

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Democrats and the Republicans have honest fundamental differences in our views of the role of government in our lives. It is no secret that the Democrats want government to have a greater role in our lives and Republicans think that the government role is already far too great.

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It is no secret that Democrats want to increase the size and power of government. Republicans want to reduce them. It is no secret that the Democrats think that more government can help solve the problem of poverty. Republicans think that far from ending poverty, government welfare programs perpetuate it.

Mr. Speaker, we have disagreements on matters of principle, but the American people have asked us to work together on our country's budget. Let us go forward and carry out their wishes.

Next week we will have that very opportunity.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, a time to reflect on the contributions that women have made to our heritage, but today I want to talk about how we here in Congress can actually make history for women.

The United States can make a difference in women's lives all around the world by ratifying CEDAW, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Right now the United States is the only industrialized democracy in the world that has not ratified CEDAW. That is a disgrace.

Currently, the treaty is being held hostage in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where one man refuses to bring CEDAW forward for a vote in the Senate. Even though our colleagues in the other body must act to ratify CEDAW, we in the House can make a difference and we can make a difference by signing H. Res. 107, which calls on the Senate to take immediate action on CEDAW.

One of the most important lessons, Mr. Speaker, that we can teach the world during this Women's History Month is that the United States is truly committed to protecting women's rights.

THE PRACTICE OF USING HUMAN FETAL TISSUE FOR RESEARCH MUST BE STOPPED

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, we should stop the practice of using

human fetal tissue for research and for commerce, and we should certainly stop subsidizing its industry.

Although researchers profess to have the best intentions, this utilitarian view of human life cheapens the lives and dignity of all human beings. There has been substantial evidence to prove that some profit-oriented physicians have induced women to get abortions with the goal of trafficking those body parts of the deceased.

Private companies, institutions, and even public universities are buying and selling baby organs. This business of trafficking human flesh includes order forms for specific organs, detailed dissection orders, graphic brochures, and price lists for whole-body parts.

I feel that it is time to stop this appalling practice of human embryo and fetal tissue experimentation, and continue our legal role as protectors and healers of the born and pre-born. To make the destruction of our children's bodies into a money-making business is horrific and unconscionable and it must stop.

TAX CUTS THAT THREATEN TO BUST THE BUDGET ARE NOT NEEDED

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are now enjoying and have enjoyed for several years the fruits of fiscal responsibility but that fiscal responsibility was put at risk yesterday in the Committee on the Budget, where that committee approved huge tax cuts that threaten to bust the budget and endanger Social Security and Medicare.

Earlier this month, we found out what types of tax cuts we were endangering our prosperity to finance, because this House passed not an increase in the earned income tax credit, not an increase in the standard deduction, no tax relief for working Americans but, rather, a huge tax cut where three-quarters of the benefit went to the top 1 percent of wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the question in game show language seems to be, not who wants to be a millionaire or who wants to marry a multimillionaire but who wants to give huge tax cuts to multimillionaires. It is time to return to fiscal responsibility.

BLACK PRESS DAY

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today on the occasion of Black Press Day. March 16 is the anniversary of the publication of the first black-owned newspaper in the United States.

On this date in 1827, the first edition of Freedom's Journal rolled off the press and on to the streets of New York

City. I borrow from the Newspaper Publishers Association when I recite the credo of the Black Press. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

There is no better example of this credo than in my own district in Nebraska. The Omaha Star is one of the Nation's most renowned black-owned newspapers. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the pioneers of the Omaha Star, both past and present, who lead the fight for acceptance of all races.

So on behalf of all Nebraskans, I say to the people of Omaha Star, thank you.

WHAT HAVE WE BECOME AS A NATION?

(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, in The Washington Post this morning there is an article on the front here talking about California, how the California Motor Vehicle Division rescinded a license plate because it mentions the Washington Redskins football team. It says that the license was offensive. Somebody apparently complained.

In California, taxpayers support the Motor Vehicle Department and therefore a single government-issued license plate depicting a football team is offensive and serious and intolerable; but in New York, obscuring the image of Mary, the mother of God, with animal feces and obscenities, well, that is just art we are told.

After all, taxpayers are obligated to subsidize art. Those like me who are offended by a government attack on our religion, we are told to lighten up.

Never let it be said, Mr. Speaker, that America lacks for vision, faith and decisiveness and courage when it comes to football and license plates.

Mr. Speaker, what have we become? Hail Mary, indeed. O, mother of the word incarnate, despise not my petition but in thy mercy herein answer me. Amen.

TAIWAN ELECTIONS AND CHINA

(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, China has done it again. Yesterday, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji threatened violence against Taiwan because it is holding free elections. He said to the people of Taiwan, "Do not act with impulse at this juncture. Otherwise, I am afraid you will not get another opportunity to regret."

This Chinese dictatorship condones forced abortions, engages in religious persecution against Christians and Muslims and Buddhists, has institutionalized slave labor and child labor. Even attempting to form an independent labor union in China is an offense punishable by death.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has been promised over and over that free market capitalism will create a more democratic and less hostile China. Yet, after 10 years of U.S. engagement with China, that nation remains a nation ruled by an authoritarian government with a violent aversion to human rights and a hostility to environment and labor standards.

What makes anyone think the next 10 years will be different? There are more corporate jets at Reagan National Airport during congressional debate on China every year than at any time during the year. A WTO deal for China is more about gaining access to a billion workers than it is a billion consumers. Vote no on permanent NTR.

TRUCKERS PLAY A VITAL PART IN AMERICA'S COMMERCE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today hundreds of truckers mount a demonstration in the Nation's capital.

America's truckers are a vital part of our economy. Truckers deliver the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the materials used to build our homes. Unfortunately, for the past several months, truckers have been hit by rising gas and diesel prices. These outrageous fuel prices are threatening the livelihood of thousands of truckers across the United States, which is the reason for their demonstration today.

When truckers cannot afford to fill their tanks, they will be forced off the road. Without trucking, commerce in our Nation would be ground to a halt.

With gas and diesel prices expected to continue rising through the summer, even a greater number of truckers are going to be threatened. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has admitted that the Clinton-Gore administration was asleep at the wheel when it comes to gas and diesel prices.

Now the American people must unfortunately foot the bill for the Clinton-Gore failure.

CONGRESS MUST STAND UP AND BE COUNTED WHEN IT COMES TO GUN CONTROL

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, we have seen Members of Congress one by one come to the microphone before na-

tional television urging Americans to stand up and be counted in the 2000 Census.

I would add to that call and would also urge Congress to stand up and be counted and start counting the nearly 12 children who die each day from gunfire in America, approximately one every 2 hours, which is equivalent to a classroom of children every 2 days.

Why is it that Congress wants America to stand up and be counted and Congress is unwilling to stand up and be counted itself on legislation that would reduce youth crime and promote safety in our schools and communities?

That is what legislation that I have does, the Child Handgun Injury and Prevention Act, which is a bill to prevent children from injuring themselves with handguns, requiring safety devices on handguns, and establishing standards and tests and procedures for these devices.

As of today, we have 68 cosponsors. I would like for 435 Members of Congress to stand up and be counted.

COMPREHENSIVE GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DE- BATED AND DEFEATED

(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, my colleague from Colorado a little bit ago took the floor this morning to bemoan the fact that this Congress has done nothing, she says, this House has done nothing to pass gun control legislation.

I must remind both her and the American people that, in fact, a comprehensive gun control bill was on the floor of this House last year, H.R. 2122. It did, in fact, have provisions to close the gun show loophole. It instituted a juvenile Brady. There was a ban on the importation of high-capacity clips. It mandated trigger locks. It was a comprehensive piece of legislation. It failed on this floor by a vote of 198 Democrat no votes to 82 Republican no votes.

Now, why did this happen? It happened, Mr. Speaker, because in fact, with all the rhetoric aside, what the minority party wants here is not a solution to this problem but an issue in the next campaign.

CHILDREN OF COLONIAS

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a special group of students who are here in Washington this week. They are young people from my district who live in Colonias. These are communities on the southwest border without water, electricity, roads, education, and very poor health services. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have thousands of Americans living in these third-world conditions along our southern border.

With today's unprecedented prosperity, this is an unbelievable tragedy. Therefore, it is important to hear their stories. They will be providing testimony today from 3:45 to 5:30 in the Cannon Room 340. I ask my colleagues to listen with me and to commit to provide resources to make Colonias a safe and secure place to call home.

I want to recognize these students from my district. They are Alicia Contreras, Ubaldo Fernandez, Chris Herrera, Janet Dunbar, and Gilbert Vasquez.

□ 1030

We owe these students the amount of resources to provide them the hope and opportunity that all of us as Americans deserve.

ASTRONOMICAL GAS PRICING

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue my critique of the Clinton/Gore administration's role in the recent surge in gasoline and home heating oil prices. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the administration must shoulder much of the responsibility because they ignored the "two Ds," domestic production and diplomacy.

The United States imports the majority of its petroleum requirements largely because it is difficult to produce petroleum in this country. Mr. Speaker, the administration imposes serious limits on exploration, drilling, refining through an incredible permitting and regulatory scheme. These regulations force many facilities to shut down when oil prices are low and make it uneconomical to reopen when prices rise.

This takes us to the second D, diplomacy. The administration knew 1 year ago these prices were coming down the pipeline. Unfortunately, Secretary Richardson was preoccupied by a major spy scandal at the DOE. As he himself said on February 16, "It is obvious that the Federal Government was not prepared. We were caught napping. We go complacent."

Mr. Speaker, this administration gets "two Ds" and an "F."

END AIRBUS SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it appears again that European governments may be ignoring their agreements to stop subsidizing Airbus. The British government's decision to make a loan of \$868 million to Airbus for the development of another jumbo jet clearly flies in the face of the concept that the WTO rules are designed to end government subsidies to Airbus.

Now, folks have argued that Airbus is an infant industry. It is not an infant,