

American people would not notice the creation of numerous additional Federal bureaucracies. He assumes that it is okay to spend over \$60 billion in tobacco settlement money that has not even been sent to Congress. Finally, he assumes the American people will not notice the billions of dollars in higher fees and taxes in his budget.

But let us be fair, Madam Speaker. The fault does not lie solely with the President. The American people must admit our guilt in believing his promises. We all assumed that the President was serious when he said to all America that the era of big government was over. Yet, this budget proposal is the very essence of big government. Empty promises, big government, high taxes. Mr. President, you can run from reality, but you cannot hide from the American people.

NOMINATION OF U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL KOFI ANNAN FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

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

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, peace is fragile anyplace, but it is particularly so in the Middle East. Only time will tell whether the agreement reached by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in Baghdad will hold.

There are two things, however, which are nondebatable: that the presence of our military forces is the best guarantee that the agreement will be kept; and that the extraordinary diplomatic skill of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, needs to be honored and recognized.

I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recommending and nominating Kofi Annan for the Nobel Peace Prize. This great international public servant deserves this recognition. His impeccable integrity and commitment to the finest values manifested itself in his negotiations, and may in fact save untold human lives in the region and beyond.

I ask my colleagues to join me in nominating Kofi Annan for the Nobel Peace Prize.

FEDERAL EDUCATION DOLLARS CAN BE REDIRECTED TO WORTH-WHILE PROGRAMS IN THE CLASSROOM

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring an egregious example of Federal education waste to Members' attention. Through the Department of Education we funded an education study entitled, and I quote, "Channeling Your Donna Reed Syndrome."

Since when does the 1950s television ideal wife and mother have anything to do with teaching kids basic math, reading, writing, science, and history? As

part of this education study, we learned the "Four Affirmations We Should Say Daily: 1, I am competent; 2, I am attractive; 3, I am respected; 4, I own this day."

While American schoolchildren lag behind the rest of the developed world in basic academic skills, our Federal education dollars are paying for the recitation of daily affirmation concepts. Instead of funding studies like this one, I urge Members to cosponsor the Dollars to the Classroom Act, which block grants 30 Federal education programs to States, requiring that at least 95 percent of the funds be made available for classroom activity.

LEGISLATION MUST ENSURE THAT HEINOUS CRIMES RECEIVE APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, 20 years ago Larry Singleton picked up Mary Vincent. Singleton raped her, and to escape discovery, chopped off her hands and threw Mary into a ditch for her to bleed to death. Mary survived and helped convict this bum.

Larry Singleton was out in 8 years, Congress. Yesterday Mary Vincent, in a courtroom with two metal hands, fingered Singleton once again, because, you see, 20 years later, Larry Singleton picked up Roxanne Hayes. He raped her, and to make sure he did not get caught, he executed her.

Beam me up. Enough is enough. Eight years. We have victims screaming out from graves all over America, and Congress is coddling to criminals. It is time for Congress to look at the rights of the victims, not the murderers. It is time to legislate that those life sentence people who murder again do not get another life sentence. They get put to death.

BARBARIANS IN THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, Harry Thomason, a friend of the President who was forced out of the White House in the Travelgate affair once said he planned to stay, and I quote, until the barbarians are driven from the gate.

Well, the barbarians are now in the White House. History tells us that barbarian kings commonly killed the messenger if the messenger was the bearer of bad tidings.

That barbaric practice in a more civilized way exists today. You see, the White House does not like the message Judge Ken Starr is bringing. That message is possibly, just possibly the President of the United States misrepresented the truth, attempted to obstruct justice, and encouraged others

to perjure themselves. So since the White House does not like the message, they have attacked Judge Ken Starr. It is a new version of kill the messenger if you do not like the message.

Madam Speaker, America must demand the truth, because if there is no truth, there is no justice. If there is no justice in Washington, there is no justice in Wichita, Kansas or anywhere else in the United States

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker would request Members not to make personal reference to the President of the United States.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET HEADING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

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

Mr. ROGAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to make a few statements of principle. I consider tax increases to be a step in the wrong direction. I consider tax cuts to be a step in the right direction.

I consider increased spending and bigger government a step in the wrong direction. I consider lower government spending and smaller government a step in the right direction.

It is the belief of the Republican Party that the Federal Government has gotten too big, that tax burdens on families have grown too high, and that Washington is about the last place we ought to be looking to solve family problems.

This is why Republicans believe that the President's budget proposal represents a step in the wrong direction for two very good reasons. First, it is a step toward higher taxes, with a request for \$100 billion in new taxes. Second, it is a step toward higher government spending; \$100 billion in new spending.

This is the wrong direction because it means government, instead of families, will grow stronger, Washington becomes more powerful, and Americans have less freedom.

Madam Speaker, this is not what America voted for in November of 1996.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues in Congress to pass the legislation to help States and localities meet the school infrastructure needs of this country.

In community after community in my district, we desperately need new and improved schools. The General Accounting Office has documented that America's unmet school construction needs total more than \$100 billion. And

we know that, from the Education Department's projected growth study, the problem is going to get radically worse in the next decade.

Madam Speaker, our schools are bursting at the seams. School children are being forced to attend classes in trailers. And educators struggle to teach in appalling overcrowded conditions and unsafe classrooms.

This Congress must act and act now to address this urgent problem. As a former school superintendent of my State's public schools, I know firsthand that the quality of a child's physical surroundings does make a difference in his or her ability to learn. Modernizing our school infrastructure will improve academic performance.

North Carolina citizens approved recently a \$1.8 billion investment in our education infrastructure. Congress must do the same. And I call on this Congress to do its part.

Madam Speaker, we must pass school construction legislation and do it now.

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AMERICA NEEDS AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCOME TAX CUT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, America needs an across-the-board income tax cut. The average American family still pays more in taxes than it spends on food, clothing and shelter. This Congress, I think, has an obligation to cut taxes again.

Last year's tax cut was a positive step in the right direction, but it did not go far enough, for far too many Americans received little or no benefit at all, particularly singles and seniors.

Instead of picking winners and losers among overtaxed Americans, it is time to cut taxes across the board. I have introduced a bill, the Taxpayer Relief and Protection Act, that would cut marginal income tax rates 5 percent across the board.

This tax cut will ensure that every American who earns a paycheck will be able to keep a little more of their hard-earned money.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Taxpayer Relief and Protection Act. An across-the-board income tax cut is the fairest way to provide the American people with the additional tax relief that they need and deserve.

SENATOR FEINGOLD: CHAMPION OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague from Wisconsin, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD. Senator FEINGOLD for 5

years has courageously championed campaign finance reform. The debate this week in the United States Senate is a tribute to Senator FEINGOLD and Senator MCCAIN's perseverance in the face of strong opposition.

While passage of the McCain-Feingold bill is not guaranteed, the Senate at least has been given an opportunity to cast an up-or-down vote on it. We in the House have been denied the right to any debate and vote on campaign reform.

Now, many of my friends in the Republican Party have argued that our first step must be to investigate any campaign violations that occurred during the 1996 elections. I agree. As a former prosecutor, I believe that anyone who violated the laws of this country must be held accountable.

Simply investigating the abuses, however, ignores the largest problem, that most of the worst problems of the campaign system are legal: Soft money, unregulated issues ads, and independent expenditures from groups accountable to no one.

Madam Speaker, these are the real problems of our campaign system and the citizens of Wisconsin have asked us not to accept "no" for an answer on this.

THE IRS: LAWLESS, ABUSIVE, OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, a few weeks ago Newsweek Magazine had on its cover these words: "The IRS: Lawless, Abusive, Out of Control."

Now, these are not my words. This was Newsweek Magazine, a very mainstream publication. When Newsweek Magazine describes any Federal Agency as lawless, abusive, and out of control, things have gotten pretty bad. But when it is the IRS, an agency that touches all of us so personally, this is an especially horrendous situation.

About 85 to 90 percent of the people want us to drastically simplify the Tax Code. There is no good reason why we should have a tax law that is so hopelessly complicated and convoluted and confusing. Yet will we do it?

Well, Madam Speaker, do not hold your breath. The IRS would lose much of its power and some extremely big businesses would lose some of their tax breaks. Very powerful interests are fighting tax simplification, so we will probably do little more than just cosmetic changes around the edges.

CONGRESS' SCHEDULE SHOULD "WORK" FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. GREEN. Madam Speaker, I stand here today for my 1-minute to talk

about our schedule in Congress. And even though personally I think we enjoy it, I heard 2 weeks ago we have a vote schedule that a French trucker would strike for.

What we need to do is deal with tax reform, IRS reform. We need to make sure we continue that balanced budget effort and safeguard Social Security first, just like the President said here in January.

We also need to work on modernizing public schools. We need to make sure we have the teachers and the smaller class sizes there to help make sure those children are prepared for the next century.

The other thing that hopefully we will do this session is establish a Patient's Bill of Rights, whether it is the Norwood bill that we have or a number of other bills that are being introduced to set some parameters on people getting health care. That is what this Congress needs to deal with.

Madam Speaker, we do not need to have a schedule that is light. We need to have a schedule that works for the American people.

THE CHERRY TREE

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

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, last Sunday, the Nation celebrated George Washington's birthday. Washington was known for his honesty. We all remember that story of how he admitted to chopping down the cherry tree.

Now, if that were Bill Clinton, he would have blamed Ken Starr and the vast right-wing conspiracy for chopping down that poor cherry tree. We might say that Bill Clinton has a credibility problem.

So, Madam Speaker, when he says we should reserve the surplus for Social Security, I think we all need to be very, very careful. We know Bill Clinton wants to spend more money. In fact, as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) just said, his budget has close to \$100 billion in new Washington spending programs. Now that is a lot of cherry trees.

When it comes to the surplus, I believe the money belongs not to Washington bureaucrats, but to the American people. Madam Speaker, let us not allow the President to spend that surplus.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Members should be reminded not to make personal reference to the President.

HMO REFORM

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