

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, even though our economy is doing well and expansion is continuing, each of us wants to be certain that when it comes time for our retirement Social Security will be there for us. Our current senior citizens need this assurance, the baby boomer generation needs this assurance, and our young people need this assurance.

Cynicism runs deep, as illustrated by the fact that today's young people believe that it is more likely that they will spot a UFO than that they will collect Social Security when their time comes. That is why Republicans are showing true leadership by securing 100 percent of the Social Security Trust Fund for exactly that: saving Social Security. We are committed to strengthening Social Security for years to come.

It is important to note that in the 40 years when the Democrats had control of the House, they took hundreds of billions of dollars from Social Security and spent it on other Federal programs. When Republicans took control in 1994, this ended. We balanced the Federal budget, brought about badly needed discipline in our spending activities. So today we must continue, forge a budget agreement that saves and strengthens Social Security. The progress continues.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this week we will take up H.R. 800, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act. I believe this bill can be improved by amending it to provide for the hiring of 1,000 new teachers.

The need for such an amendment is apparent. Schools across this Nation are struggling because student enrollment has drastically increased. Evidence shows that there is a direct correlation between class size and learning ability. Students in smaller classes, especially in the early grades, make greater educational gains, and maintain those gains over time.

Smaller classes are most advantageous for poor students, minority students, and those living in rural communities. However, all children will benefit from smaller classes.

We need more teachers. It is so critical in maintaining and improving our education system, and more importantly, it indeed is the best flexibility we can provide to our education system.

NUCLEAR UTILITY INDUSTRY IS STRIKING OUT

(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, let us talk baseball, for once. America's favorite pastime is upon us here in Washington, D.C. and the rich nuclear utility industry is striking out. Today, they are simply a backstop against common sense.

It seems that Secretary Richardson has pitched a proposal to store nuclear waste safely on site until a permanent storage area can be determined to be suitable. A great idea.

To no one's surprise, the nuclear industry has balked at the plan, because it would be paid for, get this, with their money, heaven forbid, and would avoid the potentially dangerous task of shipping nuclear waste across America. Here was a chance for all America to hit a home run, but once again, it seems the nuclear industry is holding out for a bigger contract just so they can get paid and put money in their fat pockets.

Mr. Speaker, the nuclear industry fat cats are trying to build an expensive, taxpayer-paid lobbyist expansion team. Remember, the ballfield is in your district, the team is your constituents, and it is your responsibility to oppose H.R. 45 so we can win one for all America.

H.R. 835: MAKING THE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 835, the bill to make permanent the research and development tax credit. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the bill, because making the research and development tax credit permanent will help to maintain the stunning economic expansion that America now enjoys.

The R&D tax credit is in place right now. In fact, the Congress has extended this on a stop-go basis since 1981. The bill making the credit permanent would assist companies in research-intensive industries, because they need to know that they can count on the credit being there in order to plan their future.

Imagine if a home mortgage interest deduction was renewed on a stop-start basis by the Congress of the United States. The housing industry would be in chaos, and American citizens would not know whether they could count on it or not.

So I think it is time to make the R&D tax credit permanent, just as the home mortgage interest deduction is, and give American companies the tools that they need. We need to continue to expand this economy and keep it stunning. I urge my colleagues to support it.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE MARTIN

(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, I rise today with sadness to remember the life of a thoughtful young man from my district. Steve Martin was a friend to so many of us, and his mother, Thelma, is one of my dearest friends and supporters. Steve was taken from us several weeks ago in a tragic and horrifying accident that shocked us all.

I wish I could offer up some sense of what happened, but the truth is there is no earthly answer. Only God in his infinite wisdom knows his plan for each of us.

Steve had his mother's commitment to volunteerism and service to others. He never hesitated to roll up his sleeves and go to work to do what is right. Indeed, there is much to celebrate about a life that was filled with so much promise and was touched by so many people.

I sincerely hope that Thelma and her family can draw strength in these days ahead from those of us who care so deeply for them, and they will continue to trust in God's eternal promise.

CHINA CONTINUES TO THREATEN NATIONAL SECURITY

(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, even though China threatened to nuke Taiwan, reports say the White House had planned to sell sophisticated satellites to a group of "Chinese businessmen."

Unbelievable. Thank God the Pentagon intervened. According to the New York Times, this group of Chinese businessmen turned out to be the Red Army. The Red Army, I say to my colleagues.

I have said it before, and I will say it again. With policies like this, I believe we should hire a proctologist and assign him to the White House to do some training with their bureaucrats.

I yield back what national security we have left.

TRIBUTE TO HAVIS HESTER

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

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity today to honor a public servant in Pine Bluff, Arkansas by the name of Havis Hester for his years of hard work and commitment, who has given himself to the citizens of Jefferson County, Arkansas.

Havis was born on April 29, 1933 on the porch of a one-room house in south Arkansas. From an early age, he always felt a need to heal the physical pain of others.

Because his family was poor, he could never afford to attend medical school. Instead, at the age of 16, Havis became an orderly at our Davis Hospital. Over

the next 20 years, Havis did what he could to relieve the physical pain of patients. He did this work as a ministry, and with such good humor and professionalism that he earned a promotion.

In 1970, Havis ran unopposed as coroner of Jefferson County. Building on his desire to mitigate the physical pain of patients, he sought to soothe the emotional pain of those left behind. He also fought to end drug abuse by helping to start the Drug-Free Jamboree.

Now, after his 28 years of heart felt public service and compassion, I want to personally thank Havis for sharing his light and goodness with the people of Jefferson County, Arkansas.

SUPPORT H.R. 835, MAKING THE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on this Congress to pass legislation to make permanent the Federal Research and Development Tax Credit. I am a strong supporter and an original cosponsor of H.R. 835, which really is a bipartisan piece of legislation sponsored by Representatives JOHNSON and MATSUI to make it permanent. It is also one of the top issues of the new Democratic coalition for this Congress.

The R&D tax credit provides an essential incentive for companies to increase their investment in U.S. research and development. The R&D tax credit is important to the Research Triangle Park and the rest of my district in North Carolina, which happens to be the home for 3,100 information technology establishments and over 195,000 technology employees, and with a payroll of \$5.1 billion.

This tax credit is so important because it provides a base amount, but North Carolina has an amount tied to that that will make a difference, and if the Federal is lost, so will be the State. We need to make it permanent this year.

Unless companies can consistently depend upon the combined Federal and State tax credit year in and year out, we risk the ground-breaking research that is provided for job placement.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, a moment on Social Security. I think we are moving ahead very quickly. The challenge is still that the Democrats and the Republicans should not demagogue our efforts to try to save Social Security.

A decision was made last week with the Republicans that we are going to set aside 100 percent of the Social Security surplus.

I have a bill that I introduced last January. I invite the cosponsorship of Republicans and Democrats. Let me just briefly tell my colleagues what that bill does.

It says that we are going to lower the public debt. We are going to pay off the debt to the public for every dollar that comes in in surplus from Social Security until we use that money, the Social Security surplus, to save Social Security. It is important that we move ahead, and it is important that we work together in a bipartisan effort.

PRIVATIZING MEDICARE

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the National Commission on the Future of Medicare is poised to recommend to the President and the Congress that one of our Nation's best government programs, Medicare, be delivered to the private insurance market. There is nothing new here. Conservative newspapers like the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Times, and conservative Republicans, have been trying for years to privatize Medicare. Privatize, they say, in order to save it.

This is a critical time for Medicare. The program faces significant financial difficulty, in part because of the impending retirement of baby boomers and the fact that people are living longer. The Republican answer has been to move Medicare beneficiaries into managed care and create Medicare medical savings accounts. Privatize the program in order to save it.

Medicare is a fundamental part of the fabric of our country. Thirty-three years ago, before Medicare, half of the elderly of this country had no health insurance. Today, virtually everyone over 65 is covered by Medicare.

Meanwhile, the private insurance industry leaves 43 million Americans uninsured. That is why our public institutions like Medicare and Social Security are so important. We must keep Medicare the successful public program that it is.

NEW TITLES FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS

(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, the Clinton administration announced once that it was committed to reinventing government. But according to a new Brookings Institute study released yesterday, it sounds like the administration is just reinventing job titles.

Yesterday the Brookings Institute released a study, detailed in the Washington Post, that discussed this phenomenon of title creep. It stated, This administration has created as many

new job titles during its 6 short years than the past seven administrations created over the preceding 33 years. Listen to some of the more inventive titles they came up with: Principal Assistant Deputy Under Secretary, associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, and my personal favorite is Principal Deputy to Deputy Assistant Secretary.

The Federal Engraving and Printing office must be working overtime on these new business cards, Mr. Speaker. It is amazing they can even fit the title on one small card.

What does all this mean to the average taxpayer? It means more layers of bureaucracy, more delays, and more interference. It is hard to imagine that the American taxpayer is getting anything out of these extra layers of bureaucracy except perhaps a big headache.

But in the true spirit of the Clinton vision of reinventing government, I have decided to take a new title for myself. Imagine my new impressive business card, when it says, RICHARD K. ARMEY, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., M.C., Principal Deputy Underspeaker of the House of Representatives for the United States of America.

A TRADE WAR ON BANANAS THAT AMERICA SHOULD NOT BE IN

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, the United States is in a trade war with the European Union. It is in a trade war about bananas. We do not grow any bananas in the United States. How did we get into this trade war? One man, Carl Lindner, has triggered a trade war, Carl Lindner of Chiquita Bananas.

How did this happen? It is very simple. The European Union has a relationship with the Eastern Caribbean. The European Union that was once the colonizers, when they left independence to the colonies, they created a relationship so that these colonies could sell their bananas and be independent.

Carl Lindner cannot compete with the Eastern Caribbean, and our Trade Representatives, starting with Mickey Kanter, and before, Charlene Barchefsky, who promised we would not get into this trade war, took this issue before the World Trade Organization. They made the case on behalf of Carl Lindner, who is everybody's friend, Democrats and Republicans, and he has gotten us into this trade war.

We had better wake up. This is not something we should be in. I am going to talk about this a lot.

REPUBLICANS WANT LOCAL, NOT FEDERAL, CONTROL OF EDUCATION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1