

pension protection, they have been in recess.

The first 100 days of this Republican Congress: a do-nothing Congress in recess, in recess from reality.

#### AMERICANS SHOULD OBSERVE APRIL FOOL'S DAY ON APRIL 15

(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, we are roughly 13 hours away from the first day of April, also known as April Fool's Day. This year, Mr. Speaker, I think America should observe April Fool's day on April 15. Why? Well, April 15 is the day when the IRS plays the biggest prank of all, trying to convince the Americans that it has turned over a new leaf as a kinder, gentler agency.

Mr. Speaker, the Americans are no fools. They see the IRS for exactly what it is, out of control. April 1 has been dedicated to fools, and April 15 has been dedicated to the IRS, just 14 days between losing one's mind and losing one's money.

Working men and women in this country are sick and tired of having the joke played on them. Our families deserve a government that is dedicated to reform and accountability, not abusive power and status quo.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of real and practical IRS reform, tax reform now, not tomorrow. We must end the practical joke on the taxpayers of this country.

#### FLORIDA FIXES THEIR ELECTRIC CHAIR

(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, Daniel Remeya said he killed people for the fun of it. In 1985 he killed a clerk for \$50. Two days later he killed a grocery clerk. Two days after that he killed a restaurant manager. That same day he killed two repair men, my colleagues. Now, after all that his attorneys said Florida's electric chair does not work properly, constituting cruel and unusual punishment, therefore Remeya should be spared.

Beam me up.

I want to commend Florida for, No. 1, fixing their electric chair; and, No. 2, for using the electric chair on this creep who killed innocent victims for the fun of it.

Good night, sweet prince.

I say one last thing, Congress. An America that gives murderers three square meals, a roof and a law library is an America that will continue to have mass murderers. I yield back all the carnage in our cities.

#### BESTEA WILL BENEFIT ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS HIGHWAYS

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support BESTEA when it comes to the House floor this week. BESTEA focuses on safety and keeping our nation's highways safe like never before.

An example of this commitment is the High Risk Roads Interstate Program. This program, Mr. Speaker, allocates \$5.75 billion to fund safety improvements to high risk roads with high accident rates. Funding of this program requires that safety must be the primary purpose of any project.

Mr. Speaker, this program will directly benefit my home State of Washington, which has the dubious distinction of having one of America's most dangerous highways. Highway 522 is a 10.5 mile road where 42 people have lost their lives in the past 20 years. Without this new program, the estimated \$180 million price tag would remain out of reach, leading to more and more senseless deaths.

I urge my colleagues to support BESTEA.

#### CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Congress yesterday missed a great opportunity to reform the finance campaigning that we do in our country. I am happy to report that on a vote of 337 to 74 this House turned down some atrocious campaign finance reform legislation that was a total sham, and we did it in a bipartisan way. Americans have said we want campaign finance reform, we want to take the money out, we want to participate in the process, and we want an open debate on it.

I applaud my colleagues. Democrats have been strong in it. All 196 of us said "no" to the sham campaign finance reform legislation that was on the House floor last night, and I am happy that 74 of Republicans stood up to that challenge as well.

Let us reform the laws. Let Americans participate in campaign finance reform.

I commend my Democratic Caucus, Mr. GEPHARDT for his leadership. Let us continue the fight.

#### NO APOLOGIES NEEDED

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is time for our President to come home. We owe no more apologies to the world. I

am tired of hearing people go out and apologize for the United States of America.

Take a look at the United States of America's history. Look how many millions and millions and millions of people that we have helped. Look how many of our soldiers have given the ultimate sacrifice to defend freedom in this world.

Take a look at what our country offers the world today. We do more for the environment than any other country in the world. We have the best health care system of any country in the world. We have the strongest military of any country in the world which helps our friends at our expense.

Take a look at what we do for education for our own citizens. Take a look at what we do through the United Nations for other countries. Take a look at our foreign aid.

Mr. Speaker, we have got nothing to apologize about. The President needs to come home. If apologies are due, maybe they are due over at the White House, but they are not due for being citizens of the United States.

I am a citizen of the United States of America, and let me tell every one of my colleagues I have no apologies.

#### THE CONGRESS HAS GONE WILDLY ASTRAY

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to get to work on the people's agenda, the people's business, and to quit playing partisan games. Last year after passing a successful budget resolution the Congress today has gone wildly astray. The Republican Congress today cannot get along with the Clinton administration, it cannot get along with the Democrats and the Republicans in Congress, cannot get along with themselves.

Look what has been going on the last 2 weeks in the House: Making a mockery out of campaign finance legislation yesterday, partisan bills considered under suspension where there was certainty such bills would fail. Secondly, last week giving short shrift to the environment and fortunately the so called Forest Health measure was defeated. The bills are failing; we cannot agree on subjects we should agree on and find a sound common ground upon.

And today we have got a bill scheduled on financial modernization, the bill that we have been working on for a decade, and what is happening is that the Republican leadership is hijacking the credit union bill to put it onto this badly flawed bill, H.R. 10. It is like giving a ticket to somebody on the *Titanic*. This bill makes a mockery out of the due process and deliberate consideration. Substantive amendments will not be considered, we are going to have a total of about four or five hours to debate it, and it is all but immunized

from substantive debate on important issues in terms of our economy and the people we represent. When are we going to get to work and quit the partisan antics that seem to touch every item on the House agenda.

#### WILL OUR MILITARY FORCES BE UNABLE TO MEET NATIONAL SECURITY NEEDS BECAUSE OF ILL-CONCEIVED BUDGET CUTTING?

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

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, this year will represent the 14th consecutive year of real decline in Federal defense spending. In less than a decade we have gone from 18 Army divisions down to 10. We have gone from a 600-ship Navy down to 300. Our soldiers' optempo continues to increase, our equipment continues to age, and yet the defense budget seems to get smaller and smaller with each passing year.

Yet to my dismay, I read in the March 25 Congress Daily that some of my colleagues are disappointed that the supplemental appropriations bill was not offset with DOD funds.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues that we have a constitutional obligation to provide for the common defense of this Nation. It will be far more costly in dollars, and potentially in American lives, if our military forces are unable to meet the Nation's national security needs because of ill-conceived budget cutting.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM—THANKS FOR NOTHING

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Republican leadership's planned defeat last night of campaign finance reform, I wanted to give my colleagues an update on the current state of the law.

If someone is a small business person in Arkansas grossing \$100,000 a year, it is still legal for them to give \$1 billion to the political party of their choice. If this is a family of four making \$30,000 a year, it is still legal for them to donate \$1 billion to the political party of their choice. If they retire on Social Security and on fixed income, it is still legal for them to give \$1 billion to the political party of their choice. And if this is a young couple in their 20s still trying to pay off student loans, it is still legal for them to give \$1 billion to the political party of their choice.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for nothing.

#### HONESTY IN OUR LEADERS DOES MATTER

(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, we are losing the concept of honesty and trust in our society. Over the last few months here in Washington the concept is fading and being replaced by denial, distraction, delay and destruction of those seeking the truth. We all know in our hearts that honesty is always the best policy, but when leadership in a free society lowers the standard, it affects us all.

Mr. Speaker, leadership does matter. We all saw that when the President spoke on MTV, saying he would inhale if he had to do it all over again, and then drug use actually increased.

If we lower the standard of honesty and trust, it means we no longer honor our commitments to our checking accounts, resulting in bounced checks. It means that we no longer honor our commitments to credit card accounts, meaning more bankruptcy. It means we no longer honor our commitments to marriage, meaning divorces will rise.

Is there not enough hot checks today? Do we not have enough bankruptcy? Is there not too many divorces today? Let us demand honesty and trust from ourselves, our neighbors and our elected officials.

#### BANNING SOFT MONEY

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, the freshman campaign finance bill takes the bold and important step of banning soft money. In the last election Democrats and Republicans combined to raise more than \$260 million in soft money. That was a 206 percent increase from 1992. If we extrapolate, when we get to the year 2000 we will be spending \$1 billion in soft money.

□ 1130

We divide the House into two groups: Those who think there is not enough money in the pot to spend doing elections, and those who think there are far too many dollars to be spent. And the problem is not what is illegal, so much as what is legal that we accept. Let us bring credibility back to the Congress. Let us have real campaign finance reform, and let us not think that the public is going to accept the sham that went on last night.

#### HELP FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, as Americans watched the Tax Code grow to 5.5 million words, special interests were gaining power at the expense of working families, families who formed the backbone of America, who work hard, play by the rules, and pay more than their fair share of the taxes.

James Madison warned about the evils of special interests, which he

called "factions" because special interests could make demands, demands at the expense of the public good, at the expense of common interests, at the expense of sound policy.

James Madison was right, and history, for the past 40 years, has shown that special interests have grown in power while ordinary middle-class families watch their tax bills grow year after year.

Last year, for the first time in 16 years, we gave American families a tax break. Let us eliminate the marriage penalty; let us help working families. Let us let the Tax Code work for Americans and not for the special interests.

#### RESTORE THE PUBLIC'S TRUST

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

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as public servants, we are commissioned to be guardians of the public trust, but each year the public's trust steadily declines. And why? Because too often Presidents, the new ones, and the new Congresses, go on with practices that are established by the old Congresses that violate that trust.

Take, for example, the Social Security Trust Fund. Every year we borrow from that trust fund, and we do not have the money to pay it back. We give that to the next generation.

This year, the President's proposal not only says we should borrow this year, but for the next 3 years, for a so-called balanced budget. He takes \$101 billion out of people's retirements and spends it on his programs and says, isn't that great? And now he is traveling the world giving out foreign aid to other countries that he has taken out of people's retirement funds.

It is time to restore the trust in America to trust funds and stop this stealing.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO TENNESSEE LADY VOLS

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Tennessee Lady Vols on once again becoming the national champions of women's collegiate basketball. This is an unprecedented third national championship in a row for Coach Pat Head Summitt and her staff and players.

Led by a young woman who has already been described as the greatest women's basketball player ever, Chamique Holdsclaw, the Lady Vols went 39 and 0 on the way to the national championship.

Coach Pat Head Summitt has now won an unbelievable six national championships and is considered one of the top basketball coaches of all time, male or female.