

livable wages, is striking a responsive note with American voters.

Lois, we look forward to having you here in Congress working on the issues that people in your district and across the Nation really care about. Congratulations, Lois. We will see you soon.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DOES NOT AGREE WITH DECLARATION THAT ERA OF BIG GOVERNMENT IS OVER

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I often go home to my district and I ask my constituents: Is there any message for Washington? I would like to pass on some of the responses that I have been getting.

They say: Do not spend the surplus; do not bust the budget deal that you agreed to last summer; do not start any new government programs; do not create new entitlement programs; and do not add more people to Medicare until we first figure out how we are going to save Medicare from going bankrupt. Oh, yes, the big one is, do not raise taxes.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I hear over and over again that the President's budget is going in the wrong direction because it does all those things that most people are opposed to: Taxes are raised by billions and billions of dollars, spending is increased by hundreds of billions of dollars, entitlements are expanded, and new spending programs are created. It simply does not agree with the President's declaration to the American people 2 years ago that the era of big government is over.

Mr. Speaker, the American people tell me that words mean something and that it is time that here in Washington we start honoring the pledges we make.

CONGRESS FACES HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO ACT ON TOBACCO-RELATED DISEASES AND CHILD CARE ISSUES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President came to Connecticut and talked about the many challenges facing American parents as they try to raise happy and healthy children. On one hand there is an epidemic of teen smoking. Three thousand kids start smoking every day, a thousand of whom will die from tobacco-related illnesses.

On the other hand, there is an appalling lack of affordable and quality child care for working parents in this country. Multi-State studies have proven that nearly half of the care in this country for very young children is of

such poor quality that it threatens their health and their safety.

Luckily, as the President said yesterday, we have a historic opportunity to act on both of these issues. By supporting tobacco legislation that stops this billion dollar special interest from killing our kids, we can make a difference.

We can save our children. We can save their lives and provide them with quality, affordable, accessible child care. I urge my colleagues to support our children and stop supporting the special interests.

PHONY SURPLUS WILL NOT END RAID ON GOVERNMENT TRUST FUNDS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, just an aside. I understand that when the President was in Connecticut, that he was at a fundraiser at a tobacco lawyer's house.

Mr. Speaker, this is a riddle: If you are in debt but you balance your budget and have surpluses for 5 years in a row, at the end of that time will you owe more or less money? If you are an individual, you will owe less money. But if you are the Federal Government, you will owe more money, almost \$1 trillion more between now and 2002.

How can this be? Here is the ugly truth. There is no budget surplus. The so-called budget surplus is a figment of clever Federal Government accounting. In 1988, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, projects there will be a surplus of \$8 billion and the national debt will be \$5.5 trillion this year. In 2002, after 5 years of balanced budgets and surpluses, the national debt will be \$6.4 trillion, almost \$1 trillion more.

The national debt will grow because the Federal Government does not count the billions spent each year from government trust funds like Social Security. Clearly, there is no surplus and the budget, obviously, is not balanced.

ABUSES BY IRS REVEALED TO BE EVEN WORSE THAN FIRST THOUGHT

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is amazing what a little sunshine will do.

Political corruption, fraud, criminal activity and wrongdoing cannot operate in the light of day. When corrupt practices are opened up to public scrutiny, wrongdoers are held accountable for their actions.

The White House Travel Office abuse of power; the 900 FBI files of Republicans that were discovered; the entertaining of drug dealers and arms smugglers in the White House; the use of the Lincoln bedroom for fund-raising; dialing for dollars from the White House;

the selling of trade missions to raise money; the laundering of money at a Buddhist temple; putting \$25,000 price tags on White House coffees; returning over \$2 million in campaign contributions because they came from illegal sources. All these were activities that were not conducted in the light of day and had to be exposed by journalists and congressional investigators.

And now we have the IRS. The abusive practices of the IRS, known to millions of individual Americans, began to be open to public scrutiny last year as a result of the Senate hearings. The first rays of sunshine are starting to come through, and the IRS looks even worse than we thought.

Free people cannot tolerate any of these abuses, at the White House or at the IRS.

□ 1030

THREE STRIKES AND YOU ARE OUT

(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, we need a three-strikes-and-you-are-out law in Washington, and we can change this administration real quickly. And here is what I mean: Strike number one: 1990, the Congressional Bipartisan Budget deal broken by President Clinton; 1993, the President sets his own budget deal, broken in 1994 and 1995; now 1997, there was yet another deal, and Clinton is out to break it by \$56 billion. Three strikes; you are out. That should be what we can do to turn the budget around and turn around our fiscal picture.

Our spending right now is \$268 billion higher than during the Carter administration after you adjust it for inflation. Reagan cut the budget by 15 percent, and I am talking about domestic discretionary spending, but now it is up 23 percent over that. We are very proud that the budget is about to be balanced, but that is no excuse for continuing to spend. And that is what is going on.

Three strikes and you are out. Stick with your word, Mr. President. Let us surprise everybody.

DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL TELEVISION VIEWING SKILLS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

(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, I rise to bring another example of wasted Federal education tax dollars to your attention. Through the Department of Education, we funded an education study entitled, "The Development of Critical Television Viewing Skills in Elementary School Students."

Our kids do not need Federal assistance to watch television to develop,

"television viewing skills." Rather, they should be learning to read and write, finding solutions to math problems and perform science experiments. While American schoolchildren lag behind the rest of the developed world in basic academic skills, our Federal education dollars are paying for our children to watch television effectively.

If my colleagues believe that Federal education dollars should be made available to kids in classrooms instead of funding studies like this one, I urge them to cosponsor the dollars to the Classroom Act, which will require 95 cents of every Federal dollar to be used in the classroom where learning basic skills occur.

LOIS CAPPS ELECTED TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a very important day. I suppose that gets said a lot of times here in the well. But yesterday, the American people, in the form of the California delegation, elected Lois Capps to the House of Representatives. It was a campaign filled with millions of dollars of advertisement about abortion and about term limits and about a lot of other irrelevant issues.

But the American people voted for a candidate who said she wanted to come back here and work on education, who wanted to come back here and work on a patients' bill of rights, who wanted to come back here and do the things that affect the American people.

People of her district listened to all these television ads. I mean, they cannot get away from it. The air was filled with it. She spent \$1,600,000. And this House has never yet brought out on this floor for debate a campaign finance reform bill. The people said we want somebody who is going to work on our problems.

D.C. SCHOOL CHOICE

(Mrs. NORTHUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I know what it is like to worry every day about how your child is doing in school. It must be terrible if your child is trapped in a school that is unsafe and unworkable; your daughter's sleepless nights become your own sleepless nights.

Most parents with children in the D.C. public schools live under these intolerable conditions. D.C. Schools have received national attention. In spite of funding per student that ranks among one of the highest districts in the Nation, education in this district has reached crisis proportions. Decrepit school buildings are literally falling part.

Just this year, a high school student interned in my office because opening

day was delayed 3 weeks. The local news here is filled with stories of fire code violations, violence in schools, and failing test scores.

The problem with D.C. schools is that the entire system is broken. It is not just a bad teacher or disorganized principal or leaking roof or unrestrained bully in fourth grade; it is all of these and more. Parents cannot just change their child's class or even their child's school. They simply cannot escape. And so, their children are trapped.

Hopefully, the District will begin the long process of improvement. But, in the meantime, we need to give children a choice.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOIS CAPPS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the people of the 22nd District of California have spoken. Congratulations, Lois Capps, newly elected Democrat to the United States Congress, someone who stood for education, patients' rights, the preservation of social security, understanding the needs of the people, and, yes, understanding the rights of women. Lois Capps will come and take her place. We salute her because this is a place where we need to stand by those who need us most.

I would like to encourage my colleagues this morning, as we proceed historically to support the first African trade bill that this United States Congress has ever debated, give Africa a chance and equal partnership, a chance to do trade, a chance to improve their economic standing, a chance to create jobs, a chance to work with Americans. We can do great things together. I know that Lois Capps will help us do it. Today let us pass the African trade bill.

TRIBUTE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE OLYMPIANS

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to several New Hampshire Olympians who skated their way into America's heart last month. Their dazzling talent and can-do spirit and proud patriotism gave the world a glimpse of what makes our Nation so special.

As an American, I can think of few prouder moments in our history than when the U.S. women's hockey team claimed the Gold Medal for our country. As a Nation, we felt the magic of this newest miracle on ice as our heroes collected their hard-earned prize and secured their place in Olympic history.

Like all great champions, Team USA gave us something greater than a victory; they inspired girls all over the

world to dream new Olympic dreams and strive to achieve their goals with grace and class. As a father of such a little girl, I thank them for being such wonderful world models.

Today, as New Hampshire pays tribute to Team USA, I congratulate the New Hampshire natives and Dartmouth and UNH grads who represented our State so proudly: Tricia Dunn, Katie King, Tara Mounsey, Colleen Coyne, Sue Merze, Kayrn Bye, Gretchen Ulion, Sarah Tueting. May your spirits always shine as brightly as the gold that you have won.

SCHOOL CHOICE WORKS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, school choice works. Consider the recent example of Albany, New York. Philanthropist Virginia Gilder identified one of the worst schools in the entire city and offered every student a scholarship of \$2,000. One-sixth of the children at that school took her up on the offer and transferred to private schools.

What was the result? Here is what the Washington Post reports: "It worked. The school board ousted the principal, brought in nine new teachers, added two assistant principals and invested in books, equipment and teacher training after years of neglect."

Faced with the prospect of losing its students to the competition, Albany's school system reformed itself. Albany's example shows that school choice helps not only the students who receive scholarships, it also helps the children who remain in public schools.

Mr. Speaker, if it worked in Albany, it can work in Anacostia. Next month, the House will consider school choice legislation for the children of the District. I urge my colleagues to support it.

AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 383 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 383

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1432) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and the amendments made in order by this resolution and shall not exceed two hours, with one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations and one hour equally divided and controlled