

Mr. Speaker, the problem is not with the American people; they know what is best for the country. They support common sense gun safety legislation. The problem is with the leadership of this House that is subservient to the NRA. As long as the NRA controls this House, the people's voice will not be heard. Sadly, the American people pay a heavy price for the failure of the leadership of this House.

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS NEED TO BE ENFORCED

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is a good question. Just exactly who is subservient to whom? The Vice President of the United States had as one of his principal campaign fund raisers an agent of the Chinese government.

My colleagues, it is true that our children are vulnerable, but not to law-abiding citizens who obey existing laws. They are vulnerable to those who refuse to enforce existing laws and those who would break campaign laws. Yet our friends from the left will get up and talk about campaign finance reform.

I would remind this body again, to have the Clinton-Gore gang talk about campaign finance reform is akin to Bonnie and Clyde at the height of their crime spree holding a press conference demanding tougher penalties for bank robbers. It is absurd.

We embrace the Constitution, we embrace enforcing and abiding by existing law, and all the laws in the world make no difference if they are not obeyed.

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NRA RUNNING OUT OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST GUN SAFETY

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, the House passed the Lofgren motion a week ago instructing the conferees to insist that the comatose gun safety conference meet. A week later, the silence is deafening.

The silence you hear, Mr. Speaker, is the NRA, National Rifle Association, running out of arguments against gun safety. First they said the gun laws do not work, but the Brady law stopped 500,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers from buying guns.

Then they said we need to enforce the laws. So now everyone supports enforcement.

But when you hear the NRA cry its misleading statistics, remember, it is a trick, a trick to divert attention from their opposition to closing the gun show loophole, a trick so that the NRA does not have to explain why it supports laws that allow criminals to get their guns back, and it is a farce. The NRA opposed the laws they now want

so badly enforced, and the NRA has made sure that the agencies that enforce the gun laws can only do so with one arm tied behind their back.

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PREVENTING A NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it is common knowledge that nuclear waste is one of the most dangerous and deadly substances known to man. Yet before us today is Senate bill 1287, a bill which calls for the transportation of this deadly material across 43 States, near your neighborhoods, past your homes and school yards.

Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that transporting the unprecedented amount of nuclear waste as required in Senate bill 1287 endangers our environment and the lives of millions of Americans living across those 43 States. The Department of Energy estimates that a rail accident involving a shipment of nuclear waste would result in the radioactive contamination of a 42-square mile area.

Mr. Speaker, a cleanup of this environmental disaster would cost the taxpayers \$620 million and require 460 days just to complete, millions of dollars, hundreds of days spent cleaning up a catastrophe that we can prevent today by voting no on Senate bill 1287.

Protect the lives of your constituents and our precious environment. Vote no on Senate bill 1287.

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OVERBURDENING OSHA REGULATIONS HURTING AMERICANS

(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, this month the Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced that American homes are dangerous and "a hazard to workers who work in their own home."

Now, if that is not enough to bust your subdermal hematoma, check this out: employers who allow their own employees to work out of their own homes are now liable if their employee gets hurt in their very own home.

Beam me up.

What is next? Will husbands be fined for an aggressive honeymoon in their very own home?

I recommend that Congress ship OSHA to Japan and China, and let them screw those countries up.

I yield back the fact that these overburdening regulations in America are killing American jobs and forcing American companies to move overseas.

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RIISING GAS PRICES HURTING AMERICANS

(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, we have recently celebrated the first day of spring, and very soon Americans will take to the roads for their summer vacations. At least that is what they would like to do.

Unfortunately, rising gas prices may keep many Americans from taking summer vacations this year. Gasoline prices are rising out of control, with the possibility of reaching close to \$2.00 per gallon this summer. These fuel prices have also forced airlines to raise ticket prices.

Mr. Speaker, today our Nation is more dependent on foreign oil than we were during the gas crisis of the 1970s, and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson admits that the Clinton-Gore administration was "caught napping."

Well, while the administration has been sleeping, gas prices have been skyrocketing. I hope the Clinton-Gore administration wakes up soon, because Americans cannot afford much more of these outrageous gas prices.

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SUPPORT THE CHILD HANDGUN AND INJURY PREVENTION ACT

(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, today I rise to ask my fellow colleagues a very important question: When is enough? Every day across the country our children are dying due to gun violence, and yet Congress has failed to stop the killing and protect our children.

I want to commend the Smith & Wesson agreement to provide safety locks on their handguns within 60 days and to make them child resistant within a year. I would encourage the manufacturers of Glock, who have the market on the law enforcement guns across this country, to follow suit.

Although this is a monumental step in the right direction for the gun industry, Members of Congress still have a long way to go to protect our children and our communities. My bill, H.R. 515, the Child Handgun and Injury Prevention Act, which I introduced in the first session of this Congress, would require child safety devices on all newly manufactured handguns. We have 72 cosponsors. We need another 363 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, we need to provide sensible gun legislation which would mandate child safety protection devices on handguns.

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD OPERATE LIKE PRIVATE SECTOR

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, almost every day we read or hear about some

terrible waste of taxpayer dollars by the Federal bureaucracy.

Yesterday, the Associated Press reported that the Veterans Benefits Administration spent more than \$200 million to upgrade its computers, but now it is slower than ever in processing claims.

This terrible inefficiency comes at a time when our veterans are dying at a rate of more than 500,000 a year, no major war for many years, and fewer soldiers and veterans now than in the past. It now takes 205 days to complete a veteran's claim compared to 164 in 1991, and 164 days was slow.

The problem is that Federal employees are paid the same whether they work hard or whether they work easy. There is already a big bonus system in place for outstanding performance.

What we need now is to cut the pay of Federal employees who are not working hard and efficiently and producing good results. This is what happens in the private sector. Real estate agents are not paid unless they sell the house. The Federal Government will always be a sea of ineptitude and inefficiency, as former Energy Secretary Watkins just described it, unless we make it operate more like the private sector.

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NRA'S GRIP ON CONGRESS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN DYING

(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, the Republican majority and the National Rifle Association keep blaming everyone but themselves for this country's epidemic of gun violence, but the American people know that the tactics of the NRA have misfired again.

Guns kill; it is that simple. Until the Republican leadership takes aim at the real culprit, the proliferation of guns in the United States, 13 children a day will continue to die as a result of gun violence.

According to the Justice Department, Federal gun prosecutions are up 16 percent and State and local gun prosecutions have risen 22 percent. But still, our children are dying.

Our children need effective background checks, they need child safety locks, and they need the NRA to loosen its grip on the Republican leadership, and they need this now.

I urge my Republican colleagues to stop playing politics with children's lives and start working on meaningful gun legislation. Our children's lives depend on it.

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REPUBLICAN BUDGET RESOLUTION IS FOOLISH AND SPENDTHRIFT

(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 not going to talk about guns, but I am going to talk about something we may vote on this week.

My Republican colleagues may bring to the floor a budget resolution that their own colleagues say is foolish and spendthrift. The Republican budget resolution, at least as we see it now, but I understand that it may be changing, does nothing to aid Social Security and Medicare and does not extend the programs' solvency for one single day. It spends the projected tax surplus on tax cuts, and it does not set aside a dime to pay off the \$5.5 trillion in debt.

The Republican leadership, I am concerned, are making promises that they cannot keep. As a Democrat, it is not only us that is rejecting that budget. My colleague, the Senator from Texas said this last week, "If this budget is adopted, we will have found a surefire way to stop Democrats from spending the surplus; the Republicans will spend it first."

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INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION NO. 7—MITCHELL AND KELLY GOLDSTEIN

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Mitchell Goldstein and his daughter, Kelly. Her story is the seventh account in my series of 1 minutes on the more than 10,000 children who have been abducted to foreign countries.

In 1996, Mr. Goldstein's Swiss ex-wife abducted their then 4-year-old daughter, Kelly Goldstein, of whom Mitchell had custody and took her to Switzerland. Since that time, he has been in the Swiss courts seeking the return of Kelly, via the Hague Convention. After numerous failed appeals filed by his ex-wife, the Supreme Court of Switzerland ordered her return to the United States in a final decision rendered in August of 1997.

Mr. Goldstein has been to Switzerland three times to bring his daughter home. On these three occasions, he has been denied the chance to be reunited with his daughter because his ex-wife has fled with Kelly, placed her in foster care, or the court order has not been enforced by local authorities.

Mr. Speaker, Mitchell Goldstein is asking for someone to take action and help him bring his daughter home. I urge Congress, my colleagues, to step up to the plate and be that someone.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

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

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

Mr. McNULTY. 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 352, nays 49, answered "present" 1, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 58]

YEAS—352

Abercrombie	DeMint	Johnson (CT)
Allen	Deutsch	Johnson, E. B.
Andrews	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam
Archer	Dickey	Jones (NC)
Armey	Dicks	Kanjorski
Baca	Dingell	Kaptur
Bachus	Dixon	Kasich
Baker	Doggett	Kelly
Baldacci	Dooley	Kennedy
Baldwin	Doolittle	Kildee
Ballenger	Doyle	Kilpatrick
Barcia	Dreier	Kind (WI)
Barr	Duncan	King (NY)
Barrett (NE)	Dunn	Kingston
Barrett (WI)	Edwards	Klecza
Bartlett	Ehlers	Knollenberg
Barton	Ehrlich	Kolbe
Bass	Emerson	Kucinich
Bateman	Engel	Kuykendall
Becerra	English	LaFalce
Bentsen	Eshoo	Lampson
Bereuter	Etheridge	Lantos
Berkley	Evans	Larson
Berman	Everett	Latham
Berry	Farr	LaTourette
Biggart	Fattah	Lazio
Billirakis	Fletcher	Leach
Bishop	Foley	Lee
Blagojevich	Forbes	Levin
Bliley	Ford	Lewis (CA)
Blumenauer	Fowler	Lewis (KY)
Blunt	Franks (NJ)	Linder
Boehlert	Frelinghuysen	Lipinski
Boehner	Frost	Lofgren
Bonilla	Gallegly	Lucas (KY)
Bono	Ganske	Luther
Boswell	Gejdenson	Maloney (CT)
Boucher	Gekas	Maloney (NY)
Brady (TX)	Gephardt	Manzullo
Brown (FL)	Gilchrest	Markey
Bryant	Gillmor	Mascara
Burr	Gilman	Matsui
Buyer	Gonzalez	McCarthy (MO)
Callahan	Goode	McCarthy (NY)
Calvert	Goodlatte	McCrery
Camp	Gordon	McHugh
Campbell	Goss	McInnis
Canady	Graham	McIntosh
Cannon	Granger	McIntyre
Capps	Green (TX)	McKeon
Capuano	Hall (OH)	McKinney
Cardin	Hall (TX)	McNulty
Carson	Hansen	Meehan
Castle	Hastings (WA)	Meek (FL)
Chabot	Hayes	Meeks (NY)
Chambliss	Hayworth	Menendez
Clayton	Herger	Metcalf
Clement	Hill (IN)	Mica
Coble	Hilleary	Millender-
Coburn	Hinojosa	McDonald
Collins	Hobson	Miller (FL)
Combest	Hoeffel	Miller, Gary
Condit	Hoekstra	Minge
Conyers	Holden	Mink
Cook	Holt	Moakley
Cooksey	Hooley	Mollohan
Cox	Horn	Moran (KS)
Cramer	Hostettler	Moran (VA)
Cubin	Houghton	Morella
Cummings	Hoyer	Murtha
Cunningham	Hunter	Myrick
Danner	Hyde	Nadler
Davis (FL)	Inslee	Napolitano
Davis (VA)	Isakson	Neal
Deal	Istook	Nethercutt
DeGette	Jackson (IL)	Ney
Delahunt	Jefferson	Northup
DeLauro	Jenkins	Norwood
DeLay	John	Nussle