

hard-earned money on their own needs. Rather than supporting billion-dollar corporate welfare programs, taxpayers should be allowed to provide for the welfare of their own families.

Mr. Speaker, we can help. We can move Tax Freedom Day to an earlier slot on the calendar by cutting big government down to size and providing American people with the healthy tax cut that they richly deserve. And next year, we can celebrate Tax Freedom Day a little earlier.

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SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this morning I am talking about trailers. Temporary school buildings. I have visited over 80 schools in my district and everywhere I go, parents, teachers, and students all talk to me about the problem of overcrowding and the expense of construction.

Just last week, Secretary of Education Riley and I visited Crossroads School in a school district where the total student population has doubled in the past 11 years from 3,500 students to 7,000 now.

Mr. Speaker, study after study shows that smaller class sizes produce better students. With the median school construction cost for an elementary school in New Jersey at \$13 million, and the price of a new high school at more than \$22 million on average, these are expenses that our beleaguered taxpayers cannot afford. They cannot continue to have staggering tax increases year after year.

So, Mr. Speaker, they are putting up temporary trailers. Temporary buildings may be a temporary solution, but they are not cheap. They cost nearly \$40,000 to install, \$6,000 a year to lease, and there is a maintenance cost.

There is also a cost to the students. Trailers may provide more space, but do not provide the optimal learning environment for a quality education. Because of their long, rectangular shape, students have trouble seeing the blackboard, and many do not have Internet connections.

Congress must act to pass legislation that will provide much-needed financial assistance to fast growing school districts.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to just make a couple comments on Social Security. Mr. Speaker, I see a lot of young people joining us today. They are the generation at risk on Social Security. The actuaries of the Social Security Administration re-

port that, if we do nothing with Social Security, we are either going to see taxes increase by 54 percent or benefits cut by 33 percent.

The chart I have here is a pie chart of the Federal Government spending this year. The bottom green piece of that pie represents Social Security benefits and equals 20 percent of total Federal spending. The cost of senior programs continues to grow. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that people are living longer and therefore are drawing on Social Security longer. At the same time our birth rate is going down. The result is fewer workers paying payroll tax to finance higher benefit costs.

That leads us to a predicament where we are going in the red on Social Security. This year, with the Presidential race, it is an appropriate time to discuss Social Security, to get into the details of how we are really going to solve this problem and how we are really going to save this very important program.

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BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS WEEK

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is Brain Tumor Awareness Week. Each year, over 100,000 people in the United States alone will be diagnosed with a brain tumor. Unfortunately, the general public is not that familiar with this disease. Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer death for children under 19, the third leading cause of cancer death for young adults ages 20 to 39.

Brain tumors attack the essence of what it means to be an individual. They ravage the control center for thought, emotion, and movement. The developing minds of children are especially susceptible.

There are over 100 different types of brain cancers, making effective treatments very complicated and expensive. There is no proven cure for most malignant brain tumors. Congress needs to appropriate increased funding for the National Cancer Institute and provide a strong investment in brain tumor research. We need to give patients as many options as possible to ensure quality cancer care and improve long-term survival.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to educate themselves about brain tumors, and as we head into the heart of the appropriation season, to support increased funding for the National Cancer Institute.

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BUDGET SURPLUS SHOULD BE USED FOR DECREASING DEBT, PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY AND DECREASING TAXES

(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, how did the Army lose a \$1 million rocket launcher? How did the Air Force lose 15 jets? How did the Department of Interior build a \$300,000 outhouse? Why is it that Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream gets an \$800,000 taxpayer supplement? Why is it that, if one eats cheese pizza, the FDA inspects it; but if one has the cheese and pepperoni, the USDA inspects it? It is easy. It is called OPM, "other people's money."

In Washington, the departments, the bureaucracies are all operating on other people's money, taxpayers' money, hard-working men and women who put in 40, 50, 60 hours a week paying their tax dollars to Washington only to have it squandered by unelected faceless bureaucrats who know the beauty of OPM. They do not have to be accountable because it is not their money.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican party knows whose money it is. It is the hard-working American taxpayers. That is why we believe budget surpluses should be used to pay down the debt, protect Social Security, and give a tax decrease to the working Americans; and that is what we are working for.

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GRANTING PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TO CHINA

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, in 3½ weeks, we will take what will be, I believe, the most important vote in this Congress, the vote to extend permanent normal trade relations to China.

Mr. Speaker, this vote is important. It is not only important to our own domestic industries, our driving high-tech industry or to America's workers in other industry or to America's farmers, but it is very, very important, perhaps even more important, to the sense of freedom and dignity to the Chinese people.

Mr. Speaker, this vote is not about allowing Chinese product access to American markets, it is about allowing American product access to Chinese markets. It is about having the Chinese Government accept the discipline of conforming to a worldwide trade regime of rules and proper conduct and behavior. That can be infectious, Mr. Speaker. If they can accept those disciplines with respect to commerce, they are most likely going to accept them with respect to other aspects of their life.

It is about allowing the Chinese people, the normal every day working Chinese man or woman, the opportunity to enjoy the information, the freedom, the cultural experience, the sharing of America's freedom and, by doing so, getting a case to freedom in their own life.

History has proven, Mr. Speaker, that once people acquire the experience

of freedom through commerce, they then require freedom in a greater share of their life.

If we want to see the Chinese people free from an oppressive government, if we want to see a Chinese Government reform, put freedom in the hands of the Chinese people. They, Mr. Speaker, will reform the Chinese Government, improve their human rights; and while doing that, we will be able to maintain, not only an American economic boom, but a world economic boom to the greater good of all the world's people.

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TEXAS 49TH IN BOSNIA

(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, during this last Easter weekend, several Members of the Texas delegation, led by our U.S. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN), and myself traveled to Bosnia with Senator HUTCHINSON to visit the Texas National Guard's 49th Division and observed Easter Sunrise Services with our Guard in Tuzla.

We had the opportunity to examine the operating situation of U.S. forces in Bosnia. We were accompanied by General Russell Davis, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, but also our General in Texas, Daniel James of the Texas National Guard, to observe the Commanding General Robert Halverson in the 49th Texas division.

I personally had the opportunity to visit with Colonel Tom Roman who, in his real life, is a lieutenant in the Houston Police Department, who is currently serving in the division. Frankly, we have three Houston police officers who, not only serve Houston during their regular jobs, but are now serving in Tuzla, Bosnia, serving our country with the 49th Division.

For the first time in history, we have a National Guard division who is in charge of a regular Army unit in Bosnia.

I am proud of the outstanding job our troops are doing in helping bring peace to this ravaged war-torn area. They have been successful in stopping the killing of women and children and trying to bring stability to that area.

They are serving our country with honor and are proving that the Guard is a reliable part of our Armed Forces.

Let me just show for national television the T-shirt that shows the Eagle Base with the 49th Lone Star Texas Division emblem on it. Thank you.

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AMERICANS DESERVE MEANINGFUL TAX RELIEF

(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, we return to Washington to be about the business of the American people. During our district work period, in the 6th Congressional District of Arizona, an area in square mileage almost the size of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, one of the largest districts in the country, not only geographically, but also now as we do the estimates on representing close to 1 million people, I was pleased that close to 1,000 people joined my family and me at a tax relief rally April 15.

Despite the talk of the pundits here on the banks of the Potomac, the American people understand, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) alluded to it earlier, it is not the other people's money, it is not the government's money, the money belongs to the hard-working taxpayers of the United States.

We owe it to the people who work hard and play by the rules to make sure that their money, our money is spent the right way. The best way to spend it is to put it back in the hands of people who earned it. Meaningful tax relief, we have offered it in terms of ending the earnings penalty for seniors. We hope that others will act on the marriage penalty as this body has done. The American people deserve more of their hard-earned money.

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GOP BUDGET INVESTS IN EDUCATION TO HELP OUR KIDS LEARN

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, for America to remain competitive in the 21st Century, we must improve public schools and help children reach their full potential. I have a particular outstanding, I think many outstanding schools in my district, but today I have the Ruston Junior High School students in town.

That is why the Republican budget proposal increases our commitment to public education so that today's children will be tomorrow's leaders in America and around the world. Republicans are providing \$2.2 billion more in the elementary and secondary education funding over the last year's level. That is an increase of almost 10 percent, and more than \$20 billion over the next 25 years or over the next 5 years.

We need new solutions to help students learn, not just more money. That is why Republicans want to give parents and local teachers, not Washington bureaucrats, more control over Federal education dollars. That is why we need to expand education savings accounts to help students get out of failing schools. The Republican budget means more resources and a brighter future for millions of America's children and students.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OVER-POWERS IN ELIAN GONZALEZ SAGA

(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, most people apparently felt Elian Gonzalez should have been returned to his father. However, regardless of what anyone felt about custody, the actions of the Justice Department were ridiculously excessive in busting into that home in Florida in the early morning hours several days ago.

To send in officers in full riot gear, brandishing submachine guns was something a Federal police state would do. It was something that we would have expected in some Communist dictatorship, but not here.

The picture of that officer pointing a gun at Elian and that fisherman is something that should have shocked and saddened everyone. Taking the law into its own hands just after it had been severely criticized by a U.S. Court of Appeals, not waiting for the next scheduled court hearing just a few days away, the Justice Department has shown once again that it has grown far too arrogant, far too abusive, far too big and really out of control.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not drastically decrease the size, power, and especially the funding of the Justice Department in the years ahead, the freedom of all Americans will be in jeopardy.

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ENCOURAGING TRADE IN VIETNAM

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, last year I went to Vietnam with Hal Rogers, chairman, at the behest of Pete Peterson, who is the ambassador, and was asked to raise the American flag over Ho Chi Minh City for the first time for over 25 years.

On that trip, I met with the prime minister, Communist prime minister in Hanoi, and I asked the prime minister, "Why do you not get involved in trade?" In perfect English, the Communist prime minister said, "Congressman, we are Communist. If we get involved in trade, we will be out of power as Communists." At that moment, I said trade is good.

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If we take a look at whether there are problems with the trade with China, whether it is humanitarian or whether it is with national security issues, it is in our best interest. That is why Taiwan supports trade with China. They want China in 20 to 30 years to move in a direction of pro democracy, not back to a totalitarian Communist State.

Regardless of how one feels on the trade issue, both human rights and national security, it is in the United States' best interest to support the trade with China.