

The words of hypocrites are seldom heard, especially the words from preachers.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1115

MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week the Labor-H appropriations bill was supposed to be on the floor, but at the last minute, the House Republican leadership stripped the bill from the schedule. It appears that the GOP is delaying a vote on this bill solely because it includes an increase in the minimum wage.

The minimum wage is now at its lowest point in half a century. Last week the Appropriations Committee voted to gradually increase the minimum wage. This increase will provide a much-needed boost to 7 million Americans, hard-working people who get up every morning and go to work.

It is unfortunate that for almost a decade the Republican leadership has been forcing working families to make impossible choices, choices between paying the rent and buying groceries or between paying the heating bill and buying much-needed prescription medication.

An increase in the minimum wage is about fairness, and that is why the American people overwhelmingly support an increase. Now that the House Appropriations Committee has acted, it is time for the Republican leadership to bring this bill up for a vote.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have had enough of not having enough to get by.

IRAQ

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here to congratulate the men and women of our Armed Forces who have cornered and captured the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, al Zarqawi. His death dealt a harmful blow to his followers who practice and preach hate, death, and fear.

Better yet, the raid on the warlord's hideout produced a slew of information: policy, propaganda, and paraphernalia. Even Zarqawi says they are losing.

Just as important is what transpired after they uncovered that intelligence: 452 raids since the killing of al Zarqawi, 104 insurgents killed, and 759 anti-Iraqi elements captured. This morning's news release claims the death of Zarqawi's replacement.

One man said, "We are beating the snot out of them. Why quit now short of complete victory?"

This is big news for democracy and freedom. Our men and women in uniform deserve the utmost respect and thanks, and I would like to honor them for a job well done

THE BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the over 3 million women living with breast cancer, the leading cause of death among women between 40 and 55, including my sister-in-law, Abby Irwin, who died at only age 41 after an 11-year struggle.

One bill that would achieve a great deal to expand prevention and perhaps one day lead to a cure is H.R. 2231, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This important legislation would establish multidisciplinary and multi-institutional breast cancer research centers to study the potential links between breast cancer and the environment.

Although this bill enjoys the support of 246 bipartisan cosponsors, and its companion has 64 Senate cosponsors, not a single hearing has been called since it was introduced over 1 year ago.

If we are going to make a serious commitment to preventing and curing breast cancer, we must pass this legislation. Our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends who are at risk deserve no less than our greatest effort to eradicate this tragic and all too prevalent disease.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to cosponsor the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. I would further urge our leadership to expedite consideration of this bill.

METROATLANTA AMBULANCE: 2006 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and ask the House to recognize and congratulate an outstanding Atlanta area small business that has proven to be a model for community leadership and responsibility.

The MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service was recently named the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce 2006 Small Business of the Year. The company provides 9/11 emergency ambulance services and prehospital care for the sick and injured throughout the Atlanta area.

As a medical doctor, I know the importance of reliable and rapid emergency response care, and MetroAtlanta Ambulance provides a service critical to the health and well-being of our community. The company has demonstrated time and again that they are more than just a business. Rather, they have shown an honest, sincere, and re-

peated desire to lend a hand to others. They took a lead role last year in coordinating ambulance services and logistics for the evacuation of victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Their hard work led to the relocation of 1,300 people from the flood-damaged region.

Mr. Speaker, MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service is a great example of what can be accomplished when sound, honest business practices are coupled with a sincere desire to help neighbors in need.

Congratulations to MetroAtlanta Ambulance.

THE ESTATE TAX

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the median income in America has dropped. What is the Republican Congress trying to do? Increase the minimum wage? Nope. Making sure that everyone in this country has access to affordable health care? Nope. Controlling energy costs? Nope.

It is making sure that the 18 wealthiest families in the Nation do not pay their fair share.

Median income over the last 4 years in America has dropped by 2.8 percent. College costs are up by 38 percent. Health care costs are up by 75 percent. Energy costs are up by over 72 percent. And yet the middle class in America are facing a wageless recovery and an endless occupation.

The heirs to the Wal-Mart, Campbell's Soup, and Gallo Wine fortunes rest easy knowing that this Congress is hard at work on their behalf.

So rather than raise the minimum wage, the GOP Congress is going to cut taxes for the likes of Lee Raymond and his family.

Mr. Speaker, "shame" is defined as a sense of guilt or embarrassment, and it is a condition that seems to be lost here on the Republican Congress.

It is time for a change. It is time for a new direction.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDY WOLPE

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

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to recognize the life of Judy Wolpe. Judy was the wife of former Congressman Howard Wolpe of Michigan, who served in this Chamber from 1978 until 1992. Tragically, Judy was the victim of a drowning accident while on vacation with her husband in Guatemala.

Judy was a distinguished public servant in her own right, serving as board chairwoman of Lansing Community College, and in administrative posts for former Michigan Governor Jim Blanchard and former Indiana Governor and current U.S. Senator EVAN BAYH.

Judy and I shared a hometown, Battle Creek, Michigan. We graduated

from the same high school. Judy was a distinguished educator, with degrees from Michigan State University and Western Michigan University. She was a devoted mother of four sons and grandmother of five. Additionally, she is survived by her father, two sisters, and her brother.

Judy had great zest for life. She was a giving and warm person, and she will be truly missed.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House is scheduled to vote on H.R. 9, the Voting Rights Reauthorization Act.

In a Nation where children are taught at the earliest age that every citizen has a right to vote, it would be comforting to know that the last vestiges of voter discrimination had been swept away by the Voting Rights Act.

But the facts paint a much different and unsettling picture. Sadly, African Americans and other minorities continue to face calculated and determined efforts to prevent them from exercising their fundamental democratic rights. That is why extension of key expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act is critical.

Mr. Speaker, the right to vote is a foundation of democracy, and the Voting Rights Act provides the legal basis to protect the rights of all Americans. It is my hope that this body will do the right thing and not allow weakening amendments that would undermine the effectiveness of this historical voter act to be passed.

LINE ITEM VETO

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans understand that fiscal restraint is not an option. It is a necessity.

Since 1991, Federal spending on special-interest projects has increased by 900 percent. It is interesting just in the last emergency spending bill we passed out of this Congress, there is \$38 million in oyster research money. Now, I certainly like oysters. I think they are great whether they are raw or steamed or even fried. I am Southern, so fried oysters are great. But I do not think the Federal Government should be spending \$38 million.

That is why I support the Presidential line item veto, and I think it is important that the President have the authority to root out those wasteful spending projects and make sure that pork-barrel spending does not continue to grow.

Mr. Speaker, this initiative will make Congress more accountable and help us eliminate the government glut-

tony that plagues our current budget process.

HOUSE GOP PLANS TO DISMANTLE SOCIAL SECURITY AFTER NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the motto, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Last year the White House and congressional Republicans failed in their efforts to privatize Social Security. Democrats stood united in defending the program, and the American people saw the privatization effort for what it was, a dismantling of the Social Security safety net that has provided millions of seniors real independence in their retirement years.

The American people were clear with Washington Republicans: Keep your hands off our Social Security. We thought they had gotten the message last year. Now, however, it appears that House Republicans want the privatization back on the table. Earlier this month the man most likely to lead the Republicans' Ways and Means Committee next year says it should be their top priority if they retain control of Congress to privatize Social Security.

Is the Republican majority in this House really that out of touch? The American people have already rejected their risky privatization plan. Instead of dismantling a critical safety net for millions of Americans, House Republicans should join the Democrats in strengthening Social Security for the future. The time has come to protect Social Security.

LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Legislative Line Item Veto Act. It provides a budget savings tool that almost every governor in the Nation already possesses. It will enable the President to identify questionable and wasteful earmark projects that have been slipped into spending bills so that Congress can vote separately on their merits.

Surely, Mr. Speaker, at a time of war, historic national debt, and record high tax revenues, it doesn't seem too much to ask that legislators show a little bit more accountability on how the people's money is spent. Just last month the Social Security and Medicare trustees reported that both Social Security and Medicare are going broke sooner than expected, and, thanks to Democrats' stonewalling, \$2 trillion have been added in unfunded obligations.

We must have some fiscal restraint. The line item veto will help pull back

the curtain on the earmarking process, which some have termed the gateway drug to spending addiction. By requiring specific votes, it will make it harder for Congress to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on railroads to nowhere, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and indoor rain forests.

Let us enact the line item veto.

CONGRATULATING THE CAROLINA HURRICANES

(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 with my colleagues to congratulate the Carolina Hurricanes for winning the most storied trophy in sports, the Stanley Cup. The Hurricanes defeated the Edmonton Oilers in game seven to win the first Stanley Cup and the first professional league sporting title for any North Carolina team. The Hurricanes exemplify what is great about professional sports: teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship.

In addition to congratulating the players, coaches and the Hurricanes organization, I would also like to congratulate all the team's fans, the Caniacs. When the Hurricanes first arrived in North Carolina in 1997, skeptics across North America really thought that a Southern State could not support a hockey team. Well, we certainly have proven them wrong. The excitement that the team's fans displayed throughout every game of the playoffs shows that folks in basketball country love our hockey team. It may be shocking to our cold weather natives, but North Carolina won the cup. Hockey has long been thought of as a national sport to our neighbors to the North, but now it is the sport of the good old North State.

Congratulations, Canes.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of effective, fair, and secure immigration reform, not the amnesty plan passed by the Senate this month.

The Senate plan allows millions of illegal immigrants to get a green card and a path to citizenship. Mr. Speaker, let me ask you, what does this say to all the law-abiding people patiently waiting to become American citizens? It says they should have sneaked into our country and ignored our immigration laws like everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, there is a better way to achieve meaningful immigration reform, and I am committed to passing the right kind of bill. We need to secure our borders first; give businesses a fail-safe way to ensure the workers that they hire are legal; and above all,