

life-and-death stories about how tobacco has impacted their lives, how they are crying out for us in the United States Congress to do our job. I hope that we in this body will listen to the children and not render to the children of America a death notice as they move into the 21st century.

I hope that we will listen; I hope that we will act. We will hear from the children here in the United States Congress on June 24. More tobacco reform is needed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will again remind Members that references to the other body that are critical in nature are not within the bounds and Rules of the House, and upon any further references, the Members will be interrupted.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACT

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Education Savings Act for public and private schools.

Last year we passed the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 giving families the first tax cut in 16 years and making college more affordable by establishing education savings accounts.

Today, I will vote to give parents even more control over their children's future. This bill gives tax incentives for parents to save money for their children's K-through-12 education. It gives control to the parents.

I support this bill because it allows them to use their own personal money, their after-tax dollars, not the government's money, to give their children the best education possible that they can achieve. Nebraska families, families all across America, deserve an opportunity to save money tax-free for K-through-12 education. Parents, not the government, should decide how to spend their money on their children's education.

Let us stand today with the children, let us stand today with the parents, let us stand today for education in America. Support the Education Savings Act.

REPUBLICANS: THE PARTY OF GESTURE

(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, George Will, the eminent editorialist here in Washington D.C., was in Seattle recently, and he said that the majority party in the House of Representatives was tearing themselves apart be-

cause they could not deal with substance, they had become the party of gesture.

Now, yesterday was the great day of gesture. The first gesture was, let us tear the Tax Code out by its roots. That was irresponsible. That was followed by a cynical gesture. That is, they could not pass even a commission on campaign reform.

Now, there is some question about whether tobacco is dead. In my view, tobacco is not dead. We will see a cynical gesture out of the Speaker's office late in this session bringing to the floor a bill that says, "Kids, you shouldn't smoke," and then there will be a lot of beating of chests and saying, we passed a bill against tobacco.

The fact is that the money in this place has to be collected before even that cynical gesture will be brought to the floor. We need serious campaign reform. The Speaker ought to bring Shays-Meehan to the floor immediately.

ACHIEVING DREAMS THROUGH EDUCATION

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

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a very special group of high school students and their teachers taking part in the Capitol Hill robotics competition today in the Rayburn Office Building, a contest that is unlike any other that I know.

This competition brings together students with high technology companies, universities, research laboratories and designers to compete head to head. They design machines that go head to head in competition in front of fans and a worldwide television audience.

In forming this partnership, students are introduced to the concepts of design, mechanics, engineering and materials, and they are encouraged to push further into the worlds of science, technology, mathematics and the opportunities they create.

This unique challenge is the brainchild of the Foundation for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology First, headed by Mr. Dean Kamen of Manchester, New Hampshire, a city I am proud to represent. The contest has grown from very humble beginnings in a high school gymnasium.

This year, however, the finals will be at Epcot Center, a national presentation in front of thousands of high school fans that understand the value of learning science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of those that have worked to make this initiative a success, inspiring students and teaching them to achieve their dreams through education.

REJECT THE PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHER BILL

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to reject the Coverdell voucher bill.

As a former State superintendent in North Carolina's public schools, I know that using taxpayer money to finance private school tuition will not improve education in this country. Taking the taxpayers' money, more than \$2 billion, to subsidize private schools at the expense of our neighborhood public schools is wrong.

Instead of this private school voucher bill, I call on this Congress to pass legislation to address the school construction crisis in this country. Our classrooms are bursting at the seams, and we know that the school age population is projected to soar in the next decade. This Congress should do its part to help our States and localities build schools for our children.

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3652, that will take the revenue from the Coverdell voucher bill and use that school construction money as bonds to help growing communities across this country to meet their needs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and build schools.

SUPPORT THE CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to support H.R. 3682, the Child Custody Protection Act.

I am a practicing physician. I deliver babies, and what I would want Members of this body and the American public to know is, do you think it is right for a 12-year-old child or a 13-year-old child to be taken across a State line to have an abortion performed when they are incapable of making that decision themselves and without the knowledge of the parents? That is what this bill is all about.

If, in fact, a child is transported across a State line for an abortion to violate the laws of the State in which they reside, then, in fact, it would be a Federal offense.

The real issue is whether or not parents ought to be involved in the reproductive health of their children.

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Whether they ought to know, whether they ought to be given information about whether or not their child is seeking help in the midst of a difficulty, some would have us say that the government is the answer to that. I believe the parents are the answer to that. And I believe that we should pass the Child Custody Protection Law.

CONSPIRATORIAL CONGRESS

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, increasingly people across this country are referring to this Congress as the "do nothing Congress." But more appropriately it might be referred to as the "conspiratorial Congress." The leadership in this House has conspired with someone in this Congress to kill both antismoking legislation and campaign finance reform.

The somebody yesterday succeeded in killing the antismoking legislation. That job has been done. Now the leadership in this House has got to live up to its part of the conspiracy and deliver on killing campaign finance reform. They are doing so by proposing a rule on the floor later today with an unprecedented 258 amendments designed to drag this issue out all through the summer into the fall. It is death to campaign finance reform by amendment.

Mr. Speaker, that is the conspiracy that is going on in this Congress. We need Meehan-Shays on the floor. We need real campaign finance reform. Let us have a vote on the real bill.

REPUBLICAN EDUCATION PROPOSAL LONG ON PROMISE AND SHORT ON SUBSTANCE

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the education savings account proposal. Ninety percent of America's children receive a public school education. This proposal is a slap in the face to America's already struggling school systems.

If this measure is adopted, resources will be siphoned away from an already financially needy education system. It does nothing to strengthen one of our most cherished American institutions, public education.

How then can we in good faith suggest a measure to the American public that would primarily benefit wealthy families? Instead, I urge my colleagues to join the effort to build and modernize our public school buildings and administrations.

Instead, let us provide funding for local school districts to hire 100,000 new and qualified teachers to reduce class size. Instead, let us initiate comprehensive reform through the creation of Education Opportunity Zones in both urban and rural areas.

Instead, let us expand access to after-school initiatives through the "21st Century Community Learning Center Program."

Mr. Speaker, the agenda proposed by my Republican colleagues is long on promise and short on substance.

SHAMEFUL MORNING IN AMERICA

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a shameful morning in America. Two of the most important issues facing the American people, anti-tobacco legislation and campaign finance reform, have just been dealt a severe setback by this Republican-controlled Congress.

There was an opportunity yesterday in the Republican-controlled Congress to bring some justice to this debate, to right some wrongs, to invest in the tobacco-free future of our children. But instead, our Republican colleagues killed the tobacco bill.

Here in the Republican-controlled House, the leadership will not even allow debate on tobacco. They do not even plan to bring a bill to the floor. Instead, the Republican leadership in this House continues to spend their time killing campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, I believe strongly in finding bipartisan solutions to America's problems. But how can we solve America's most important problems if the present Republican-controlled Congress continues to kill or strangle debate on issues of such vital importance to America as tobacco and campaign finance reform?

HOUSE SHOULD CONSIDER MEANINGFUL TOBACCO LEGISLATION

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, last night Big Tobacco did what it does best again when it spent \$40 million to kill the comprehensive tobacco legislation. Is that what America's children are worth?

This Saturday, it will be exactly 1 year since the State attorneys general proposed their settlement agreement. Since last June, Congress has done nothing to stem the willful and destructive forces of the tobacco industry.

By selling out to Big Tobacco, the 105th Congress has sat idly by while an astounding 1,095,000 more kids have become addicted to tobacco. One-third of those children, over 300,000, will die from tobacco. These kids are not faceless figures, they are our children.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot be fooled into believing this problem is too complex for the House to address. We can address it. We must address it this year.

One simple solution is to raise the legal purchase age for smoking from 18 to 21. Raising the legal age will squash big tobacco's ransom demands by paving the way for new restrictions on tobacco solicitations on college campuses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to consider meaningful tobacco legislation.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, campaign finance reform is the "Little Engine that Could," and it is picking up steam.

Last night, the leadership on the other side of the aisle once again tried to derail this train with a cynical commission bill that was heavy on talk and light on action. When that failed, real reform was pulled from the schedule while the leadership discussed new ways to use parliamentary tricks to stop action on the Meehan-Shays bill.

Mr. Speaker, it does not seem to matter to the leadership on the other side of the aisle that the American people are crying out for reform. It does not seem to matter to the leadership on the other side of the aisle that both Democrats and Republicans want reform now.

It does not seem to matter to the leadership on the other side of the aisle that we were promised an open, honest debate on campaign finance reform. Because when it comes to campaign finance reform, the leadership on the other side of the aisle seems to be all about promises made and promises broken, because it is time to pass real campaign reform now.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2646, EDUCATION SAVINGS AND SCHOOL EXCELLENCE ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 471, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2646) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Monday, June 15, 1998, at page H4551.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report on H.R. 2646.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 2646, the