

sponsors say it will fix environmental problems in the forest. But, in fact, it will harm our public forests. And because it is such a bad bill, we have a lot of people who are opposing it.

The League of Conservation Voters have said they will score this as a key no vote. Who else is opposing the bill? Quite a lot of people: the Methodist Church, Taxpayers for Common Sense, the Presbyterian Church, Religious Center for Reformed Judaism, The National Audubon Society, and the US PIRGs.

Sure, we do have environmental problems. But we are trying to fix those problems at a local level. We have hundreds of private-public partnerships working to fix those environmental approximate.

What this bill is is a fix from Washington, D.C. We do not need a fix from Washington, D.C. We need to fix our environmental problems on the ground, people who understand, people who know the problems.

So I say, vote no on H.R. 2515.

#### IRS IS OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the individual who made the following statement: "It is time to change IRS to RIP, rest in peace." They hit the nail on the head. The Internal Revenue Service is truly out of control, just like the tax system it oversees.

This Congress approved important Internal Revenue Service reforms last year which provide critical new protections for the American taxpayer. I hope those reforms will be enacted because they will certainly be an improvement. However, I fear these reforms will not be enough for the American people.

The American people need more tax relief, both from the size of the checks they write to the Internal Revenue Service and from the lengthy and burdensome process they must struggle through each year simply to determine how much they owe. In fact, Americans spend \$200 billion a year and 5.4 billion hours annually merely complying with the Tax Code.

I believe that a fairer, simpler tax system is the answer. It is the best way to truly change IRS to RIP.

#### REPUBLICANS' CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BILL IS EMBARRASSMENT TO COUNTRY

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, why would the Republican leaders of this House send to the floor a campaign finance reform bill that is not campaign finance reform, a bill that Common Cause calls a "hoax," the League of Women Voters calls a "travesty," The New York Times calls a "charade," and

the Washington Post calls a "mockery"?

Has the Republican leadership become like a fish that no longer feels the water, that no longer feels wet in the water?

What do I mean by that? Have they become like a fish that is swimming in money all the time in Washington, D.C., no longer aware of how inappropriate these huge, unregulated several hundred thousand dollar donations are?

This campaign finance reform bill they are presenting to this House floor, the only one they are letting come to this floor, is not campaign finance reform. It is not leadership; it is an embarrassment to this country.

#### FOR A BETTER AMERICA, WE MUST BE BETTER AMERICANS

(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, Congress has worked very hard to rebuild a strong economy and bring hope to our children. It took a great deal of discipline and dedication and it was not without sacrifice. But the results are record-setting days on the New York Stock Exchange, dwindling unemployment and welfare lines, and expanding consumer confidence.

But what good will come from the strong economy if we have an empty soul? This week we were all stunned and saddened by the two boys who ambushed a school and killed four young girls with promising lives, and a young teacher with a promising career in Jonesboro, Arkansas. But that was not the only indication that our culture is in a moral free-for-all.

The day after this tragedy, in Dale City, California, a boy shot at a principal; in Coldwater, Michigan, another student committed suicide outside his school; and in Princeton, Texas, a student slashed three teachers with a razor blade.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to rebuild our moral culture like we rebuilt our economy. It is time to overcome the culture of violence that permeates on our TVs and from our movies. Each of us must participate. It is up to us. We must talk to our children, honor our commitments. If we want a better America, we must be better Americans.

#### WORKERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of working people to urge Congress to reject H.R. 3246, a bill to restrict workers from organizing.

H.R. 3246 will make it much more difficult for workers to organize other workers for better pay and benefits. It would allow employers to refuse em-

ployment to workers on the basis of their outside group affiliations. It would do this by overruling a Supreme Court decision which held that employees who took jobs at nonunion employers to assist other workers to form a union, that those employees could not be fired for disloyalty.

□ 1030

H.R. 3246 turns the clock back to the 19th century when workers had few rights. I urge my colleagues to defend the rights of workers. Let us unite to declare, people have a right to a job, a right to decent wages and benefits, a right to safe working places, a right to compensation if they are injured on the job, a right to decent health care, a right to organize, a right to join a union, a right to grieve about working, and a right to participate in the political process. We in Congress have an obligation to protect the rights of working people.

#### TAX CODE MUST GO

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, here is a quiz. What has over 3,500 pages, is practically impossible to understand and is so complicated that rich people, poor people, middle class people all think it is an unfair monstrosity? Of course it is the Federal Tax Code, all 3,500 pages of it.

The Tax Code is a monument to the power of special interests, a symbol of big government and liberalism run amok, a scourge to all who believe in fairness, openness and common sense. I am convinced that just reforming the Tax Code is not going to work. No, Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code will have to go because the Tax Code is fundamentally corrupt. It is not an honest system when people trying to do the best they possibly can to figure out how much they owe make innocent mistakes and then get hammered by the IRS. A simple tax, maybe a sales tax, maybe a flat tax, with a low interest rate is the only way to have fairness, transparency and honesty in the way the Federal Government collects revenue.

Let us get serious. Let us replace, not just reform, the 3,500 pages of the Tax Code.

#### MEXICO'S PLAN TO REDUCE THEIR OIL PRODUCTION

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express strong outrage concerning recent reports about Mexico's plans to reduce the production of crude oil, which will result in higher gasoline prices at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, it was not too long ago, the same Mexican government officials who today seek to increase the price of crude oil came to the United States

seeking financial assistance and aid. This special assistance was over and above what we have already given to the Mexican government in development aid and to support counter-narcotics efforts. This body debated and ultimately approved a \$20 billion bailout package to prop up the peso and save the Mexican economy from collapsing. Without this money, the Mexican economy would have surely fallen and today Mexico is on the road to recovery.

Now, just over 3 years later, how does Mexico repay us for our role in pulling them back from the brink of economic disaster? They repay us by attempting to drive up the price of crude oil. This is wrong and we need to stop it now.

#### AN AGENCY IN SHAMBLES

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, anyone who still believes big government works or that the Federal Government can do anything in an economical way should just read the daily newspaper almost any day.

Today it is the Forest Service. According to the Government Accounting Office, the Forest Service has lost \$215 million. It has simply vanished. They cannot account for it. Can you imagine that? It would really take some doing to lose \$215 million, but somehow the Forest Service has managed to do it.

A report being released today compiled from GAO reports describes the Forest Service as "an agency in complete shambles." Yet at a hearing which begins in just a few minutes, the Forest Service will be requesting a \$43 million increase in its budget. This agency in shambles has gotten huge increases in funding over the last decade and now it wants even more. Maybe the Forest Service can lose more than \$215 million next year.

Mr. Speaker, we need to help every family in America by decreasing the government's budget and increasing the family's budget.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(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, last night the Republican leadership pulled the campaign finance bill from the House Committee on Rules. They did so not because they feared that it would fail, they did so because they feared that it would pass. They feared for the first time that there would be a bipartisan coalition in this House that would support meaningful campaign finance reform when we were given an opportunity to offer that on the motion to recommit. So rather than recognize that a majority of this House, Republicans and Democrats together, want to reform our fi-

nance system for campaigns, they pulled the bill, because the Republicans are trying to manage a defeat. They are not trying to manage a victory. They do not want campaign finance reform to pass. They want it to fail.

The problem is now the bill has too many votes. So they have to go back and tinker with it to see if they can make sure that enough people will not approve it. Their bill will fail. Real reform will pass. That is their problem. They want to stifle working families from participating in campaigns and triple the amount of money that rich families can give to campaigns.

#### CUBA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, next Tuesday Capitol Hill will be visited by various organizations that support the repressive regime's agenda which promotes the myth that there is an embargo on food and medicine to Cuba. Mr. Speaker, nothing can be further from the truth. The United States is in fact the leading humanitarian aid donor country to Cuba, more than all of the nations of the world combined. The United States has sent more than \$227 million in humanitarian donations to the people of Cuba.

The shortages of medicine and food in Cuba is caused by the misguided failed Marxist policy of the dictatorship and not what people incorrectly perceive as U.S. policy and U.S. laws. The regime redirects these supplies to tourist-only hospitals and hotels.

U.S. policy, in fact, which a majority of the American people support according to a new survey released just yesterday by the American Enterprise Institute, is not at fault for Cuba's ills. The facts are clear. The embargo that must be lifted is the embargo on freedom and human rights and democracy which Castro imposes on his people.

#### INTERNET IN UGANDA

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as the President travels the continent of Africa, he has made a whole lot of promises. For example, earlier this week he promised to send taxpayers' money to Uganda to help them wire their schools for the Internet. We have schools right here in the District of Columbia with roofs that leak, and the President has promised money for the school districts of Uganda.

You would think that Bill Clinton is running for the President of Uganda. But I doubt that the people of Uganda would support the President's agenda of higher taxes and more Washington spending. I wonder if this is just another version of executive privilege.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President returns soon. The way he is making promises in Africa, we can all kiss that surplus good-bye.

#### SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1998

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 396 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 396

*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. 3310) to amend chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, for the purpose of facilitating compliance by small businesses with certain Federal paperwork requirements, and to establish a task force to examine the feasibility of streamlining paperwork requirements applicable to small businesses. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 2(l)(6) of rule XI or section 303 or 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. Points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with section 303 or section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.