

OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
Washington, DC, April 8, 1998.  
Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 801(b) (6) and (8) of Public law 100-696, I hereby appoint the following individual to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission: Mr. Serrano, NY.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader:

OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
Washington, DC, April 7, 1998.  
Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 704(b)(1) of Public Law 105-78, I hereby appoint the following individual to the National Health Museum Commission: Dr. H. Richard Nesson, M.D. of Brookline, MA.

Yours Very Truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON HOUSE OVERSIGHT

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight:

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE OVERSIGHT,  
Washington, DC, April 1, 1998.  
Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR NEWT: Pursuant to Public Law 101-696 section 801 (40 USC §188a) the Chairman of the Committee on House Oversight and the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library are provided positions on the Capitol Preservation Commission.

Since I currently serve as Chairman for both Committees, I am appointing Mr. John Mica of Florida to serve on the Commission in the position reserved for the Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,  
Chairman.

#### POSTPONING CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be postponed until 5 p.m. today.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### VICE PRESIDENT HAS NEW IDEA ON HOW TO WASTE TAXPAYER DOLLARS

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, according to press accounts, Vice President AL GORE has a new idea on how to raise taxpayer dollars.

Apparently, he awoke from a very deep sleep at 3 in the morning and came up with this new innovation for the Internet. He wants to send up a satellite whose only job is to beam back pictures of Earth. Now, these pictures would be placed on the Internet so that people all across the world would always have access to the Earth. Now, imagine that, live pictures of the Earth turning on its little axis.

This may sound like a great idea at 3 o'clock in the morning, Mr. Speaker, but it is a dumb idea during the rest of the day. The cost of this project would be about \$50 million, and it already occupies the time of two NASA scientists. \$50 million would buy 50,000 computers for our Nation's students.

I have a better idea, Mr. Speaker. Let us give the Vice President some sleeping pills so that his nighttime dreams will not cost the taxpayers millions of dollars.

#### EXPANDING NAFTA TO CENTRAL AMERICA

(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, somebody is inhaling. Since NAFTA, American TVs and typewriters are made in Mexico; American telephones are made in Singapore; computers are made in China and Japan. And after all this, the White House wants to expand this NAFTA madness to all of Central America.

Now, here is how I predict it will work. Central America will get jobs and investment. Uncle Sam will get a pink slip, training voucher, and two free lunches to Taco Bell. Beam me up. This is not free trade. This is a joke, a dirty joke on American workers.

I yield back another record trade deficit and 1.4 million American workers who filed individual bankruptcy in America last year, another record I might add. Think about it.

#### TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, Washington has imprisoned the hopes and dreams of Americans in a cell known as the United States Tax Code. Last Wednesday, April 15, Americans got a harsh reminder that parole could still be a long way off.

Instead of expanding freedom for its citizens, Washington has expanded power for the Government by raising taxes again, and again, and again. And four of the last five major Federal tax hikes passed with less than a two-thirds majority of Congress voting for them.

Tax reform starts with the things like we are doing in Congress right now, like reforming IRS, having nationwide debates about the flat tax and national retail sales tax. But, most of all, Mr. Speaker, tax reform starts with not raising taxes.

The tax limitation amendment is a weapon in our hands in the war for a fairer and flatter Federal Tax Code. This amendment will make it tougher to raise taxes, period. It is a bipartisan step toward the fairer, flatter, simpler Code Americans want and deserve. It deserves to pass.

#### REBUILDING AMERICAN SCHOOLS

(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, I think on this very bright and sunny spring day I am delighted to associate myself with a forward-thinking Democratic agenda that says that we must come back to this House and stand on the side of our young people, and that means that we must go full speed ahead on rebuilding America's schools.

The question is, why are we stalled with legislation that allows a certain amount of money to provide for the failing and falling infrastructure, the leaking roofs, the many scatter-site trailer homes that schoolchildren are having to learn in? Why should we not, the American government, stand on the side of educating our children? Why should we not provide for 100,000 teachers to go into the classrooms with their talent and enthusiasm and teach our children?

Then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I want to stand on the side of science, understanding how difficult it is for us to understand needle exchange. This is not part of the Democratic agenda. I think it makes common sense that we recognize that the science says that we will decrease HIV by the needle exchange. Let us get common sense and stop, and stop, and stop the tragedy of HIV.

#### TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

(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, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 111, the tax limitation amendment.

In 1994, as a citizen of Nevada, I led an effort to amend our State Constitution with this very same language. I am proud to say that Nevada voters on two consecutive elections voted overwhelmingly to pass the measure. The Gibbons Tax Restraint Initiative, as it is referred to, has now become law in the State of Nevada. By passing this law, the citizens of Nevada declared in a loud and clear voice that they want

to put a leash on runaway spending and tax increases.

States with similar initiatives on supermajority requirements for tax increases experience greater economic growth, lower taxes, and reduced growth in government spending. The Federal Government needs to be put on the same fat-free diet by making it more difficult to raise taxes on hard-working men and women and thereby shifting the congressional focus to the bloated spending programs of the Federal bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the tax limitation amendment.

#### AMERICA NEEDS STRONG TOBACCO LEGISLATION

(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, there are those here in Washington who believe that we do not need strong tobacco legislation. The other day the tobacco industry announced that it was withdrawing from settlement negotiations. But we need strong legislation because what is happening back at home is criminal.

Let me give my colleagues an example. I am proud of my home State of Maine, but back in Maine we have a smoking problem. We just did a survey in Maine, and it shows that teenage girls are smoking at a higher rate than boys and that the smoking rate of young girls has increased by 30 percent since 1993.

As one of our officials said, "Now the slogan 'you've come a long way, baby' has different meaning in Maine." As our Human Services Commissioner said, we would call out the Marines, the National Guard and the Border Patrol if we thought that the Colombian drug cartel was on their way to addicting one-quarter of America's youths, but the tobacco industry has free reign.

It is time to call a halt. It is time in this session for strong tobacco legislation.

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#### FREE IV NEEDLES TO ILLEGAL DRUG USERS IS NOT COMMON SENSE

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, every so often we notice that the President cannot manage to keep his liberal demons away. In the early days, it was gays in the military and socialized medicine. Now the President has decided it is a good idea to provide free IV needles to illegal drug users, free IV needles to illegal drug users.

I am just wondering what polling the President has been doing lately, be-

cause the moms and dads I talk to are very worried about illegal drugs. Most Americans do not have a Ph.D. in psychology, but they do have a lot of common sense. Many of them know what happens to an addict surrounded by enablers.

Now we have the mother of all enablers, the Federal Government, encouraging the use of needles to drug abusers so that they might continue abusing drugs "safely." Maybe that is what passes for common sense in this administration.

#### SUPPORT THE TWO-THIRDS TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we are going to have the tax limitation amendment to the Constitution on the floor of the House for a vote. It is a pretty straightforward amendment. It says, to raise your taxes, it will take a two-thirds vote of the House and a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

For those of you that had fractions in elementary school, you know that two-thirds is a larger fraction than one-half. If you translate that into math, it means, in the House, it will take 292 votes to raise your taxes and, in the Senate, it will take 67 votes to raise your taxes.

The tax burden on the American people has gone up from 1 percent on the first \$3,000 of net income in 1914 to over, if you are a senior citizen, over 85 percent of any income if you are filing jointly with a spouse of over \$34,000 in income. That is an increase of the marginal tax rate of over 4,000 percent in the last 75 years. It is time to stop that.

Let us pass the two-thirds tax limitation amendment to the Constitution of the United States tomorrow afternoon on this floor and send it to the Senate; and, hopefully, they will pass it and send it to the States.

#### REDUCE TAX BURDEN FOR HARD- WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, last week when I was in South Dakota, I stopped at a gas station in Aberdeen. The woman working behind the counter there gave me a clear message. As I was paying for my gas, she looked me in the eye and said, Congressman, working families need lower taxes.

This woman is one of the unsung heroes in America today. She works. Her husband works. Together, they are trying to make a car payment, a house payment and a day care payment and put food on the table.

She is not asking for a new government program to help or do any of these things. She is just asking the

government to take less of her paycheck.

I think that is a pretty reasonable request because, right now, the tax burden of this country is 38 percent; and 38 percent of that hard-working woman's pay is going to the government at the State, local, and Federal level. That is inexcusable.

We need to lighten the load carried by taxpayers and reduce the overall tax burden to only 25 percent. God only asked for 10 percent. Surely the government can get by with 2½ times that amount.

#### TOBACCO ADVERTISING IN THE MOVIES

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

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, what do Kermit the Frog, Rocky Balboa, Superman, and James Bond have in common? They have each played the main character in movies that advertise tobacco.

That is right. Big tobacco has paid millions of dollars to place their deadly products in films like The Muppet Movie, Rocky II, and Superman. Philip Morris even paid \$350,000 so that James Bond would light up in License to Kill.

Have your children or grandchildren ever seen Disney movies like Who Framed Roger Rabbit or Honey, I Shrunk the Kids? What about Kevin Costner's Field of Dreams? More tobacco advertising.

These are things we hardly notice, but tobacco companies pay millions of dollars to have their products in movies for one purpose, to get anyone who views the movies, including children and teenagers, to smoke that brand of cigarette.

Let me give you an example. Clint Eastwood's Bridges of Madison County, Robert Redford's A River Runs Through It, Paul Hogan's Crocodile Dundee, Rick Moranis' Little Shop of Horrors, Michael Keaton's Mr. Mom, Kenny Rogers' Coward of the County, and John Travolta's Grease, all full of paid advertising from the tobacco industry.

Mr. Speaker, this has got to stop somewhere. When will the people of America wake up and see where they are getting had on this deal?

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such roll call votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.