

of possible impeachment offenses by the President.

Furthermore, President Clinton's own brother, Roger, issued warnings to Members of Congress when he told CNN's Larry King, "Some of the political people had best watch themselves because of the old glass house story. Be very careful."

As predicted by these individuals, in recent weeks, including this morning, several of our colleagues have been subjected to vicious partisan attacks, via the news media, by individuals who are clearly attempting to intimidate Members of Congress in the wake of the Starr report.

I take serious offense to what is obviously a scorched earth campaign. Mr. Speaker, we will never be intimidated by these scorched earth tactics. We will not back down from our constitutional responsibilities and we will not cower from the White House attacks. We will do what is right.

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#### CONGRESS SHOULD ACT RESPECTFUL AND DIGNIFIED DURING WHITE HOUSE CRISIS AND CONTINUE TO CONDUCT THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected by the people of Indiana and sent to this distinguished body, my very first vote was on whether to send young people into harm's way, into the Persian Gulf, on war. And this body conducted itself with the utmost dignity, civility and respect towards one another and respected their differing viewpoints, clapping for Members even though they may have disagreed.

Now, when it comes to respect and hard work, I immediately think of our chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE). He has worked hard, worked with me through my 8 years that I have been here serving with him.

I hope that this body can continue to be together in a civil, distinguished, thoughtful, deliberative manner to get to the bottom of what happened in the White House, but also do the people's business and balance the budget, reform education and save Social Security.

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#### THE EMPEROR WITH NO CLOTHES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to share a children's story that has been on my mind for the last seven months which we have all read to our children but I think it is instructive today.

Once upon a time, there was an Emperor who loved his kingly clothes, in

which he paraded through the palace and through the land so that all could admire him. He was very vain. His closest aides and followers were always nearby to congratulate him on how dashing he looked, how popular he was with his loyal subjects and how good his leadership was for the land.

One day, however, the Emperor began parading through the land with his clothes off. He even assured himself and his followers that he was in fact wearing clothes. They just could not see them, because only stupid people could not see the clothes.

Because they did not want to be thought of as stupid, his lawyers and followers and supporters agreed, "Oh, yes, he must be wearing clothes."

And so they trumpeted throughout the land, "The Emperor really is technically dressed but the unenlightened among you just cannot see the fine threads from which his garments are made." They even attacked those who sought to expose the truth.

And so it continues today, Mr. Speaker.

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#### MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, while we know there are lots of other issues swirling around the Capitol these days, I think it is important that we focus on other issues that really affect the American people. Last week, the Tuesday before we came back into session, four Members of Congress from the Houston area met with over 100 people to discuss an important issue that is facing the American public. That public meeting was about managed care reform and the Republican majority's misnamed bill that we passed earlier this year, the Patient Protection Act. This was the first public hearing held on the bill since our committee that I serve on did not have any hearings on the bill that passed this House. That hearing confirmed what we have been saying for months, that families in managed care want and need some reform this year. They do not want a sham bill like the Patient Protection Act that does more for insurance companies than patients and they do not want a bill that actually preempts Texas law that was passed by our legislature last year. They want a patients' bill of rights that is not right because it is a Democratic bill but because it contains meaningful reforms to complement the State laws that are passed.

Eliminate the gag rules, provide choice and also allow people to go to adequate emergency rooms without having to call their insurance company first.

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#### TWO DIFFERENT VIEWS REGARDING CONSTITUTION

(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, today, yes, the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States in Philadelphia in 1787 should not be an occasion for partisanship. However, we are forced to confront the reality of how liberals and conservatives have two very different views of the Constitution and about the history of the United States.

Conservatives have a novel belief that the Constitution actually means what it says. Liberals, on the other hand, are fond of calling the Constitution a "living document" that, quote-unquote, evolves over time. The liberal view of the Constitution allows them to interpret the Constitution any way they choose.

Conservatives look at the Constitution and believe that its explicit prohibitions on what the Federal Government is allowed to do are a fundamental safeguard of our liberty and protection against too much government.

Liberals look at the Constitution and believe that the Federal Government can get involved in every aspect of your life, always, of course with the misguided belief and justification that it is "for your own good."

Two different views, views with profound and differing consequences for our liberty.

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#### SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this September as always we face some very difficult budget decisions, but we will not even be able to get to those budget decisions if we do not first address the numbers honestly.

Right now we have all heard about the supposed surplus that we have over the next 10 years, \$1.6 trillion, and we have heard dozens of different ideas for how to spend that money. The trouble is that money does not exist, because all but \$31 billion of that \$1.6 trillion is really in the Social Security trust fund. It is money that we borrow and for some crazy reason consider as income. It is not income, it is money we have to pay back, plus interest.

We need to honestly assess those numbers. As we stand here today, there are a lot of different programs, a lot of different tax cuts being proposed, but if you ever hear someone say in answer to the question of how they are going to pay for it, "We're going to pay for it out of the surplus," do not let them do it.

There is no surplus. If we can address the numbers honestly, we can make wise budget decisions and we can do two very important things in this final

month of the session: One, we can get to a true and honest balanced budget; and, two, we can protect Social Security for future generations.

#### THE AMERICAN FARMER

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, my friend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) has been a class act ever since I have known him. He has once again shown that this morning.

Mr. Speaker, it should be no secret to the Members of this body that the American farmer produces the best food and fiber products in the world, but what is a secret to many inside Washington's Beltway is the crisis gripping America's rural economies. The deteriorating state of America's farm economy is a national priority and must be addressed. Yet the Clinton administration and particularly USDA only offer up inflammatory rhetoric instead of a substantive emergency aid plan.

In Georgia alone, this year's crop losses from forces of nature approach \$767 million. The story is the same all across rural America. Our farmers need strong leadership, not partisan politics as usual.

I implore the Clinton administration once again to quit playing partisan politics with America's family farmers and to start making meaningful and appropriate decisions at the Department of Agriculture. Let us move on policies to help the American family farmer survive.

#### SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY AND LOWERING THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Ways and Means is going to consider an \$80 billion tax cut, and supporters are admitting that we will use part of the so-called budget surplus to pay for it.

There are three things that the people in America get that some people here in this Chamber just do not get:

First, there is no real budget surplus, not unless you want to raid the Social Security trust fund, not unless you want to collect payroll taxes from working families and transfer that money into the pockets of other people in this country.

Secondly, this tax package not only spends the Social Security trust fund, but it also prevents us from starting to pay back the \$5.5 trillion national debt.

Finally, there is no guarantee that any of this so-called surplus is going to materialize given the international financial crisis that we are in today.

This tax cut is wrong for our seniors, it is wrong for our children, and sup-

porters just do not get it. We must protect Social Security, we must start paying back the national debt and we must oppose fiscally irresponsible election-year tax cuts that are not paid for honestly.

#### AGRICULTURE CRISIS

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

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as a cow/calf operator from western Oklahoma, I can tell you firsthand that the crisis in rural America is real. Our producers are plagued by weak grain prices, drought, bugs, wildfire, and dwindling forage and hay supplies. Good farmers are losing equity and millions of dollars are being lost to our economy.

As our markets become as dry as the land we farm, the Clinton administration has failed to come forward with an emergency aid plan that will help producers make it until next year. These desperate times require swift and concise measures to aid our producers in their time of need. Partisan politics and demagoguery cannot be tolerated during this crisis. The Administration must quit using farmers like a political football and start making substantive decisions at the USDA. Oklahoma crop and livestock losses already amount to well over \$1 billion. Action is needed now.

Come on, Secretary Glickman. Our farmers are waiting.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, next week Republicans will push for a vote in this House to steal \$80 billion from the Social Security trust fund. On behalf of the seniors of central Texas, I will strongly oppose that effort.

It is interesting, the same Republicans who just a few months ago right here in this House were saying it was dishonest to raid money from the highway trust fund are now saying it is okay, though, to raid money, to steal money, from the seniors' trust fund, their Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, if Republicans felt it was dishonest to steal from the highway trust fund, then I assume they are admitting it is dishonest to steal from the Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, I support tax cuts. But I will not vote for a tax cut next week pushed by Republicans that steals money from our seniors' future, from our seniors' security and our cherished Social Security trust fund. I think Republicans should think twice before they say highways and concrete and election promises are more important than saving our Social Security trust fund.

#### RECOGNITION OF FREEHOLD BOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL IN NEW JERSEY'S 12TH DISTRICT

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a school in my district that is truly fulfilling its mission of providing the best possible education it can to its students.

This past Monday I had the opportunity to visit Freehold Borough High School for a tour of the school and to teach a class on the U.S. Constitution. Throughout my visit I was consistently impressed with the sophistication and knowledge of the students and the innovation and dedication exhibited by the teachers and administrators.

I began my visit by taking part in a lunch that was prepared by the students of the culinary arts and restaurant management class which is just one of the many ways they expand their curriculum to serve the dynamic and evolving opportunities faced by the students of today.

After speaking with Dr. Carolyn Mulhare-McKee, the school's principal, it is abundantly clear that the Freehold Borough High School is committed to providing a first-class education that will prepare its students for the 21st century. The residents and parents of this area should be proud to have such a fine school educating their children.

#### POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT CONTINUES

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged that the Committee on the Judiciary is about to release the tape of the President's grand jury testimony to the public. I thought that grand jury testimony is supposed to be confidential. So much for due process. The whole purpose in releasing the tape is to once again embarrass and humiliate the President as Mr. Starr did in his report when he put in graphic sexual details so our children could read them on the Internet. We did not even give the President the simple courtesy of seeing the report a day or two before its release even though we had given the Speaker of the House the courtesy when the House Ethics Committee had charges against him. So much for the bipartisanship that was promised to us by the House Republican leadership. The political witch-hunt against the President continues.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would advise all Members that they must refrain from personal references to the President or