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PENNY CHANG WAS THE TYPICAL AMERICAN GIRL

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

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Penny Chang was the typical American girl. That is what her father said about his daughter after Penny was shot to death on her way to school. She lived in my district, a freshman at Shaker Heights High School.

Penny's promising young life was ended by a 21-year-old man as she walked to school one morning. She was shot twice at close range with a semi-automatic pistol. As she lay on the ground dying, she was shot twice more. She loved computers, had done well in school.

After this despicable act, this troubled young man turned himself in to police shortly after, admitting to the crime. He had been a patient in a psychiatric unit. He had set Penny Chang's house on fire.

How could someone like this get ahold of a gun? How could a person with this kind of record of behavior come into possession of a semiautomatic handgun? Today the House has an opportunity to enact gun legislation, gun safety legislation, gun control legislation. I pray we will act to protect our young girls from this type of behavior so that we can save other Pennys in this Nation.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPERFUND FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the Superfund law was created in 1980 to clean up hazardous waste sites and hold polluters responsible. Unfortunately, small businesses have suffered the most as a result.

Last February, hundreds of innocent small businesses in Quincy, Illinois, received a notice from the U.S. EPA that they were required to pay \$3 million to clean up waste they had legally dumped in a landfill for years.

In a process close to extortion, the \$3 million payoff is to safeguard small businesses against suits by the major polluters. Saving small businesses by breaking them makes no sense to me.

I am introducing the Small Business Superfund Fairness Act of 1999 to ensure that a situation like we had in Quincy will not repeat itself in other communities across this country.

IT IS TIME TO STOP SCHEMING

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

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Republicans have time for the NRA. The Republican leadership gave the gun lobby nearly a month to twist arms and try to derail a gun safety bill. In fact, the New York Times said this morning, and I quote, Republican leaders have worked out a scheme to make it easier for lawmakers who take their cue from the National Rifle Association to vote against meaningful reform.

First, Republicans say they need time to consider a bill in committee, and then they bring a bill to the floor that skips the committee process. Then Republicans say they want to work out a bipartisan solution. Instead, they split the bill in two parts so the NRA can try to kill the gun safety provisions.

Mr. Speaker, scheming with the NRA while our children's lives are at stake is a disgrace. It is time Republicans stop scheming and plotting political strategy with the gun lobby and start working on solutions to save our children from the epidemic of gun violence. It is time to have the Republican leadership stop pandering to the radical right in their party and start fighting for American parents who want to send their kids to school safely each day.

THE ECONOMY IS BOOMING BECAUSE PRESIDENT REAGAN CUT TAXES IN THE 1980'S

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, who gets credit for the good economy we are now experiencing? Although many people believe that it should not matter who gets the credit, it is an important question because it is important to understand how we arrived where we are if we want to understand how to maintain and improve our current prosperity.

America is, compared to other countries, a low tax, low regulation country. Although our tax burden is way too high, our regulatory empire is clearly excessive, still the United States is the best place to invest, the best place to start a business, the best place to find a job, the best place to come if one wants to get ahead and chase their dreams.

The primary reason our economy is booming right now is because President Ronald Reagan cut taxes significantly in the 1980s, ushering in a period of strong economic growth that is still with us today.

Our economy at the end of the 1970s was in the ditch and liberals howled and protested against President Reagan's economic program, but it worked. That is the lesson of the 1980s.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS NEED TO BE EXPANDED

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the response of the House Committee on Rules to the events at Columbine High School will be to allow the House to vote on treating 13-year-olds as adults in court, but they refuse to allow my amendment to be voted on, which would have greatly expanded comprehensive school-based programs to provide for early identification and intervention with emotionally troubled youth who give indication that they might be prone to violent acts.

I would make one point. Those two kids at Columbine would not have been deterred by the threat to be tried as an adult in court. They were willing to be killed to make their twisted statement. They might have responded to early mental health counseling and intervention.

This House unfortunately today will not pass thoughtful legislation affecting school violence. It will, instead, pass political press releases. We ought to be able to do better.

WHAT WOULD THE TAX BURDEN BE TODAY WERE IT NOT FOR REPUBLICANS?

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, what would the tax burden be today were it not for Republicans? Just think about that for a second.

The Reagan tax cuts, 25 percent across the board, would never have taken place. In fact, diehard liberals still rail with bitterness against the Reagan tax cut even to this day. It is almost as if they are completely oblivious to the hardships of sky high inflation and devastatingly high unemployment brought to American families.

The 1997 tax cuts passed by a Republican Congress also would never have taken place.

Yes, the verdict of history is in. If Democrats had their way, taxes would move in one direction and one direction only: Up.

I refer my colleagues to the comment by the minority leader of the Democrat Party just a few weeks ago. He said, "You have got to have a combination of taking it out of the defense budget and raising revenue. We can argue about how to do that, closing loopholes or even raising taxes to do it."

Taxpayers can thank the Republican Party. For without us, taxes would surely be much higher.

REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 209, PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1501, CONSEQUENCES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACT OF 1999, AND H.R. 2122, MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was just wondering if the Republicans are ready, finished writing the rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The Chair is waiting for the chairman of the Committee on Rules to call up the rule.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up the rule, House Resolution 209.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not eligible to do that and is not recognized.

Mr. GEKAS. May I ask why?

Mr. MOAKLEY. The gentleman is not a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. GEKAS. I am just trying to accommodate.

Mr. MOAKLEY. The gentleman is not a member of the Committee on Rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. GEKAS. The gentleman is not a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. I would not object to his starting a Committee on the Judiciary hearing.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is out of order.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1501, CONSEQUENCES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACT OF 1999, AND H.R. 2122, MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 209 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 209

Resolved. That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1501) to provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders. The first reading of the bill shall be dispersed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and the amendments made in order by this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Except as otherwise specified in this resolution, each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in part A of the report. Each amendment may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as specified in the report, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may recognize for consideration of any amendment printed in part

(1) await the disposition of H.R. 2122;
(2) add the text of H.R. 2122, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 1501;

(3) conform the title of H.R. 1501 to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 2122 to the engrossment;

(4) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(5) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition of the text of H.R. 2122 to the engrossment of H.R. 1501, H.R. 2122 shall be laid on the table.

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Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Boston, Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), my very good friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule makes in order two separate bills, each under a structured amendment process. They are H. R. 1501, the Consequences for Juvenile Offenders Act of 1999, and H. R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check of 1999. Let me state at the outset, the rule does not specify the order of consideration of the two bills. That is left to the discretion of the Speaker.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate for each bill divided equally between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Judiciary. The rule provides for consideration of 44 amendments to H.R. 1501 printed in part A of the Committee on Rules report and 11 amendments printed in part B of the report.

Except as otherwise specified, the amendments to each bill will be considered only in the order specified in each part of the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for the division of the question.

Except for certain amendments to H.R. 1501 specified in part A of the report, the amendments printed in the report shall not be subject to amendment, and all points of order against the amendments are waived.

The rule permits the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to recognize for consideration of any amendment to H.R. 1501, which are printed in part A of the report, out of the order in which it is printed, but not sooner than 1 hour after the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary or a designee announces from the floor a request to that effect. This authority applies only to amendments offered to H.R. 1501, not to amendments offered to H.R. 2122.

The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone

(a) In the engrossment of H.R. 1501, the Clerk shall—