

term solutions with broad implications by training students to make responsible choices and consciously operate as the CEOs of their lives.

Youth leaders of the What If organization have renamed their generation. Formerly known as Generation Y, the Possibility Generation. They are creating history as the first generation to name itself, and through that act, they are declaring their leadership. Unwilling to be labeled by others, these youth are creating a shift in the way they view themselves and the way they are viewed by others.

Representatives of the What If Organization, founders of the Possibility Generation, and their peers are here today to share in the creation of new possibilities for generations to come.

As I read the Possibility Generation, written by these young people..

"The Possibility Generation Proclamation:

We, the youth and leaders of the future, hereby proclaim our self-fulfilling right to choose our name, to be accountable for how we are perceived, and to be responsible for the manner in which we relate to ourselves and others.

We are shaping our future by naming ourselves the Possibility Generation, a name consistent with the future we are creating. We are actively forming the Possibility Generation by taking ownership of the future today. We know through our own initiative we can design our lives and future, building on the knowledge and experiences from previous generations.

We willingly seek partnership in creating our future based on the recognition of our unlimited possibilities and what we can accomplish by virtue of our strengths, our openness, our quest to explore uncharted territory, our willingness to accept and to be proud of who we are, and our ability to accept others for who they are.

We commit to being a model for the generations to follow, thus creating a future for our children and providing a choice to lead a life by a path of self-determination and celebration. We commit to creating a world that accepts all people and provides an equal right to explore given potential. In so doing, we become the possibility of goodness, peace, and humanitarianism for all.

We, the members of the Possibility Generation, pledge to each live our possibilities in the manner that will empower us as individuals and thus positively influence society as a whole."

I am delighted, Mr. Speaker, to host this group of fine young people in Washington today, where they will meet leaders from our Congress and from the administration, and wish them well as they take on these glorious endeavors.

#### NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 19, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2¼ minutes.

Mr. TANCREDI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the beginning of National Small Business Week. With over 117,000 small businesses in Colorado, not to mention the 184,000 self-employed individuals, small businesses have become the backbone of our robust economy.

It is imperative that we continue to foster the growth of small businesses in America by reducing and eliminating many of the burdensome regulations the Federal government imposes on them, such as those put out by OSHA that cost small business millions of dollars each year.

Congress should also heed the calls of businessmen and women throughout the Nation and eliminate the death tax, which would allow more small businesses to be passed on from one generation to another, and continue to pass laws allowing small businesses to increase retirement benefits for themselves and their employees.

Earlier this year, the House passed four small business bills to reduce paperwork requirements and limit liability. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation.

I hope my colleagues will join me this week in thanking America's small businesses for their efforts in making America the leader in the world's economy.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING) at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of the ages, You love each of us in singular fashion. You deal with us justly. In differing ways, You draw us to Yourself to achieve Your own purpose.

Those who have only tasted Your goodness, O Lord, are like newborn infants longing for pure spiritual milk. Those who have been cut out by Your Word and hewed by Your spirit are like living stones being built into a spiritual house, called to be a holy priesthood offering spiritual sacrifice acceptable to God.

Those wholly animated by Your Spirit are like branches on a vine, one in life, one in activity, one in producing lasting fruits.

Help us this day to achieve Your holy will by setting aside all selfish gain. Make us Your instrument of peace and justice that our faith in You may not bring us shame but give You alone the glory now and forever.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TERRY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### PAYING DOWN THE DEBT

(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, in 1981, while the Nation celebrated the 200th anniversary of the British surrender at Yorktown, President Reagan joked that "our enemy is no longer Red Coats, but red ink."

For 40 long years, this country sank deeper and deeper into debt. Congress seemed addicted to spending money on every project imaginable. But never during the 8 years of Reagan's presidency did the Congress ever send him a balanced budget, not once.

Never during the Carter, Ford, or Nixon administrations did the Democratic Congress ever send the President a balanced budget, nor during the Bush administration.

The same was true the first 2 years that President Clinton enjoyed one-party rule in this town, no balanced budget.

The Constitution clearly states that only Congress can appropriate money for spending. Within 3 years of taking over Congress, the Republicans not only balanced the budget but also began paying down the debt.

For decades, the other side had the chance to balance the budget but never did. The Republican Congress did it, and now we are reaping the rewards.

#### PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, we cast a lot of votes in this body that are oftentimes quickly forgotten, but tomorrow

we will cast one that will be indelibly etched in the history books, whether or not this Congress supports the current status quo of too many human rights abuses and too many trade deficits with China or whether we want to change that policy.

I will vote for permanent trade with China because it benefits America. We do not want to support the status quo with China.

Just Friday, the European Union negotiated a new agreement with China where they will get certain benefits to get into those markets in China. Under this agreement, America does not open its markets one bit more to China; but we pry open markets for telecommunications, agriculture, manufacturing, and across the board.

Our policy, Mr. Speaker, should be to pry open and penetrate those markets so that we export products, not jobs.

#### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR TAX

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is notorious for being cumbersome and slow to change. When it comes to making improvements in our 17,000-page Tax Code, this is particularly true.

So it is no great surprise that there is a 102-year-old temporary tax law on the books which became obsolete less than a year after it became law. That is right, the Spanish-American War tax, which charges Americans a 3-percent excise tax on their phone line usage, was passed by Congress in 1898 to pay for the Spanish-American War.

Well, the war is over, folks, but the tax is still with us. It is hurting 94 percent of Americans who use phone lines either for personal or business use.

Why has it not changed? It has not changed because of the insatiable appetite of Government for every single tax dollar it can get its hands on.

This is wrong. Congress needs to disconnect the American people from the outdated Spanish-American War tax.

#### INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to talk about international child abduction, but this time I will tell the story from a different perspective. I am going to tell my colleagues about Cecilie Finkelstein, a victim of international parental child abduction who I have spoken with about the effects that this crime has on the abducted child.

During our discussions, Cecilie expressed to me that parental abduction can and often does cause tremendous harm to the children involved. In her case, she lived on the run for 14 years, living in three countries and 34 States.

Her father forced her to assume many identities to hide and alienate her from her mother. Cecilie learned the truth from a family friend.

She now has a relationship with her mother but expressed to me the devastating effects that abduction has on the child victims.

At an event I held in March, Cecilie, on behalf of herself and all abducted children, appealed to Congress to do everything in its power to discourage international parental child abduction by taking action to motivate foreign countries to comply with the spirit and the intent of the Hague Treaty on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

My colleagues have that chance. Support H. Con. Res. 293 and help me prevent this tragedy from happening again.

#### INS DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT

(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, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4489, the INS Data Management Improvement Act, which will be coming before this Chamber later today.

The bill will support our border law enforcement objectives without adversely affecting U.S. commerce, trade, or tourism.

H.R. 4489 does not create a new, cumbersome inspection system. It does not mandate additional documents be required for entry into the United States.

H.R. 4489 simply requires that the INS develop and maintain an electronic database of information already collected at our borders. It also establishes a joint public-private sector task force to evaluate and report on ways to improve the flow of traffic at all ports of entry.

This sensible legislation supports our border law enforcement efforts, as well as the travel and tourism industries of many States, including Nevada.

I urge all of my colleagues to support the INS Data Management Improvement Act.

#### JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT INVESTIGATED WHETHER CHINESE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMPROMISED OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

(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, a memo now proves that the FBI urged Janet Reno to stop investigating illegal Chinese campaign contributions to the Democratic Party. Janet Reno was told she would lose her job. Janet Reno did not lose her job.

Until this day, the Justice Department has never investigated whether

or not Chinese communists have compromised our national security.

Unbelievable.

And if that is not enough to throw wild rice on this China marriage, check this out. Congress is about to reward China for buying and spying on Uncle Sam.

Beam me up.

When the Justice Department spends millions of dollars to investigate Bill Gates of Microsoft but not one dime to investigate the Red Army of China, something is wrong in America.

I yield back what looks like treason to me.

#### IN SUPPORT OF GRANTING PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TO CHINA

(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, China is the third largest military power in the world. It has a huge conventional arms arsenal and developing missile and nuclear capabilities.

Quite frankly, China is a powerful threat. But China can be a powerful ally. There is no more powerful tool for a positive change in China than trade with America.

I worry that this trend towards isolationism will lead us into another Cold War, an ugly time of an era gone by, where many of my colleagues seem to long for the old policy of mutually assured destruction.

Mr. Speaker, I urge them to instead explore the option of mutually assured improvements.

Granting China normal trade relations will have a tremendous impact on our diplomatic relations. This will enhance our ability to improve conditions in China even more.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(Ms. VELAZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, George Bernard Shaw once said, "Some people look at the world and say, 'Why?'. Others look at the world and say, 'Why not?'".

To me, this one statement captures the essence of what it means to be a business owner and entrepreneurs of America.

I rise today in celebration of Small Business Week and acknowledge our Nation's most enduring image and its greatest legacy, our small businesses.

Small businesses account for 99.7 percent of America's employers. They employ 52 percent of the private sector workforce. And they are responsible for 47 percent of all sales of goods and services throughout this country.

But small business is not just about these numbers. These companies represent the investors, entrepreneurs,