

the Social Security Trust Fund. The President intends to spend \$2 billion more of the Social Security Trust Fund not here in America but overseas.

Mr. Speaker, we are fighting to protect the Social Security surplus not only for this year but for the next year, the year 2000.

MAKING EDUCATION MORE AFFORDABLE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire. But, Mr. Speaker, how can our children keep the flames of education alive when for many college education, so necessary in today's job market, seems unaffordable and out of reach.

As a former educator and school administrator, I know of the difficulties that working families encounter with the skyrocketing costs of a college education. While in the Florida legislature, I made it a priority to create the Florida Prepaid College Tuition Plan, helping thousands of Florida's families. In Congress, I have continued to support legislation aimed at providing tax deductions for families of college students, particularly lower-income families.

As legislators, it is our duty to ensure that a college education is made affordable. And tax deductions and incentives are a surefire way of relieving working families who aspire to send their children to college. Our future can only be as good as the education of our children.

Our congressional leadership is making students a priority, and we will work to pass legislation that will enable them to attend college, to reach their goals, and supply them with the necessary tools to create an even better America.

HOUSE FACES HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY IN HMO REFORM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives has an enormously historic opportunity, an opportunity that America has been asking for time, after time, after time. And that is just to provide equity in the health management organizations that provide insurance for a great number of hard-working American families.

All America asks for is that we respond to their desires to emphasize the patient-physician relationship; that we do not have drive-by emergency rooms; that we allow women to use their OB-GYN; and, yes, that we give them the opportunity when an HMO intercedes between a physician-patient relation-

ship and denies coverage or care and our loved one is injured or they are made worse or they die, that they have the opportunity to seek redress of their grievance, similar to the constitutional fathers who came and organized and made this country great.

So I would say, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that we will not interject poisonous amendments that will take away from the American people the opportunity to see a fair and just HMO plan. We should vote for the Patients' Bill of Rights. Let us do this together as one country, one Nation, and one Congress.

FOREIGN AID ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, Federal investigators are still sorting through the evidence in what may well be the biggest money laundering scandal in U.S. history.

The United States has provided billions of dollars in direct foreign aid to Russia since the breakup of the foreign Soviet Union. Much of the money is missing, unaccounted for. The taxpayers have also underwritten billions more in International Monetary Fund commitments. What we are apparently seeing right now is a pretty good example of what happens when we throw good money after bad. Let us face it, someone has been asleep at the switch.

This Congress is doing the right thing by reducing foreign aid spending, as we voted to do just last night, President Clinton's objections notwithstanding. But we need to do more. We need to make sure that the Clinton administration ensures that our tax dollars are not being diverted inappropriately or outright stolen. We need to ensure that somebody is looking out for the American taxpayers. We need some accountability, finally, at the White House.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO TAKE UP A SCHOOL FACILITIES BILL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, modern well-equipped schools in good repair are an important part of a good learning environment, yet we are lacking badly in our efforts to keep up with school facilities needs.

In my home State, California, we need 10,791 classrooms in the next 5 years in order to keep up. That is 6 classrooms per day that we are going to need to build for the next 5 years.

Facilities are necessary to keep up with the new technology that we are putting in schools and to meet the needs of the growing student population, enrollment that grew to a record high last year of 53.2 million

students. And it is projected that next year it will grow by another 440,000 students.

Mr. Speaker, it is paramount that we have a school facility bill on this floor to address these needs.

FEDERAL RED TAPE IS STRANGLING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

(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, Federal red tape is strangling America's public schools. As long as the bureaucrats maintain their death grip on school districts across America, schools will struggle with their effort to get better.

So when we talk about how much money we are spending on education, let us also talk about how we are spending that money. Let us stop focusing on process and start focusing on what really matters: Results.

That is what Republican education reform is all about. It is about fewer layers of bureaucracy and more dollars to the classroom. It is about less red tape and more student achievement. It is about allowing parents to take their kids out of bad schools and put them into good ones. It is about putting more decisions into the hands of teachers and parents and fewer decisions in the hands of the bureaucrats. It is about giving America's children the chance for a brighter future.

IN MEMORY OF ARMY SERGEANT JASON PRINGLE

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on last Friday, October 1, my hometown suffered a grave loss. A paratrooper, Army Sergeant Jason Pringle, died while serving this country in Kosovo as part of the Army's elite Company A, 1-508th Airborne Battalion Combat Team. Jason, a 24-year-old army medic had served this Nation since his graduation from Palm Bay High School in 1993.

I never had the opportunity to meet Jason, but I wish I had. He was a fine young man with a bright future. I, too, served in the Army in its medical corps, and I met many young people like Jason during my service, and it was always a privilege.

It is tragic that this has happened; that the state of the world is such that we have to have our brave men and women all over the globe. It is tragic that a father has lost his son, a mother has lost her child.

To Jason: Thank you for giving the greatest gift, your life, for our continued freedom and the freedom of others.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND JAMES RIADY IN NEW ZEALAND

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

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, John Huang recently named James Riady as his superior in the campaign finance fiasco who funneled over \$4 million, along with the influence of the People's Republic of China, into the pockets of the Clinton-Gore campaign and into the White House.

This man, Mr. Riady, is wanted for questioning by both the House and the Senate, as well as the Department of Justice. On September 24, 1999, the Wall Street Journal reported that "James Riady, the Indonesian businessman central to Donorgate, used an economic summit in New Zealand last week to chat with President Clinton."

□ 1030

The White House will not talk about it, but the Indonesians say Riady did not discuss anything sensitive with the President.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Clinton is the head law enforcement officer of the United States. He and Janet Reno have once again made a mockery of the Congress and the American people.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues today and tomorrow to vote only for the Norwood-Dingell managed care reform, the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Every effort is being made with the rule that we will adopt today in the House to try to mess up the Patients' Bill of Rights and make sure that it is ultimately defeated and does not go on to the Senate.

The Patients' Bill of Rights, the Norwood-Dingell bill, would change the way medical care is provided by guaranteeing that the doctor and the patients make the decisions about what kind of care they get rather than the insurance company and it would provide for enforcement through an external independent review process if their medical care has been denied and ultimately to the federal courts.

The phony access bill that the Republican leadership will put up on the floor today does nothing for the uninsured. It does not help the uninsured at all. All it does is to make it more difficult to pass the Norwood-Dingell Patients' Bill of Rights.

The substitutes that are going to be proposed tomorrow as alternatives to the Norwood-Dingell bill, all they do is basically water down their ability to get adequate patient protections and to enforce what kind of care they should get either in a court of law or through external review.

Vote for Norwood-Dingell. Vote against all the substitutes tomorrow.

MANAGED CARE REFORM IS LONG OVERDUE

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I am for malpractice reform. I am for product liability reform. I think we have too many lawsuits. But I do not believe HMOs should cause the injury or death of someone and escape liability, and neither do any or most of my constituents.

I have been having community meetings the last few weeks. I asked Republicans. I asked Democrats. I asked the young. I asked the old. I asked conservatives. I asked moderates. I asked liberals. And almost everyone says HMOs should not escape liability.

I believe we need a patients' health care bill of rights, and I am going to support one. I think it is long overdue that we are addressing this issue.

REJECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today we see the injustice that the majority party is doing with regard to America's right to be able to go to a hospital and get decent health care.

But yesterday was a further injustice, this time in the other body, the Senate, where the Senate, in the first time for some 20 years, decided to reject the nomination of the President of the United States of a court nomination.

The gentleman in this case was a gentleman named Ronny White, a sitting Supreme Court justice in the State of Missouri. He also happened to be African American, the first African American in that State to sit on the Supreme Court in that State.

He was rejected despite the fact that in committee in the Senate he passed with Republican support. Yet, when his vote came to the Senate floor, the Senators rejected him on the Republican side, including those who had voted for him in committee.

Outrageous because this is the first time in some 20 years that we have seen this happen, but outrageous because it is the first time in my memory that someone has been rejected for reasons other than his qualifications.

We have seen this happen now yesterday. I am afraid it may happen again when we have other judges of minority background who may face the same consequences by this Republican Senate. It is outrageous and we need to stop that. Hopefully the outrage will stop by the year 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONILLA). The Speaker would remind

Members not to characterize actions taken by the other body or to encourage that they take specific action.

PRESIDENT IS GOING TO VETO FOREIGN AID BILL

(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, I am still confused. The President said in January, let us put Social Security first. So, taking him for his word, the Republican conference says, we agree. We will reserve House Resolution 1, the first bill of the legislative session, for consideration for the President's Social Security reform package.

Well, that was in January. Here we are in October. No bill, no legislation, nothing from the President on Social Security protection.

Here is what we do have. He said he wanted to protect 62 percent of the Social Security Trust Fund. Republicans want to protect 100 percent. He said he is against the lockbox. The lockbox works the same way as a security deposit box in the bank works. They put the money in there and then nothing can get out. But the President is against that.

Now we find out he is going to veto the foreign aid bill because he wants to spend more money but the only surplus that is left is Social Security.

So I am really confused now. The President is going to veto foreign aid so he can spend at its current level, so he can spend Social Security dollars in foreign countries. It does not make sense, Mr. Speaker.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. FROST. 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 340, nays 68, answered "present" 1, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 481]
YEAS—340

Ackerman	Baldacci	Bartlett
Allen	Baldwin	Barton
Andrews	Ballenger	Bass
Archer	Barcia	Bateman
Armeay	Barr	Bentsen
Bachus	Barrett (NE)	Bereuter
Baker	Barrett (WI)	Berkley