

political boundaries." It does. Like so many times before with the Clinton-Gore administration, I believed them. That was a mistake.

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MORE BORDER PROTECTION NEEDED

(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, the news says that Mexican narcoterrorists have put contracts on American agents and border patrol. Unbelievable. The news says the Fuentes Gang will pay millions of dollars to kill our agents. Why not? Think about the billions of dollars they are making in heroin and cocaine sales in America.

And what are we doing about it? The drug czar wants more halfway houses, more counselors, more cops. Beam me up. We got more narcotics in America, and it is coming in faster than Viagra into Niagara. It is time to use the military wisely at our border.

I yield back the bull's-eyes on the backs of American drug agents.

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RUSSIAN ARMS SALES TO IRAN

(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, there is no greater sponsor of terrorism in the world than the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran has taken Americans for hostages, given weapons to suicide bombers, and taken the lead in the movement to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. There is no government more radical, more extremist, or more dangerous to our national interests.

So why did Vice President AL GORE cut a deal with the Russians to allow weapons sales to Iran? AL GORE himself when he was Senator introduced the Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act in 1992. And now he winks and nods to Viktor Chernomyrdin, letting him know it is okay to violate American national interests.

Mr. Speaker, the recent bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole* demonstrated again how serious a threat terrorism is to America and her allies. It is a violation of law to tell Russians it is okay to sell arms to Iran. Worse, it places American lives at risk. And now they are trying to hide it from Congress. We expect better judgment from a man who wants to be our President.

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REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CORRECTIONS BILL IS WRONG APPROACH

(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, at midnight last night the House leader-

ship came up with a Medicare corrections bill that reminds me of someone who can mess up a one-car funeral. At the end of September, the Committee on Commerce considered and passed a bipartisan bill that would restore funds for both Medicare and Medicaid programs. The bipartisan Committee on Commerce bill froze DSH payments so our hospitals could benefit. It established a minimum payment floor for community health centers. It delayed across-the-board cuts for home health care reimbursements and allowed States to provide CHIP coverage for legal immigrant children and pregnant women. It would have provided some more funding for HMOs.

Our bill was a balanced bill. But what do we have now with this midnight concoction? We have a bill that is skewed to the HMOs. To give 47 percent of the money in this bill to HMOs that only serve 15 percent of our seniors does not help another senior, and it does not help them get any more HMO coverage either. It is frustrating.

I have a county that the HMOs have bailed out except one. You know what we want? If they are going to get more money, they need to agree to cover seniors more than for one year and leave them stranded like they have in Harris County and Houston, Texas. We do not need to give a penny to them until they will agree to cover our seniors.

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TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE CHARLES CANADY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the 106th Congress draws to an end, this body will be saying good-bye to several outstanding public servants. Among these distinguished legislators is Congressman CHARLES CANADY.

Since 1993, CHARLES has represented the 12th Congressional District, which neighbors my district to the south. This has provided me the opportunity to work with him on issues that are vital to central Florida as well as to the Nation.

As Members know, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) pledged to his constituents that, if elected, he would step down after four terms. During this 8-year tenure, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) has accumulated an impressive record of accomplishments. This is not just my opinion. The National Journal states, "In a short time, CANADY has become one of the most productive and effective Members of the House."

That is how he will be remembered. He will be missed by the Florida delegation and others throughout this Chamber. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

CONGRESSMAN VENTO'S OUT- STANDING ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives, and particularly the Nation's environmental community, joined the family and constituents of Bruce Vento in mourning the loss of this dedicated and talented legislator earlier this month.

In his 24 years in Congress, Bruce served with great distinction and achievement on the House Committee on Resources. No other Member of this House could match his achievement on behalf of our parks and public lands and no one spoke with greater eloquence or worked with greater accomplishment to preserve these resources for future generations of Americans.

Because of his great contributions and the painfulness of his untimely death, it is especially discouraging to me to read the scorecard of the League of Conservation Voters for the 106th Congress. Although numerous Members have joined me in complaining about the League of Conservation Voters' practice of counting legitimately missed votes as "no" votes, LCV continues this unfair method of scoring. As a result, LCV rated Bruce Vento at just 53 percent for this Congress and just 7 percent for this year. Although LCV notes Bruce's death, they failed to note that his absences were due to his terminal illness and treatments.

LCV's obstinate refusal to modify its rating system is very disappointing to friends in the environmental community. The ratings system is absurdly rigid and self-centered when dedicated environmentalists are marked down for illnesses or personal tragedies. LCV says it is looking for another way for the scoring system, but it will come too late to honor the memory and the achievements of Bruce Vento.

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COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have made a solid commitment to education. But the Clinton-Gore administration and the Democrats in Congress want the Federal Government to decide what local schools can and cannot do. This is really what separates the two parties on education policy. The focus of education should not be about quantity and process. It should focus on quality and results. This is what will help our children and grandchildren secure America's future.

Our children and grandchildren will benefit greatly from the work we have done and the decisions we have made. Paying off the debt means \$1,348 in savings for every man, woman and child.

That is money that can be spent for education or even retirement savings. It also means \$5,200 in savings for every American family, which is enough money for annual tuition at a public university.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has ended the old spend-now-and-pay-later attitude that created deficits as far as the eye could see. I believe it is morally wrong to pass on our debt to our children and grandchildren. They should not have to inherit prior profligate spending. By committing to dedicate at least 90 percent of future surplus to reducing the national debt, we will secure America's future for our children and our grandchildren.

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SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT IN THE MATTER OF REFUSALS TO COMPLY WITH SUBPOENAS ISSUED BY COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources, submitted a privileged supplemental report (Rept. No. 106-801, Part II) in the matter of the Refusals to Comply with Subpoenas Issued by the Committee on Resources, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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CONCERNING VIOLENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, on October 25, yesterday, the House of Representatives passed H.Con.Res. 426, a resolution concerning violence in the Middle East.

Like those who supported the resolution, I am profoundly saddened by the loss of life precipitated by the recent outbreak of violence in Gaza and the West Bank. My support for the State of Israel and Israeli people as my voting record has demonstrated during my brief tenure here in the Congress has been unwavering. However, I could not support the resolution in the form it was presented yesterday because in my view it unfairly and broadly assigned blame for the violence in the Middle East.

A lasting Middle East peace can only be achieved if all parties demonstrate courage in the negotiation process. Central to this is the immediate renunciation of all violence and an expression of willingness by both sides to return to the negotiating table. Chairman Arafat's words and actions demonstrate his unwillingness to participate. I strongly support President Clinton's efforts to bring both sides to the negotiating table to begin again the slow and often difficult work that is necessary to ensure a lasting and just peace.

□ 1045

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LAST 7 YEARS

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House approximately 7 years now, and as we approach the end of this session, it is time for a retrospective.

When I arrived in this House, we had a deficit of \$300 billion. And, in addition to that, we spent every cent, every single penny of the money that came in for Social Security, and it was spent on behalf of general government projects rather than on behalf of the people who contributed it.

Today we have a surplus of over \$100 billion, plus we are not taking one cent of the Social Security money that is coming in. What a difference in 7 years! If you want to know what that difference means for the average taxpayer, it is more than \$2,200 for each and every taxpayer in this country.

What a change! What an accomplishment! I am very proud to have been part of the House during this transition, from a time of immense deficit spending, stealing Social Security money, and now not touching the Social Security money and saving the money, having a surplus.

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REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM NEEDED FOR AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the last several years, since the passage of the Balanced Budget Act, all health care providers who provide medical services under Medicare have been suffering, and we have been making efforts to try to address that problem.

Unfortunately, the bill that is being brought to the floor today will give 47 percent of the benefits of the bill to HMOs who provide only 15 to 16 percent of the health care coverage for Medicare recipients. In the process, it shortchanges the other health care providers, such as hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes, hospices and, more importantly, beneficiaries under Medicare.

Additionally, this bill would break faith with the commitments that we made during the census that we would keep all information from the census private. We made a commitment. We went out and told people that their information would be private. Now the same people who said that the information would not be revealed are here offering a bill to reveal the information. What a reversal of roles here.

We should oppose this bill, sustain the President's veto, and get a real bill for the American people.

LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION NEEDED

(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, Republicans know that children are our top priority. We are working to get dollars directly to the classroom. We want to encourage greater accountability for schools to raise test scores and graduation rates. We want to maximize our education funding by rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse.

Parents should have the right to save money for educational opportunities for their children, and they should be able to choose the school that best works for them. Even Democrats realize that there is growing frustration with the current state of education in America, and perhaps it is time for major reform.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government must continue to free States to use funds for proven State education programs.

President Clinton and Vice President GORE want more Washington control. They think Washington knows best. We know that parents, teachers, and local school boards know better. There is no one-size-fits-all program for America's children. Some schools need more teachers, others need better teacher training, new computers or new buildings. Even the hardest working, best intentioned bureaucrat in Washington, D.C. cannot know what our needs are at home.

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TIME TO UNMASK REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican campaign strategy has been to hide the Republican congressional leadership. Maybe that is one reason we are still here in D.C. But the need to end this session has forced the Republican leadership into the open, showing true Republican colors.

Take the health field as an example. It appears that, in the bills today, no patients' bill of rights, no prescription drugs, no help for legal immigrant kids and pregnant women, shortchanging hospitals in need to give a bundle to their HMO contributors.

President Clinton will veto these bills. I hope the President will take his fight against a do-harm Republican Congress to the countryside and use this Halloween period to unmask who the Republican opposition really is and is about.

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PUT EDUCATION DOLLARS IN LOCAL HANDS

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