

number of large pretzel producers in my district, including Auntie Anne's, which you see in the shopping malls, Herr's, Anderson, Sturgis, Hammond and others. Everybody, it seems, eats pretzels today; but few of us know about the history of the pretzel and that they are one of the world's oldest snack foods.

Pretzels go back as far as 610 A.D., when young students in North Italian monasteries received them as rewards for correctly reciting their prayers.

A monk designed the pretzel to resemble the way students cross their arms across their chest in prayer, and that is also where the pretzel gets its name. Pretzel comes from "pretiola," the Latin word for "little reward."

Pretzels have come a long way in the last 1,400 years and they are now a multimillion dollar industry in the U.S., and they are very popular. I am very proud to say that many of America's most popular pretzels come from Lancaster and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania.

GOLDEN JACKPOT AWARD GOES TO THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

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

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am announcing the new winner of the Golden Jackpot Award which has been created to recognize indefensible government decisions that benefit special interests at the expense of the public interest.

There are two worthy contestants for today's award. The recent Bush administration decision to eliminate contraceptive coverage for women in the Federal health insurance plans and to freeze funding for family planning programs is an amazing example of a ridiculous policy aimed at satisfying right-wing groups that cannot distinguish between abortion and family planning.

Even this incredible decision pales next to Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham's rollback of air conditioner efficiency standards at a time when America is facing its worst energy problems in 25 years. This is an obscure decision that has enormous implications. Because of the rollback, the United States will have to build over 40 new power plants by the year 2020.

The action benefits the manufacturers of air conditioners who contributed heavily to President Bush and Republicans, but it is a disaster for the American people, and Californians in particular. I give this award to Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham.

REWARDING PERFORMANCE IN COMPENSATION ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, performance bonuses and gainsharing programs are a way for employees to share in the success of a company that they work for. Whether exempt or non-exempt, all employees should have the same opportunity to receive bonuses for their hard work. For many employers, the administrative costs associated with operating bonus programs for their hourly employees often end up costing more than actual bonuses. Because of this, current law virtually ensures that employers exclude hourly workers from bonus programs.

Today, I am reintroducing The Rewarding Performance in Compensation Act, which will help workers to share when their efforts that they have produce gains for the company. This legislation would amend the Fair Labor Standards Act to specify that an hourly employee's regular rate of pay in calculating overtime would not be affected by additional payments that reward employees who meet certain goals.

Simply put, this bill would give hourly nonexempt employees the same access to bonuses that are exempt from professional employees that they already receive, and I ask my colleagues to support The Rewarding Performance in Compensation Act.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the so-called Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which will be before this body later on today.

First of all, we should have truth in advertising. This bill has nothing to do with protecting unborn victims, which in it is defined as broadly as three cells, but everything in rolling back a woman's right to choose. It is not about violence against pregnant women. It is about taking away a woman's right to choose. It erodes Roe v. Wade. It will define for the first time the beginning of life in a criminal statute.

The domestic violence groups in America do not support it, but President Bush does. I have the statement of administration policy, President Bush's policy, which is anti-woman, toothless in protecting women against violence; but it is very strong in depriving a woman of a right to choose.

I urge everyone to vote against this bill when it comes to the floor today.

SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERS AND WORKERS IN SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA UPLIFTS COMMUNITY

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today about the floods that have been wreaking havoc in southwest Minnesota and other areas around the country. A week ago, I was in Montevideo and in Granite Falls with Governor Ventura, and I was saddened by the devastation and flooding that nature can cause; but I was uplifted by the spirit of volunteers and workers that came to help their communities with such a disaster.

I wanted to take this time to thank those communities and the leaders and the many youth who gave so much work and worked so hard to help their neighbors during this time of need: Carver County and Kevin Carrolls; Chaska and Mayor Bob Roepke; Granite Falls and Mayor Dave Smiglewski and Bill Lavin; Montevideo and Mayor Jim Curtis and Steve Jones; New Ulm and Mayor Arnold Koelpin and Gary Gleisner; Redwood Falls and Mayor Sara Triplett and Jeff Weldon; Shakopee and Mayor Jon Brekke and Mark McNeill; St. Peter and Todd Praefke and Jerry Hawbaker; and to all the others who have worked so hard to help their communities. We applaud their efforts and we thank them.

PROCTOLOGIST SHOULD BE ADVISING JUDGES AT FRENCH BEAUTY CONTEST

(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, is she or is she not? Rumors persist that Miss France is not a big-bone diva but actually a man. Reports say that pageant officials said they are anxiously awaiting the bathing suit contest. Unbelievable. Maybe J. Edgar Hoover will crown the next Miss France, Mr. Speaker.

Hey, what is next? Will they have certification standards performed by licensed gynecologists for these pageants? Beam me up. This is not brain surgery. Even the University of Dayton School of Political Science can determine human genitalia.

I yield back the fact that a proctologist should be advising these judges at this French beauty contest.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT, A SHIELD OF PROTECTION TO UNBORN CHILDREN

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. This bill extends a shield of protection to those children that cannot protect themselves.

Under this bill, a criminal who commits a violent crime against a pregnant mother will be charged with a second offense on behalf of the second victim, the unborn child.

My home State of Missouri, along with 23 other States across our Nation, already recognize that unborn children who are victims of crimes must be protected from the violent actions of criminals. This legislation will extend the same level of protection to all mothers and their unborn children which is currently afforded to the mothers and children of Missouri and half the States across our country.

Our vote today will send a clear message to the criminals around this Nation that the laws of this land will not tolerate the violent actions against the mothers and their unborn children and will hold criminals strictly accountable for their heinous crimes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 503, Mr. Speaker.

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MORE MONEY NEEDED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for more money for our public schools. Our public schools desperately need increased funding as we prepare our students for the next generation for the 21st century. Schools must modernize facilities, provide better training and pay for teachers, reduce class size, and provide innovative learning experiences.

That is why I support the New Democrat's Three R's bill. This bill will increase education funding by \$35 billion over 5 years. Right now we only spend 7 percent of our Federal budget on education. That means that some of our most neediest schools are not getting enough funding. We need to do more for these schools, and we can.

Let us be honest here: We know that putting more money into the system is not going to solve all our problems. If our schools do the work and use this money to meet their goals, we will reward them with additional funding. But if they do not meet their goals after 3 years, there has to be accountability.

But there is a major difference in the way we approach funding in our schools and the way President Bush approaches it. While the President sends funding to the States without any direction, our approach is that we should send our Federal dollars back to our school districts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to give all of our schools the help they need by supporting the Three R's.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISTS DRIVING UP ENERGY COSTS

(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, people all over this Nation are seeing their gas prices and utility bills go way up. Well, they can thank the environmental extremists, who have stopped or delayed almost every type of production in this Nation.

All over the country, small groups of elitist environmentalists protest every time anyone tries to drill for any oil, dig for any coal, cut any trees or produce any natural gas. This destroys jobs and drives up prices and really hurts the poor and working people the most.

Most of these environmentalists seem to come from wealthy families, and perhaps they do not realize or care how much they are hurting lower income people. Their rules and regulations drive small businesses and small farms out of business, and thus help the extremely big businesses who fund them.

But unless people want their gas and utility bills to go much, much higher, they had better start opposing the left wing socialism that is prevalent in much of the environmental movement today.

TRIBUTE TO LUTRELLE FLEMING PALMER

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran journalist, a political organizer, a constituent, a neighbor, and a long-time friend, Mr. Lutrelle Fleming Palmer. He recently retired after 50 years of hard-fought and committed activism.

Since 1950, Lu Palmer has been using the power of the pen and the radio to relay firsthand accounts of the triumphs and struggles of African Americans.

As a newspaper reporter, mainstream columnist, and black radio commentator, Lu always did it his way. He frequently took unpopular stands on highly controversial issues. Courageously, he always did so in a very public manner, because for Lu, informing his people was a top priority.

In 1981, he began to organize the politically independent organization, Chicago Black United Communities, or CBUC. Once again, Lu's motivation was to inform and galvanize the black community. The visionary efforts of Lu and CBUC were so successful that he is credited with playing a pivotal role in producing Chicago's first African-American mayor, Mayor Harold Washington.

Lu Palmer's talents, vision, insight, independent spirit and love for his people

is commendable and should be recognized by this Congress.

So today, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the 50 year-career of the legendary Chicago radio and political activist, Mr. Lutrelle F. Palmer, Lu Palmer.

PROTECTING PREGNANT WOMEN AND UNBORN CHILDREN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the House will today be taking up a very important piece of legislation, H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. It is a very carefully constructed bill which will fill a gap which presently exists in Federal law.

Right now, under Federal law it provides no additional punishment for criminals who commit an act of violence against pregnant women and kill or injure the unborn children that they might be carrying.

I want to commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) for his leadership in preparing this long overdue piece of legislation. Let us protect pregnant women in this Nation, and let us also protect the innocent unborn children that they are carrying.

THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, there are 42.6 million uninsured Americans. The critical care needs of this population, when met, is often provided by safety net hospitals. These institutions provide such care, often at a financial loss to the most needy among us.

Today the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and I will introduce the Medicaid Safety Net Hospital Improvement Act of 2001. This bipartisan measure raises the floor for Federal Medicaid allotments to States for hospitals that serve the uninsured from 1 percent to 3 percent, alleviating some of the growing burden of providing uncompensated care to many of our Nation's uninsured.

The legislation provides a more level playing field by raising the amount of Federal funds to States that have been undercompensated and does not impact the Federal allotments to other States.

As Congress considers policies for improving health care access to America's uninsured, we must not abandon the safety net already in place. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting these critical hospitals and the vulnerable populations who depend on them.