

for private schools but public education, and doing things to upgrade public education, doing things to help in the classroom, doing things that make it possible to have safer and smarter schools. That is what the Democrats are all about. We have been talking about this for a long time. President Clinton brought it up in his State of the Union address. Now is the time to do something about it.

#### TIME FOR ACTIONS TO MATCH WORDS

(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, the President said in his 1996 State of the Union address that the era of big government is over. I suppose that depends on what the definition of "is" is. I suppose that if you look at his recent attacks on Republicans in Congress, especially on education, the President and his liberal allies in Congress are threatening to shut the government down if Congress does not spend more money on education and create more education bureaucracy right here in Washington. Republicans want to send more money to the classroom. Liberals want to give the Federal Government an overpowering role in local schools. Republicans think that Federal bureaucrats have done enough damage to education, thank you very much. Liberals want to spend the money by taking it away from Social Security, while Republicans are happy to stay right here and continue to work to get more money into the classrooms, while keeping the budget agreement caps which means that there must be spending offsets by not taking money away from Social Security. If the era of big government is over, then it is time for the President's actions to match his words.

#### UNDERACHIEVING CONGRESS

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, by the calendar it says Sunday but in fact it is spin day, the day the Republicans come before the American public and try to spin their way out of this do-nothing Congress. Well, they get offended when you say do-nothing, so let us say underachieving Congress. The fact of the matter is we on the Democratic side want to stay here and deal with the issue of education. We need to invest more money in public education. The Republicans will try to tell you that they want to send money back to the States because money is going into bureaucracy. That is not true. Less than 2 percent of the Department of Education's budget is spent on administration. Ninety-eight percent goes directly to the States and localities. That is our position. The States and

counties and local communities need more money to hire teachers, to train teachers, to put computers in classrooms. If we want a world-class education system, we have to make a world-class investment. That is why we are fighting. That is why we are here. The White House and the congressional Democrats say we must invest more in education. The Republicans simply want to go home and do nothing.

#### PLEA TO PRESIDENT: HELP US FIND REAL SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my colleague from Maryland. His math comes up short. Only 2 percent of Federal spending goes to administration? That is just not true. But then again there is a lot that goes on here that seems to be part of the spin cycle.

Mr. Speaker, I noted with great interest this morning the President met with the minority leadership. In 2 years' time he has never bothered to sit down with the people who run the House of Representatives, members of the majority, to craft a policy for America's future. It has been very interesting, Mr. Speaker. In fact tomorrow on the President's itinerary are two fund-raisers, one in Florida, the other in New York. The final one is to benefit a Member of this House who sits on the Judiciary Committee and who has aspirations of joining the other body. Now even in a town as cynical and as hard-bitten as Washington, D.C., can people not see some conflict of interest? We are happy to stay as long as it takes to make sure that education is left up to the people, not the Washington bureaucrats. Mr. Speaker, we implore the President of the United States to join us to find real solutions.

#### LET US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN KIDS' LIVES

(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, this is absurd. Republicans taking credit for improving education is like saying that Jerry Springer is in the business of improving television. It really is quite extraordinary. My Republican colleagues say that the President wants to shut the government down. Friends, American public, understand: This government is shut down. Let me tell you what the Republican-controlled majority has not been doing in the last 2 years of the 105th Congress. No budget. No budget. No appropriations bills. No managed care reform. No campaign finance reform legislation. No tobacco legislation to help to save your kids. No education program. They say, "Let's raid Social Security to pay for other things in this budget."

Let me just say this to you, that yes, what we need to focus on in these last remaining hours of this Congress is our kids' education. Let us in fact reduce class size. Let us get 100,000 more teachers. Let us make a difference in our kids' lives.

#### WHERE IS THE PRESIDENT?

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I say to my good friend from Connecticut that this is a do-nothing-that-the-liberal-likes Congress, that is for sure. But I am here working today. I do not mind. I was elected to do a job and I am going to do it. But what about the President, where is he? Maybe in Martha's Vineyard, Aspen, Camp David? Where is the President? I bet the American people do not know that he spent 152 days out of the 283 days this year fund-raising, traveling, and on vacation. On top of that, I bet the American people do not know that he had only two Cabinet meetings this year. We know what those Cabinet meetings were. He shows up the day before adjournment and starts talking about education. The day before adjournment.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is another workday, and alas according to reports the President will be in Palm Beach in the afternoon for pina colodas, for raising money, and then he will be jetting off to New York City for dinner for more fund-raisers. Enjoy yourself, Mr. President. We know how draining those two cabinet meetings were this year. But we will stay here as long as it takes and work on the budget. After all, the American people expect nothing less.

□ 1415

#### THIS CONGRESS HAS ONLY WORKED 108 DAYS THIS YEAR—FIRE THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is not a mystery why this has been one of the least productive congresses in history, why this is a do-nothing Congress, because this Congress has only worked 108 days this year. Most working people worked in excess of 225 days, 250 days this year. This Congress only worked 108 days. Now they find out after 108 days of working that they did not do their work, that they are not done. They say, "Where is the President?" The President has been waiting for the appropriations bills. The President has been waiting for the budget. This is the first Congress since 1974 that had no budget. This is a Congress that cannot pass seven of its appropriations bills. There is nothing for the President to

sign because they cannot get the appropriations bills out of the House of Representatives. They cannot get agreement among the Republicans in the House or the Republicans in the House and in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, if most Americans worked as few days as this Republican Congress, they would be fired. Their employers would ask for their money back. Maybe that is what the public ought to do is fire the Republican Congress.

#### REPUBLICANS PASSED 21 INITIATIVES GIVING GREATER CONTROL TO LOCAL EDUCATION

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, as I look back over the last 2 years, one thing is very clear. The Republican majority in the House and Senate has given a 21-gun salute to education, passing 21 initiatives to give greater local control to local education and put dollars in the classroom. While the Democrats want to put more money in Washington bureaucracy, we want the dollars to the classroom. In fact, 30 cents on the dollars today that we appropriate here in Washington stay in Washington on government bureaucracy. Thanks to this Republican Congress we now have the lowest loan rates for student loans in 17 years. We have been doubled that the last 3 years the amount of Pell grant, grant money to help low-income students go on to college, and we provided \$500 million more this year for special education.

Earlier this year, just 2 weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed an effort to save Social Security and to help education. Found it very interesting that the President called our efforts to make prepaid college tuition programs tax exempt, to help with school construction costs, the President calls that squandering that extra tax revenue and squandering the surplus.

It is interesting our effort to help schools with the tax cut plan would have cost \$7 billion in surplus. Our President wants to spend twice as much, \$14 billion, on defense spending, the State Department and a computer fix for government bureaucrats.

#### PRESIDENT RAISING BIG DOLLARS IN PALM BEACH FOR TV ADS THAT DO NOT TELL THE TRUTH

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Representative from Palm Beach County joining the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) also representing Palm Beach, we are quite surprised that the President would assume that the negotiations to continue the good work of

this Congress would be held in the island of Palm Beach. CLAY SHAW and I stayed here to work on the people's problems. We are here throughout the weekend to solve the budget crisis. Regrettably the President and, I understand, the Vice President are traveling to Palm Beach, Florida to raise more money. In fact, the chairman of the Florida State Democratic Party suggested that they should probably not come because they were bleeding all of the dollars out of the State and bringing them here to Washington, D.C.

So let us understand what this is all about, not about working, not about saving this Nation, not about helping our children, not about helping education. It is about going down to Palm Beach, Florida, a place that I love, to raise big dollars to come back and assault the integrity of the American public with more money on TV ads that do not tell the truth.

So, if the President wants to solve the government's problems, stay in Washington tomorrow, work through the weekend, like we are. We can make some significant gains for the American taxpayers.

#### HOW MEAN HAS THIS COUNTRY GOTTEN?

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this Sunday afternoon here in Washington with, like the rest of us, probably really missing our families and wishing we could be with them. But I happened to think about my daughter who was about the age that I was when this town and this country was calling out for the best in people, asking them to bring out what is the best in America by joining the Peace Corps. I did that.

In the Peace Corps I lived as minority in another land, and I learned the greatness of the United States. Incredible to see how much we can do around the world. And I knew then that I was going to enter a political career to try to right wrongs and make life better.

Here we are, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the 105th session, and I look back, and I think, oh my God, how mean has this country gotten? How mean is their right-wing leadership in their party? They want to take away public education and privatize it, remove the safety net. They want to make Social Security neither social, nor secure. They want to have people in their medical careers have to deal with insurance companies rather than doctors.

I plead with my colleagues to get away from the meanness. Go back to the dreams of America. We can cure a lot.

#### WAG THE DOG

(Mr. SOUDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it would be really helpful if we did not attack each others motives. I do not consider myself a mean person. I consider myself like other Members of this body on both sides, deeply committed to the issues we believe in, and we confuse the American people because they do not understand what is going on right now. They look at this and say this looks a lot like the NBA strike lockout where we have people on both sides with strong differences of opinions. But they are adults; why can they not sit down?

Obviously we both care about education. We differ how to do it. We obviously both care about health care. We disagree how to do it. We obviously both want to see a form of government; in this case some of us are more local than state-oriented and some are more federal, but it is not that we are not trying to do a good government.

In 1995, actually right after the 1994 elections, we had a historic point in American history. For 40 years we had had a Democratic Congress, and all of a sudden we had a conservative Republican Congress and a liberal Democratic President, and we had those passions on both sides tested, and we went through this before. This is now our fourth time. There is no reason that we cannot come to an agreement unless there is another political reason, unless there is a wag-the-dog problem going on right now where the President is trying to distract attention.

We know he feels passionately, we feel passionately. Let us be adults and get it resolved.

#### WITH A \$500-PER-CHILD TAX CREDIT THIS IS A DO-SOMETHING CONGRESS

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, the fact that Congress does not pass a lot of laws does not mean it is a do-nothing Congress. Did my colleagues ever stop to realize that a Congress that passes a lot of laws is the same one that passes a lot of regulations? Creates more programs? More bureaucrats? Evidently to some people on the other side, they think that that is a productive Congress.

But, as my colleagues know, for every family in the United States beginning this year that has a child under 17 year old the parents will be able to keep \$400 more of their taxes, and after that, \$500 more of their taxes, a \$500 child credit. We Republicans believe the American people know how to spend their hard-earned dollars a lot better than the United States Congress. With a \$500 per child tax credit, they can keep that as opposed to paying taxes. That is a do-something Congress.