

FOR LIBERAL DEMOCRATS EDUCATION IS ABOUT MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, education is a perfect example of an issue where liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans disagree. For a liberal Democrat education is about one thing and one thing only. It is more money, more money, more money from Washington, D.C.

Now last year they were here arguing for more money for education, and so we gave it to them. Education did not improve. The year before it was the same argument. We gave them more money. Education did not improve. And the year before that, and the year before that, and the year before that, and every single year for the past 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the liberals is at what point do they conclude that maybe, just maybe, it is not the money from Washington, D.C.? The answer, of course, is that it is not the money, and even the liberals know it. They have created more Federal bureaucracies, more Washington, D.C. programs of dubious value and more administrative extravagances.

Education achievement has not improved, but that is no surprise at all.

A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

(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, I was sitting over in my office looking at my clips from the newspaper, and I come across one here I thought I would mention to my colleagues. This is the Washington Post, October 6, in their editorial section: A do-nothing Congress whose year has been spent deflecting good bills while barely pretending to legislate is now down to the task it cannot avoid. It has yet to pass 9 of its 13; well, really it is 7 of its 13; regular appropriation bills, and they go on and say on most of this stuff the President would be wrong to yield, he should veto the Republicans.

Now the Republicans are out here today saying that we are trying to pick a fight, and so the paper says the Republicans say the President is trying to pick a fight on these issues, even to the point of shutting down the government to divert attention from their own failures. They seek thereby to disarm him. In fact, it is they who seek to divert attention from their own record which for most of the year consists of thwarting legislation that deserves to pass and now consists, in too many cases, of trying to sneak into law provisions that ought to fail. The President should swat them on it.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BONIOR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHAT REPUBLICANS HAVE DONE FOR EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk a little bit about what the Republicans have done for education. We have heard a lot about how we were trying to eliminate public education. Nothing could be further from the truth. We want to make strong public schools with local control, local authority.

Now if my colleagues compare what the President is proposing with his hundred thousand teachers, we have heard that number before. We heard about the Cops On The Street Program which promised 100,000 police on the streets. Well, according to Attorney General Janet Reno, we never did get 100,000 police to the street. In fact, we only got 18,000 police to the street, and for those 18,000, they were only partially funded. The first year they got 75 percent, the second year they got 50 percent, the third year they got 25 percent, and the fourth year the local governments had to completely fund those 18,000 policemen. Well they only got partially funded. They went ahead and hired the policemen on good faith. Then the amount of funding from the Federal Government got reduced, and the portion of the local funding continued to increase. So what happened in all these local governments that were trying to do the right thing by hiring these police is they ended up raising their taxes. So they got fewer policemen that they were promised and higher taxes than what was anticipated. Now we have the plan for 100,000 teachers, again partially funded, and over the next few years the funding goes down, down, down while local government taxes go up, up, up, and along with that comes the bureaucracy.

Now the average employee in the Department of Education here in Washington, D.C., makes \$52,000 a year. Go home and ask the children's teacher if they make \$52,000 a year. They do not make that in Wichita, Kansas, not the average teacher, but yet that is what the average bureaucrat does here, and they do not educate any children. All they do is demand more paperwork, more paperwork, more paperwork.

Well, let us just go over a little bit what we have done just this year, in the 105th Congress what the Republicans have done. First of all, we put some common sense into the concept of national testing. This fast track nature of what the White House had initiated was unverified. It took a long process, it started many educations on an alarming rate of trying to do things that they had, that they could not put a final bottom line on. It was like hitting a moving target.

Now we have done testing in Kansas. We have a program called QPA. It measures progress. It has testing requirements. Other States are already doing it. So here we have a duplication of effort in Washington, D.C., on education standards. Well, we put some common sense to that in the Republican Congress.

The next thing we did is put dollars into the classroom. The purpose was to consolidate 31 top-down programs into block grants to the States, and under this bill at least 95 percent of the money coming from the Federal Government had to go into the classroom for classroom activities or services. Now for Kansas that meant an extra \$2½ million going into the classroom. Well, it is not being spent here in Washington, D.C., which is the big difference in philosophy between what happens between the Republicans and the liberals. The Republicans and conservatives would like to see the money get into the classroom, not being spent here in Washington, D.C. on a bloated bureaucracy.

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Another thing that has occurred here is we have the Higher Education Amendment of 1998. The purpose of this is to reauthorize the Higher Education Act of 1965 with the lion's share of the Federal funding going for higher education. This year it is in excess of \$40 billion a year, where the Republican Congress wants to get money into higher education.

Another program was the Community Service Block Grant and Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, to help some of the local communities revitalize their high poverty neighborhoods and empower low income individuals and communities to become self-sufficient. It had new initiatives in it for literacy, youth development, fatherhood and community policing.

Another program was the Reading Excellence Program. This legislation developed in response to the President's America Reads Program to use volunteers to improve the reading skills of children, where we would reform the way reading is taught in our Nation's schools. Working together, we perfected a program.

Another program was the English Fluency Act. This legislation is directed at reforming the current Bilingual Education Act to provide funds to states to address the needs of English language learners and ensure that they learn English as soon as possible.

Another program, the Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act. The purpose of this legislation is to help local areas have safer schools.

I could go on for another 10 or 12 programs, but the bottom line is the Republicans believe in local schools and local empowerment. We think you can spend your money more wisely than any government agency and that you will love your children more than any government program.

PROGRESS REPORT ON CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we can talk all we want here, or the Republicans can talk all they want, about what they are going to do in terms of education, because most of the legislation that was just read by the gentleman in the well is legislation that they have proposed, it is legislation that may have passed this House, it is legislation that they cannot get agreement with the Senate on, or it is legislation that has come out of the committee but their caucus is in disagreement on much of that legislation.

I appreciate and I was at the signing with the bipartisan delegation of the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. That is what Congress is supposed to do. Congress is supposed to reauthorize that act when it comes due and there is no Congress that has failed to do that.

But this Congress has failed to do much more. It has failed to meet the needs of America's schoolchildren by failing to address the need to reduce class size for our younger students. It has refused to meet the need to improve our schools, the crumbling schools, some \$12 billion worth of construction that is immediately necessary, not only to make schools safe, not only to make them healthy for our children, not only to modernize those that need it, but also to make them ready for the technology that is the key to much of the educational opportunity for the students.

So this Congress has struck out on education. This Congress has struck out on managed care, where they decided they would go with the monied interest of the insurance companies and the HMO companies against the American people, against the American people and their desire to once again have a doctor-patient relationship, a doctor-patient relationship that deals with the health care problems of the patient, as opposed to the bottom line and the stock price of the HMO corporation or of the insurance company

that keeps meddling with the decisions of doctors to prescribe medicine, to prescribe treatment, to prescribe tests or to prescribe surgery.

Each and every time the doctor wants to do this, he has to pick up the phone, the doctor has to call an 800 number, get some bureaucrat on the phone and say can I have an MRI? I believe this person may have a tumor. Can I have surgery? We have discovered a tumor and now we would like to cut it out on a timely basis.

They say no, you are going to have to wait 30 days. No, send them out for massage, send them to the whirlpool. Send them anywhere except to surgery, where they need it to try to stem the ravages of cancer or other malignancies.

That is what the American people have asked us to do. This Congress could not do it. This Congress could not do it because they decided they would deal with the money interests, just as they decided they would deal with the monied interests and they would kill campaign finance reform, they would kill the ability of the American people to have a greater participation in the election process, to develop grassroots, to make sure the people in our districts are not over-ridden by all of the soft money that comes in in the last days of a campaign. This Congress struck out in that effort.

This Congress struck out on the effort for tobacco legislation, to try to recover for the Federal taxpayer some of the billions of dollars that they have spent in the Medicare program taking care of the victims of tobacco, taking care of the victims of cancer that is related to tobacco. The states are recovering that, but somehow the Federal Government is unable to do that. Why? Because they could not stop the flow of the tobacco contributions to the Republican party. They just could not get off that addiction that they have, not only to tobacco, but to tobacco campaign contributions. So this Congress struck out on that.

Finally, as Americans are working harder and harder and more Americans are working more than ever, we thought they ought to at least get a wage to allow them to support their families. But this Congress could not see it that way. It decided that once again it would go with their campaign contributions from the Small Business Association, from the Restaurant Association, and they would deny America an increase in the minimum wage, so those people who are working at the minimum wage would be able to support themselves and their families.

These are people that go to work all week long, all month long and all year long, but at the end of the year, they end up poor. So what do we do? We have the government subsidize them in food stamps, we have the government subsidize them in housing, we have the government subsidize them in medical care, because their wages do not allow

them to procure these basic necessities of life for them or their family. Why? Because the minimum wage is not high enough.

But this Congress, this do-nothing Congress, chose not to do anything about the minimum wage, not to do anything about managed care, not to do anything about campaign finance reform, not to do anything about the crucial bills dealing with the improvement of education and bills to protect the environment.

So this Congress that has only worked 108 days this year, this Congress that has chosen to be out of town more days than it has been here, this Congress that has chosen to come to work Tuesday night at five o'clock and leave Thursday night at five o'clock, this Congress that chose to extend the August break an extra week, this Congress that chose not to work in January, February or March more than a couple of days, this Congress now cannot find time to deal with the basic necessities of our children's education, to get a budget and to pass the appropriations bills.

That is why this Congress is being hailed by editorial boards and people all over the country as a do-nothing Congress. And I would just ask the same courtesies on time that you give the Republican Members on the other side of the aisle. The Chair belongs to the whole House, not to one party or the other.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). The Chair will attempt to enforce strictly the five-minute limit on both sides of the aisle.

REPORT ON BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I will lower the decibels. I do not have any reason to make any political statements. I do not have that need. The President, on the other hand, has misled the American people with a radio address yesterday, and I think I should try to make sure the American people truly understand what is going on. In his speech, in which he dealt primarily with education, he said we should be able to make real bipartisan progress on education.

Well, Mr. President, in the entire history of this body, there has never been a greater effort at bipartisan legislation in relationship to education, and in the last 24 years, I can assure you there has never been a better effort.

So, Mr. President, we sent you the Higher Education Act, a bipartisan effort. We sent you special education, IDEA. We sent you the Workforce Investment Act. We sent you loan forgiveness for new teachers. We sent you