

a year curing and caring for their neighbors who need them.

An example of this dedication is the Correctional Health Care Program created by Baystate Health Systems of Springfield, Massachusetts. The program won the National Hospital Association's prestigious NOVA award, which recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health care of their communities.

The Correctional Health Care Program is a joint effort by Baystate Health Systems and the Hampden County Correction Center to improve the state of inmate health care. Inmates serve an average of 14 months and then return to the community with whatever disease or problems they had when they entered. Failing to improve this health care, puts the inmates, their families, and the public at risk once they are released.

Baystate and Hampden County saw this public health care opportunity and developed a model which has had amazing results. Recurrence of incarceration at the Hampden County Correctional Center is only 4 percent, dramatically below the national average of 40 percent. Program supporters say this extremely low rate is a direct result of correctional health care programs like this.

The program gives inmates the chance to control their own health, helps them gain an element of self-respect and, in most cases, keeps them from returning to a life of crime in jail. In addition, it helps save public health dollars while fighting the spread of communicable diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Baystate Health Care System and the Hampden County Correctional Facility for this award-winning program.

CONGRATULATIONS ON OPENING OF JUVENILE RESIDENCE

(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, I would like to congratulate Here's Help on the grand opening of the Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, Alex Villalobos, and Ron Silver Juvenile Residence.

This facility, named after the Florida State legislators who pushed for its establishment, will help teenagers overcome their difficult struggle with substance abuse.

The ravages of dependence too often destroy the lives of young people. And future leaders are often cast aside or lost under a pile of social service paperwork.

Special thanks go to Miami's Y-100's "Footy," also known as John Kross, for his efforts as CEO of Here's Help. And to Dave Ross, manager of Clear Channel.

Others helped: Florida Governor Jeb Bush, who provided funding to furnish this home and renovate older facilities. Thanks also to Dan Marino and Emilio and Gloria Estefan.

I am heartened to see organizations like Here's Help trying to stem this tide of human suffering with community efforts, especially with the Friday opening of its new juvenile residency facility. I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Miami Y-100's "Footy" and to Here's Help for the wonderful work they have accomplished and for the lives they have saved in this new juvenile residency hall.

EDUCATION

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we celebrated National Teachers Day and paid tribute to some of our Nation's most important citizens, our teachers. Today, I rise to discuss school construction, an issue which is very important to the teachers in my district.

In my hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada, we have the fastest growing school age population in the United States. We have to build a school a month in order to keep up with the unprecedented growth. We have 1,200 students for every school in southern Nevada. That is twice the national average.

We have 210,000 people in our school district. Too many of these students, as many as 22,000, are being educated in trailers, being educated in portables. This is not an appropriate place for our students to be educated in. It is not an appropriate environment for our teachers to teach in.

The teachers in my district need school construction so that they can teach smaller classes and help their students learn better. I urge my colleagues to pass fair, common sense legislation that will help our teachers and benefit all of America's students. Let us pass school construction.

WHISTLEBLOWERS

(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, why does the media seem to like some whistleblowers and dislike others? I will mention three names, three of the most famous whistleblowers from recent history.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood blew the whistle on the Cimarron Nuclear Facility in Oklahoma, claiming unsafe practices. Karen Silkwood died in a car accident that November while on her way to meet with a New York Times reporter. They say her death was not an accident and that documents she had in the car with her disappeared from the scene of the crash.

In 1995, Dr. Jeffrey Wigand broke with a big tobacco company to criticize that industry's practices. In a famous

episode, his interview with 60 Minutes was taken off the air because of pressure from tobacco company lawyers.

Karen Silkwood and Jeffrey Wigand have both been lionized by Hollywood in movies starring Meryl Streep and Russell Crowe. Both names are synonymous in the media with persons who have been punished for telling the truth.

How about the third whistleblower? Linda Tripp blew the whistle on the most powerful person in America. She told the truth, a truth we might never have known had she not spoken up. And, yet, instead of a movie contract, Ms. Tripp faces the possibility of being the only player in the scandal to be convicted of a crime.

How is that for American justice?

CHINA

(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, something does not add up. China is taking \$80 billion a year out of our economy now in trade surpluses, and reports say that China is buying tanks, planes, submarines and missiles with our cash. There are also reports that further say, my colleagues, that with our cash they are pointing their missiles, that we bought, at America.

And after all this, if that is not enough to bust your balsam, Presidents Ford and Carter endorsed President Clinton's plan to grant China Most Favored Nation trade status, now called normal. Normal, my two pairs.

Beam me up, my colleagues. Ford, Carter and Clinton will not get it until there is a Chinese missile shoved right up their assets.

I yield back whatever they are smoking at their press conferences.

OPENING DOORS TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to encourage change in China. PNTR for China will provide the Chinese people with access to western influence and ideas by forcing China to open their society to bring about positive economic and social changes.

George W. Bush recently commented on Ronald Reagan's "forward strategy for freedom." The Reagan adage, as espoused by the Texas governor, is that "the case for trade is not just monetary, but moral. Economic freedom creates habits of liberty. And habits of liberty guarantee expectations of democracy. There are no guarantees, but there are good examples from Chile to Taiwan. Trade freely with China and time is on our side."

I also agree with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who predicts that

democracy will move steadily up the scale from the village to the province and, ultimately, to the highest national level.

We cannot achieve these goals through economic isolationism. Wang Dan, a student leader at Tiananmen Square, said "the west should not try to isolate the Communist regime. Economic change does influence political change." Let us support PNTR and allow free trade to open doors to the people of China.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Teachers Appreciation Week, I rise to pay tribute to our teachers. I would like to recognize Mike Weddle, a teacher from Waldo Middle School in Salem, Oregon, who was recently awarded one of the three Milken awards for his exceptional work as a teacher in Oregon.

Mr. Weddle was chosen to receive this award because of his constant efforts to go above and beyond the required duties providing the best possible education for the children of Oregon. Mike Weddle is just one example of the thousands upon thousands of teachers out there determined to make a difference in a student's life.

In cities and towns across my district, teachers arrive to greet their overcrowded classes of 25, 30 and sometimes 35 students. Many teach in less than ideal environments, in schools that many of us would not work in. But they come back, day after day, dedicated to teaching our children.

There are few things that are more important to the people in my district than the education of our children. However, we often take our teachers for granted and forget to say thank you for all the tireless work that they do. I am here today to say thank you. Thank you for working to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and to achieve his or her fullest potential.

Let us really say thank you to our teachers by passing the school construction bill.

□ 1045

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS DESERVE BUDGET THAT ELIMINATES WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

(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, since 1995, Republicans have been working hard here in Congress to restore common sense to our Government. One of the ways we have done that is by declaring war on waste, fraud and abuse. American taxpayers work hard for

their money; and when they send a portion of it here to Washington, the least we can do is spend it responsibly.

Our House Committee on the Budget has a website where the American people can report on examples that they have seen of taxpayer money being spent wastefully.

One such example is a company here in Washington, D.C., that was awarded a \$6.6 million grant to find jobs for 1,500 welfare recipients. Nine months, \$1 million later, this company had found only 30 jobs. This contract has since been terminated. But this is just one example. And, unfortunately, there are hundreds more.

Last year's budget contained a .38 across the board budget cut aimed at eliminating waste, fraud and abuse. I hope this is something we can build on this year in Congress. American taxpayers deserve to have their money spent responsibly. They deserve a budget that eliminates waste, fraud and abuse.

CONGRESS MUST PASS BIPARTISAN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this Congress to pass bipartisan school construction legislation to help improve our education for our children.

This week is the 15th annual Teachers Appreciation Week, and yesterday we celebrated National Teacher Day. As the father of a fourth grade teacher, I commend the House on passing this bipartisan resolution supporting our teachers.

But Congress must do more than pass nonbinding resolutions. To make real progress in education, Congress must pass substantive legislation to improve our schools so every child has an opportunity and none are left behind. We must take action to help make sure every neighborhood school in this country works to provide our children with a decent education. We must work in a bipartisan manner to help pass common sense solutions to the challenges facing our schools.

The first bill we should pass is the bipartisan Johnson-Rangel school construction bill. This compromise bill contains elements of my own construction bill to help local communities build new schools, relieve overcrowding, reduce class sizes, and help teachers give students the individual attention they need and deserve.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this common sense bill that will make a difference in our community schools. I urge the House leadership to bring this important bill to the floor immediately so Congress can have an opportunity to do more to improve our schools.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3709, INTERNET NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 496 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 496

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3709) to make permanent the moratorium enacted by the Internet Tax Freedom Act as it applies to new, multiple, and discriminatory taxes on the Internet. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule for a period not to exceed two hours. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.