

This cash stash is nothing but a slush fund for GOP priorities. Committees cook up schemes; if the Speaker approves, the Committee on House Oversight rubber stamps, and money flows. There is no floor debate, no vote, and no accountability. Millions have been disbursed this way, and Republicans are now scheming how to spend the \$4 million left in the fund.

I have introduced legislation, Mr. Speaker, requiring a House vote on future payouts from the slush fund. If Republicans want to waste public money on partisan witch-hunts, they should have to debate and vote in public.

The majority loves to talk about accountability. Let us see if they can put the slush fund where their mouth is.

#### CHILD SURVIVAL

(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 today to share the stories of a Kenyan doctor who describes the use of U.S. funded population control dollars in Africa. Dr. Stephen Karanja states, "Our health sector has collapsed. Thousands of Kenyan people will die of malaria whose treatment costs a few cents, in health facilities whose stores are stacked to the roof with millions of dollars worth of pills, IUDs, Norplant Depo-provera, most of which are supplied with American money."

He goes on to say, "Some of these contraceptives, like Depo-provera, cause terrible side effects to the poor people of Kenya, who do not even have competent medical check-ups before injection."

He continues, "A mother brought a child to me for pneumonia, but I had no penicillin to give the child. What I have in the stores are cases of contraceptives."

Colleagues, we should reexamine our spending priorities. We are overfunding family planning and underfunding child survival. We should focus our efforts on saving lives.

#### CARNAGE OF NAFTA GOES ON AND ON

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the carnage of NAFTA goes on. Thompson Electric is laying off a thousand workers and moving to Mexico. Bass Shoe Company is laying off 350 workers and moving to the Caribbean. Mitsubishi Electric is moving to Mexico. Matsui Battery is moving to Mexico. Kobe Steel is moving to Mexico. Sanyo Plastics is moving to Mexico. Divisions of Sony and Hitachi are moving to Mexico. Asahi Glass is moving to Mexico. And Fuji Electric is on their way to Mexico. And not to be left behind in

America, Samsung of Korea is moving to Mexico.

Free trade, my assets. The American worker is getting screwed, and Uncle Sam is passing out cigars. Beam me up. If this is free trade, then I am a fashion leader.

#### EVERY YEAR IS THE SAME; TAX TAKERS ASK FOR MORE AND MORE FROM TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, as our country becomes increasingly divided between taxpayers and tax takers, the taxpayers are starting to stand up and tell their Representatives in Washington that America will no longer be the land of opportunity if the current trend continues.

Just this month, USA Today had on page 1 a chart showing the rising tax burden on the taxpayers. And the most interesting thing about the chart was that the tax burden has been rising steadily year after year for all families. It is rising for families with one income; it is rising for families with two incomes.

Funny how those who claim it is harder and harder for middle-class families to get ahead never seem to mention that one of the biggest reasons might be the rising tax burden. Funny how they never tire in opposing tax cuts on the grounds of fairness, and they never seem to consider the fairness towards the people who pay the taxes that Uncle Sam takes, between one-quarter and one-third of a middle-class family's income.

Every year it is the same old thing, tax takers ask for more and more from taxpayers, and every year the taxpayers sacrifice a little more freedom and find a little less opportunity in return.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The Chair reminds all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

#### DEMOCRATS PROPOSE TO EXPAND MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR PEOPLE AGED 62 TO 64

(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, today in my home State of Connecticut there are over 30,000 people ages 55 to 64 who are uninsured; 1 in every 10 individuals in this age group. That is simply unacceptable.

Democrats have a plan to help vulnerable uninsured Americans between the ages of 55 and 64 obtain health coverage under the Medicare program. The Democratic proposal would make it possible for those who are near retirement age not to be wiped out by an illness because they do not have health coverage. The program would expand Medicare coverage for people ages 62 to 64, and displaced workers over 55 whose employers renege on their promise of retiree health benefits. The program is self-financed and would not cost the Medicare Trust Fund one dime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to stop sending us home and start scheduling action on important issues like Medicare expansion. This proposal would be a significant and an important step toward ensuring that those who are near retirement age would not be without health coverage if they had a serious illness.

#### CONGRESS MUST NOT RETURN TO THE FAILED POLICIES OF THE PAST

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in a generation, Congress will spend less than it takes in this year. We should take this good news with a dose of caution. I am afraid that President Clinton has a different opinion. With surpluses in sight, he has decided that the era of saying "the era of big government is over" is over.

In his budget, the President proposes 85 new government initiatives costing \$150 billion over the next 5 years. He pays for these programs with \$129 billion in new taxes and user fees, raising taxes to their highest level since 1945. Even worse than that, the Clinton budget falls out of balance next year and breaks the spending caps of last summer's balanced budget agreement by \$69 billion.

The President's budget is built with higher taxes, deficit spending, bigger government and broken promises. My grandmother used to say, "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got."

In 3 short years we have cut taxes, eliminated deficits and kept our promises. We must not now return to the failed policies of the past.

#### FRESHMAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Thompson report released last week has confirmed what we all know; that the integrity of our political system has been undermined by the influence of soft money.

The soft money loophole is the primary culprit for the abuses that Congress has spent millions of dollars to investigate. Through the soft money loophole, a single donor can give unlimited amounts of money to influence Federal elections. Soft money circumvents nearly a century of campaign finance law.

The bipartisan freshman task force set out to fix the major abuses of the current system. We put our differences aside and created a fair bipartisan campaign finance reform bill, H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. It closes the soft money loophole, and it gets elected officials out of the business of raising \$1 million special interest contributions. It is fair. It is bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, the freshman bill must be allowed to come to the House floor without any poison pills. An antilabor bill is not bipartisan reform, it is a poison pill, and poison pills are used to kill campaign finance reform. Mr. Speaker, the freshmen deserve a vote on H.R. 2183.

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#### FIGHT FOR COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Clinton administration gathered 40 lobbyists for a meeting at which the President urged them to publicly oppose our efforts to force changes in the current Tax Code by 2001. Realizing, of course, that working men and women in America are committed to idea of scrapping the current Tax Code, the President has now enlisted a group of spin doctors and Washington insiders to defend the status quo of our tax system.

Well, I have a better idea of how the President can spend his time. Instead of gathering D.C. lobbyists and spin masters, who make their living off the complexities of our Tax Code, the President should gather 40 hard-working taxpayers and let them voice their frustration and outrage over the Clinton system.

Mr. Speaker, the President would do well to simply listen to the horror stories from taxpayers about the abuse, intrusive and sometimes illegal acts committed by the IRS, rather than the lobbyists defending his Tax Code. Just such a meeting would convince the President to join rather than hinder our fight for comprehensive tax reform.

#### AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today we are just 30 days away from the day of

the year that many Americans dread the most, and that is April 15th. April 15th, as we all know, is tax day. That means that, as we speak, families, businesses throughout the Nation are filing through mountains of documents, forms, rules and regulations; and they are frustrated.

I know my constituents in eastern North Carolina are frustrated, along with people throughout this Nation. My constituents tell me they are having real problems with our complex and burdensome Tax Code. Of course they are. Because they are currently facing 480 different tax forms, the easiest of which, the 1040 EZ, has 33 pages of instructions, all in fine print.

The American people want, need and deserve tax relief. Just ask anyone who is preparing for April 15th. We owe the American people tax relief. I hope that in a bipartisan way we can work together to provide them with a fair, simpler tax system.

#### STANDING UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT AND DECENT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN said 2 or 3 years ago that we have been "defining deviancy down, accepting as a part of life what we once found repugnant." How true that is, and it is especially true when it comes to what we have been accepting in motion pictures and even into our homes through television and now the Internet.

That is why it was so pleasant to read the nationwide publicity about the vote last week by the Town Council of Tangier Island, Virginia. The Tangier Council voted 6 to 0 to not allow a Kevin Costner and Paul Newman movie to be filmed on the island. The council decided that there was just too much obscene language and too many scenes of an adult nature.

We have been warping the minds of our young people, Mr. Speaker, with so much that is indecent that we have almost lost the ability to be shocked anymore. This Nation would be a far better place if we had more people standing up for what is right, decent and good, as the Tangier Council did last week.

#### EXTRADITION OF JOANNE CHESIMARD

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

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago Joanne Chesimard gunned down two State Troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike. After hitting Trooper Werner Foerster with two shots in the chest, Chesimard grabbed his gun and fired two more bullets execution-style into his head. Six years later, after serving just 2 years of a life sentence for first-degree

murder, she successfully broke out of prison.

Recently, I was shocked to turn on the evening news and see Joanne Chesimard a free woman, living the high life in Cuba. Fidel Castro is protecting this cold-blooded cop killer. There can and must be no safe haven for Joanne Chesimard.

Today, I am introducing a resolution which calls on the State Department to demand the extradition of Joanne Chesimard as a condition for any improvement in our relations with Cuba. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. Insist that justice be served. Bring back Joanne Chesimard to the United States to spend the rest of her life behind bars.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, for the first time since the Tiananmen Square massacre, the Clinton administration decided not to sponsor a U.N. resolution condemning China's terrible human rights record. Why? Because China just hinted that they may release a few dissidents.

Let me tell my colleagues, this is not progress. For the people who still toil in slave labor camps in China, this is not progress. This is not protecting the thousands of people that are put in prison and then have their vital organs harvested like animals. This is not progress. But this is an administration that says we will have a national policy of trade without a conscience.

I want to tell my colleagues, the Americans I know everywhere I have gone have a conscience. So today I really appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for having the courage to bring to the floor H.R. 364. This bill will send a strong message that America will not ignore the human rights abuses occurring each day in China or anywhere in the world.

#### U.N. GLOBAL CLIMATE ENVOY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, on a day when we are all trying to be green, I found an article in today's paper that disturbed my festive mood. It seems the UN's Global Climate envoy was in Washington yesterday bad-mouthing the United States Congress because we are asking the questions that President Clinton is refusing to ask about the Global Climate Treaty agreed to in Kyoto. He said the U.S. should perhaps get more in touch with the rest of the world and that this Congress is acting as if the rest of the world does not exist.

Now the President may want to blindly follow the UN and their global