

justice and liberty to the oppressed people everywhere, especially to the suffering people of native Cuba.

Dante was key in assuring and maintaining aid to Israel, our only democratic ally in the Middle East. He led the charge in condemning the Soviet Union's mistreatment of Jews. He also left his mark on domestic policy as well.

Congressman Fascell created the Everglades National Park; and without his vision, we would not have the River of Grass as a national treasure. Dante helped build my hometown of Miami to the thriving metropolis it is now. He worked to get South Florida the necessary Federal funds that helped our community grow.

All of us in South Florida cherish his friendship and want him to continue enjoying his children and his family for years to come.

#### EDUCATION IS THE SEED CORN OF SOCIETY

(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, sometimes the American public may wonder why we are focusing on education in the Democratic Party. In the Plains Indians in the central part of this country, there is a well-known bit of wisdom that says that they can tell a tribe that is going to die when they eat the seed corn, when you eat the corn that has to be saved for the spring and plant for the new crop.

Education is the seed corn of this society. Our determination to make this session end by an investment in education, both in the classrooms in terms of reducing class size and in rebuilding the buildings, is the seed corn of this society.

If we fail to do that, we will come out here, as we do every year, and pass a bill for H-1B visas so that we can go worldwide and gather the brains that we need to run this economy. That is wrong. That is not investing in the seed corn. We need to stay and do education.

#### FEDERALIZING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IS BAD IDEA

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, is the President's school construction program a good idea or is it a gift to his urban fund-raising friends?

There are 15,600 school districts in America. Half the money is designated for 100 urban poor. There are urban poor, but there are rural poor, too. There are 1,000 rural poor school districts with no funding.

The other half of the money is available to additional urban poor districts. You can bet his urban fund-raising

friends will receive the majority of those funds, too, and 15,400 rural school districts across America will receive nothing.

Federalizing school construction will delay by several years the ability to construct the schools, will increase the cost, and only help the President's fund-raising friends.

#### SUPPORT EDUCATION

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, in reference to the gentleman that just spoke in regards to the classrooms, I know, in our State, we did an analysis, and almost \$200 million is going to be needed to increase the safety because of lead in the drinking water in school, because of the asbestos around the pipes, to increase the safety in environment for our children.

Because as we try to decrease the class size so that they can learn more, they can be more disciplined there, they have to have the environment so that they are not gaining any other outside hazards.

In the relationship to the young man who died from the hate crime in Wyoming, I think it points back to the fact that, by increasing discipline, by reducing class size, we are going to increase the likelihood where children will be raised differently, and they will not have these problems stemming from lack of supervision.

So by reducing the class size, we are reducing the violence. By reducing the class size, we are increasing the education children get and raising their aspirations so that, in my state, the fourth and eighth graders who are doing tops in the country can have the aspirations to go on to college and to reach the American dream.

That is why we support education, and that is why education is in support of programs.

#### ELECTION YEAR SPINNING

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to caution everybody watching this program, all of the voters in this country to brace yourself for the next couple 3 weeks before the election.

Look, I think the proudest moment of this Congress was probably last year when Republicans and Democrats and the President worked together to lower taxes for the first time since Ronald Reagan came in, to balance the budget for the first time in 31 years.

But what happens as we get close to an election is the Democrats try to prove that they think education is more important than Republicans. Not true. They try to spin it to make sure

or to hopefully make sure that they get more votes in the election.

Mr. Speaker, I just ask the American people to brace up, watch the spinning, be careful of what both sides of the aisle says, be careful of what the President says and does in these last few weeks before the election. Listen to these next speakers.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Members will be reminded that comments should not be made to the viewing audience. Comments should be made to the Speaker.

#### FOCUS ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I visit a lot of school districts in my district, rural, suburban and urban, and they all tell me the same thing. They need help with school construction. They need help with building new buildings. They need help with reducing class size.

The most recent one I visited made a decision some years ago to push the class size to the max in order to pay their bills. They do not like what they have done. They recognize, I am talking about both the teachers and the administrators, that there is a price the students pay. They need help. They want help.

They understand that, in order to reduce class size, they have to build new buildings. In order to reduce class size, they have to hire new teachers. They understand they will control the hiring. They will control the building. But they want help from their government, their Federal Government in doing this.

That is what this issue is about. That is why this week I hope we will focus on education, not to make partisan points, but to hopefully come out of here at the end of this week with a bill that helps the school districts in Arkansas accomplish what they want to with their school children.

#### EDUCATION IS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, as the father of three young children, I am delighted, I am delighted that we are finally talking about an issue that is of concern to parents of young children all throughout this entire country.

Education is the most important issue for the future of this country. We have ignored it. We have ignored it for the last year. Now, finally, we get an opportunity to talk about it.

I think we should be putting more money into classrooms in this country, not into bureaucracies in Washington, not into bureaucracies in State capitals, not into bureaucracies at the local level.

The administration's proposal puts money into classrooms to reduce class size. I have got two kids in kindergarten. I want them to have smaller classes. I want children throughout this country to have smaller classes because that is how they are going to get a better education. That is what is going to allow us to compete better in the future with countries throughout the world.

We are headed in the right direction when we are talking about education and when we are putting resources into education because there is no better investment than investing in our children.

#### STAY AND WORK FOR EDUCATION

(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, let me say that I believe one of the most important issues that we have to be concerned about is the education of our children.

As I am pointing out to my colleagues and the Speaker, let me emphasize the accomplishments of this Congress, a Republican Congress. I think the most important point is the least number of days worked in decades.

If we had children in school and they sent home a report card or the teacher called us and said that Johnny or Mary had not been in school for 5 days or 1 month or they had not been in school since they got out of kindergarten, and it was now the third grade, we would be concerned.

I am glad to be here because the district I represent has schools that are crumbling. It has wires that are hanging down. I need the money, as do rural areas need the money, from organizations. I need the hundred thousand teachers. I need trained teachers for the children of America. Let us stay here and work and work for education.

#### FROM DEFICIT TO SURPLUS WITH THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it is funny how the other side has such stunning lapses of memory. Whenever a number of Ivy League law school graduates appear before the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight or other congressional committees or courts of law, I find suddenly their brilliance evaporates, and they have a hard time remembering where they were yesterday.

The other side has completely forgotten that the government went from running \$200 billion a year deficits to a \$70 billion a year budget surplus.

Is there anyone who seriously thinks that welfare reform would have passed had it not been for the Republican majority elected to Congress and taking the oath in 1995? Is there anyone who seriously thinks the President would have been forced to accept the Republican balanced budget proposal of 1996 had it not been for that majority? Maybe they have just forgotten.

Here is another example. This is the stock market in 1993, and this is when it took off in 1995. That is a reflection of the American economy, a chart that does not lie. We will never see it from the other side, I gather, but I think it is pretty obvious why.

#### INVEST IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that, as education goes, so goes America. As education goes, so goes America. We are here in the last days of this Congress to try to build on bipartisan support for increasing local control, but also having Federal, State, local partnerships to address the dire need to invest in our education system.

One area that is so important, as a parent of three children, is to make sure that we reduce the class size. Would we rather have our teachers teaching 25 children or 18 children? That is a huge difference. That is local control, but it is a critically important partnership with our Federal local government.

We also need after-school programs to reduce crime and drugs. We are doing that in places like Elkhart, Indiana. But we need more support. Let us invest and work in supporting our education system in this country.

#### FUND-RAISING GETTING IN THE WAY OF PASSING BUDGET

(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, first of all, let me congratulate the President on his 100th fund-raiser. That is a quite a milestone for a guy who has only had time for two cabinet meetings this year.

This year, most of the money is American money, a novel concept. I understand that Chinese money has kind of been discouraged. Big step for the DCCC and the Democrat party. I congratulate him on that.

But it would be nice to think, why not try to get the cabinet meetings up to 5 this year. One hundred fund-raisers; five cabinet meetings. I do not know. He might want to talk about

Bosnia, health care education, jobs, taxes, who knows.

This week, Congress worked. We worked Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and of course Tuesday, and we will be working until we get the budget passed. Why? Because we have a great provision in there to put more dollars into the classroom for the school kids of America.

Why? Because there is a farm disaster, \$700 million in the State of Georgia alone. The President has vetoed the bill. No cabinet meeting on that, too. But, then again, who needs the cabinet member from the USDA.

Then of course we have Social Security, a Republican plan to petition and wall off \$1.4 trillion dollars so it cannot be used for general funds. All these are important, all these are working over the weekends. I hope the President will consider skipping one fund-raiser to help us out.

#### FUND EDUCATION

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my colleague who just spoke must be working in a different Congress than I am working in. There were three votes on Saturday, no votes on Sunday, two or three votes yesterday, and he says we are working.

We ought to be here trying to do something about education, and, instead, the Republicans are trying to get out of town and go home.

The education issue has been on the table all this year, ever since the President made his State of the Union address. They want to go home. They have not dealt with it.

This is an issue that every single American understands. Every single American understands it. If we reduce the ratio of students to teachers, reduce that ratio, each single student gets more attention. Each single student gets more reading time. Each single student gets to relate to the teacher in a way that they can learn, and that is what this is all about. Let us fund education, and then we can go home.

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#### AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to vote for an increased opportunity for home ownership for all Americans. I am very thrilled about this bill. The credit for this really goes to our colleague from New York (Mr. LAZIO) but I was pleased to be part of it.

I just wanted to draw my colleagues' attention to the fact that we have in