

Chinese interests to the Democratic National Committee.

Yes, it is a tragedy when any child dies, but the answer is not in abridging constitutional rights. It is in enforcing existing laws on the books. Just as current laws for campaign finance have not been enforced, just as current laws for firearms have not been enforced, the lawlessness, Mr. Speaker, comes from those who are elected to faithfully execute the laws.

WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER MONTH IN OUR CALENDAR TO CONTINUE DOING NOTHING

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, with only 6 congressional working days remaining in this Federal fiscal year, only one of the 13 appropriations bills necessary for the continued operation of our Government has actually been signed into law. This is the kind of record of inattention to duty, of inaction that brought us the costly Republican government shutdowns in the all-too-recent past.

It is perhaps most symbolic of this Congress that one of the few bills that has been approved was a commemorative medal for the great explorers Lewis and Clark, for I think that not even such great explorers could find any accomplishment in this Congress. In the words of the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), "We have sort of bumped into a wall."

With this Congress, America is bumping into a wall of inaction.

Now the Republican leadership is even considering the creation of a thirteenth month on the Federal calendar. If they worked more than halftime during the first 12 months, we would not need such nonsense.

CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION HAVE TURNED BLIND EYE TO RUSSIAN CORRUPTION

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, over the last 7 years, the IMF, with the backing of the Clinton administration, has loaned the Russian Government \$20 billion. All the while, the administration assured Congress and the American people that they were working with Russia to facilitate reforms. Yet as details of the vast money laundering out of Russia unraveled this month, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said, quote, "calm down, world. We have been aware from the beginning that crime and corruption are a huge problem in Russia and a huge obstacle to Russian reform."

Indeed, in 1995, the CIA met with Vice President Gore to present evidence on the personal corruption of Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin with whom Vice President Gore led a

joint American-Russian commission. According to the New York Times, Mr. Gore rejected that report.

It is time that the Clinton-Gore administration tell Congress and the American people what else they have rejected and why they have turned a blind eye for so long.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RECONSIDER HIS VETO OF THE TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, the President's penchant for raising taxes on America's working-class families, to fund costly, unproven and inefficient government programs for special interest groups, his expected veto today of the Taxpayer Relief Act is neither surprising nor unexpected. However, one would think this President would care to leave a better legacy than having created the most costly and overbearing bureaucracy in the history of our Nation.

If and when the President uses his veto pen later today, he will effectively eliminate the best opportunity we have ever had to protect Social Security and Medicare, while paying down the massive debt our country has accrued after 40 years of liberal spending.

There is more, Mr. Speaker. In addition to offering broad relief for middle-class taxpayers, including the repeal of the death tax, an across-the-board reduction in income and capital gains tax rates, marriage tax penalty relief and education, health care and dependent care assistance, the Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act contains provisions specifically designed to assist America's farmers and ranchers currently enduring the worst farm economy since the Great Depression.

The President's harmful treatment of agriculture is nothing new either. His affinity for campaign-style rhetoric, broken promises and outright hostility toward agriculture has resulted in record numbers of farmers and ranchers facing defaults, foreclosures, and farm auctions.

STAND FIRM FOR THE BENEFITS EVERY AMERICAN DESERVES: JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that we put together a \$792 billion tax relief package for the people of the United States of America. There is a tax savings for every American. There is tax savings for education.

We tried to put America back on track. Guess what the President is going to do today? He is going to veto that legislation and put a \$792 billion tax increase on every American person in this country.

Furthermore, to try to offset the stench of Waco that is going around today, this White House has the audacity to try to sue an American industry, the tobacco companies. They are legal operations. The idea is to take the pressure off of Waco.

We must have justice in this Nation. We are a Nation of justice. We must stand firm for the benefits that every American deserves, and that is justice under the law.

THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY WILL CONTINUE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today's theme team is proud to present to the President of the United States the smoke and mirror award for vetoing the middle-class tax cut. The middle class in America, the President says, deserves a break. Of course, a couple of years ago, remember, he was asking these same middle class people to invest in government and yet today he refused to invest in them by letting us keep our own money.

Therefore, in Savannah, Georgia, Marilyn and Robert Johnson will continue to pay the marriage tax penalty that they are having to pay ever since they were married, because this President does not want to give them relief.

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Ms. C.C. Jones in Brunswick, Georgia who works out of her house will continue to not have the 100 percent deduction for buying her health care, because the President will not give it to her. And then, a good friend of mine named Jimmy, I am not going to say his last name, because he is in an income bracket that is not necessarily something the President cares about, he would have gotten a 7 percent tax reduction today, but the President says, no, Jimmy, you keep on working those 50 to 60 hours a week, because Washington is going to grow, not the American taxpayers. They are not going to keep their money.

To you, Mr. President, I proudly present the Smoke and Mirror Award. Job well done for government bureaucrats. One more victory for Washington, one less for middle-class taxpayers.

TAX BILL DOES NOT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and say that I am glad the President is going to veto that tax cut bill, because talk about smoke and mirrors, over the next 10 years, they expect to have a \$3 trillion surplus if the economy stays as

good as it is today, and \$2 trillion of that is Social Security receipts. The Republicans passed a \$790 billion bill for a tax cut. That does not leave anything for Medicare; it does not leave anything for education.

Of course, why should we expect them to plan for 10 years from now? Right now, the last appropriations bill we have on this floor, it is not even here yet, is the education funding bill. It should be first and not last. They are going to cut Federal aid to education dramatically to meet their caps, and that is what is wrong.

That is why I am glad the President is vetoing that tax bill, because it does not plan for the future of our country.

REPUBLICANS WANT AMERICANS TO SPEND THEIR OWN MONEY

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the last person in the well made the case very clearly as to what the debate is about. The Republican's \$792 billion tax cut gives money back to the people who earned it. The Democrats want to spend it. It is just that simple.

We heard the gentleman say we did not have enough money for education and for the programs he wants to spend it on.

We want you to spend it; they want to spend it for you. It is a very, very simple issue.

The one thing that we are very clear on is that we passed the Social Security lockbox. Not one penny of Social Security surpluses will go for spending or for tax relief; it will go for Social Security. I will repeat it again. We want you to spend it; they want to spend it for you.

HOUSE NEEDS TO PASS GOOD GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

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

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, how long? How long will our children have to wait before we can pass good gun safety legislation? How long will our parents, who are petrified to send their children to school for fear of that fatal call that they will get? How long, Mr. Speaker, must this House wait to ensure our children the safety that they deserve when they are in school or in church?

I suggest to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, my bill, the child safety lock bill that was introduced in the 105th Congress and in the 106th Congress that has not passed this House yet, would have perhaps prevented Andre Holmes, age 15, killed by gun fire on September 1, 1999 in Atlanta, Georgia; Larry N. Perry, age 17, killed by gun fire on September 1, 1999 in Omaha, Nebraska; Kyla Washington, age 1, killed by gun

fire on September 4, 1999, Dolton, Illinois; Christopher Fogleman, age 12, killed by gun fire on September 4, 1999, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on. Let us not forget, the children are watching.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1501, JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7C of rule XXII, I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1501 tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. DOOLITTLE moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendments to the bill H.R. 1501 be instructed to insist that the conference report—

(1) recognize that the primary cause of youth violence in America is depraved hearts, not inanimate weapons;

(2) recognize that the second amendment to the Constitution protects the individual right of American citizens to keep and bear arms; and

(3) not impose unconstitutional restrictions on the second amendment rights of individuals.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2558

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2558.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1875, INTERSTATE CLASS ACTION JURISDICTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 295 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 295

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. 1875) to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow the application of the principles of Federal diversity jurisdiction to interstate class actions. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill 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. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the na-

ture of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so printed may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered as read. 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. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 295 a modified, open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1875, the Interstate Class Action Jurisdiction Act of 1999.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 295 provides one hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment.

House Resolution 295 also provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be open to amendment by section. The resolution provides for the consideration of pro forma amendments and those amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD which may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee, and shall be considered as read.

The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone recorded votes and to reduce to 5 minutes the voting time on any postponed question, provided voting time on the first in the series of questions is not less than 15 minutes.