey	Frelinghuysen	McGovern
Bachus	Gallegly	McHugh
Baker	Ganske	McInnis
Baldacci	Gejdenson	McIntyre
Baldwin	Gekas	McKeon
Ballenger	Gibbons	McKinney
Barcia	Gilchrest	Meehan
Barr	Gilman	Meek (FL)
Barrett (NE)	Gonzalez	Meeks (NY)
Barrett (WI)	Goode	Metcalf
Bartlett	Goodlatte	Mica
Barton	Goodling	Millender-
Bass	Gordon	McDonald
Bateman	Goss	Miller (FL)
Becerra	Graham	Miller, Gary
Bentsen	Granger	Minge
Bereuter	Green (WI)	Mink
Berkley	Greenwood	Moakley
Berman	Hall (OH)	Mollohan
Berry	Hall (TX)	Moore
Biggert	Hansen	Moran (VA)
Bilirakis	Hastings (FL)	Morella
Bishop	Hastings (WA)	Murtha
Blagojevich	Hayes	Myrick
Bliley	Hayworth	Nadler
Blumenauer	Herger	Napolitano
Blunt	Hill (IN)	Neal
Boehlert	Hill (MT)	Nethercutt
Boehner	Hinchey	Ney
Bonilla	Hinojosa	Northup
Bono	Hobson	Nussle
Boswell	Hoeffel	Obey
Boucher	Hoekstra	Olver
Boyd	Holden	Ortiz
Brady (TX)	Holt	Ose
Brown (FL)	Hooley	Owens
Bryant	Horn	Oxley
Burr	Hostettler	Packard
Callahan	Houghton	Pascarell
Calvert	Hoyer	Paul
Campbell	Hulshof	Payne
Canady	Hunter	Pease
Cannon	Hutchinson	Pelosi
Capps	Hyde	Peterson (PA)
Capuano	Inslee	Petri
Cardin	Isakson	Pickering
Carson	Istook	Pitts
Castle	Jackson (IL)	Pombo
Chabot	Jenkins	Portman
Chambliss	John	Price (NC)
Chenoweth-Hage	Johnson, E. B.	Quinn
Coble	Jones (NC)	Radanovich
Collins	Jones (OH)	Rahall
Combest	Kanjorski	Regula
Condit	Kaptur	Reyes
Conyers	Kasich	Reynolds
Cook	Kelly	Riley
Cooksey	Kennedy	Rivers
Coyne	Kildee	Rodriguez
Cramer	Kilpatrick	Roemer
Cunningham	Kind (WI)	Rogan
Danner	King (NY)	Rogers
Davis (FL)	Kingston	Rohrabacher
Davis (IL)	Klecza	Rothman
Davis (VA)	Knollenberg	Roukema
Deal	Kolbe	Roybal-Allard
DeGette	Kuykendall	Royce
Delahunt	LaFalce	Ryan (WI)
DeMint	LaHood	Ryun (KS)
Deutsch	Lantos	Salmon
Diaz-Balart	Largent	Sanchez
Dicks	Larson	Sanders
Dingell	Latham	Sandlin
Doggett	LaTourette	Sawyer
Dooley	Lazio	Saxton
Doolittle	Leach	Schakowsky
Doyle	Lee	Scott
Dreier	Levin	Sensenbrenner
Duncan	Lewis (CA)	Serrano
Dunn	Lewis (KY)	Shadegg
Edwards	Linder	Shaw
Ehlers	Lofgren	Shays
Ehrlich	Lowey	Sherman
Emerson	Lucas (KY)	Sherwood
Eshoo	Lucas (OK)	Shimkus
Etheridge	Luther	Shows
Everett	Maloney (CT)	Shuster
Ewing	Maloney (NY)	Simpson
Farr	Manzullo	Sisisky
Fletcher	Markey	Skeen
Foley	Mascara	Skelton