SO LONG, JOHN

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

Mr. HEFLEY. First it was Jordan, then it was Gretzky, now it is Elway.

On Sunday afternoon, the whole State of Colorado turned on their television sets to watch a press conference. The man whose name has become synonymous with the Denver Broncos, John Elway, announced his retirement from football.

The statistics books will show that John Elway had 16 great seasons as a Denver Bronco. He had 148 victories and 47 come-from-behind wins, both National Football League records. He passed for over 50,000 yards, rushed for another 3,000 and played in 234 games, and through it all he only missed 15 career starts. Not the least of his achievements, he led the Broncos to five Superbowls and two Superbowl wins.

What the stat books will not show us is what John Elway has meant to the State of Colorado. He gave us joy and excitement every week. His career became a true profile in courage of perseverance and was a testimony to all that dreams can really come true.

Most importantly, in a time when Colorado and this Nation is in such desperate need of role models, John Elway was that, too.

John, from the State of Colorado and from a grateful Nation and from this Bronco fan:

''Thank you.''

REASONS TO CELEBRATE WIC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words today about the WIC program, a program dedicated to improving the nutrition and health care needs of low-income women, infants and children.

WIC is celebrating 25 years of service, Mr. Speaker. The value of these 25 years is illustrated by a few key facts expressed in terms of dollars.

Every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces between $1.92 and $4.21 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers. Medicaid costs were reduced on average by $12,000 to $15,000 per infant for every low-birth-weight birth prevented because the mother was involved in the WIC program during her pregnancy.

There is a lot more, Mr. Speaker, in terms of dollars saved and common sense, but there is a more important savings, a human savings. WIC children get a better start in life, they do better in school, and they lead healthier lives. All this translates into an overall better quality of life, and that is the real reason for celebrating WIC's 25th anniversary.

INFORMATION, PLEASE

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, this week we will be voting on the supplemental appropriation to provide funds for the Kosovo operation. Unfortunately, the administration has done little to inform Members of Congress. It is strange that people like former Senator Bob Dole, former Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick have been more vocal, more available to Members of Congress to explain their position on the need for U.S. involvement than we have received from this administration.

I am yet not convinced of the wisdom of this operation or what the national interest is for Americans. I question, too, whether we need to be paying 90 percent or 85 percent or even 70 percent of the cost. Remember, in other operations such as this our allies have indeed contributed.

Why have we not sought their contributions? Why have we not had more information? Why do we not know the true need for our involvement in Kosovo?

RUSSIA OPPOSES NATO, SUPPORTS MILOSEVIC, DUMPS STEEL ILLEGALLY INTO THE UNITED STATES AND STILL EXPECTS US TO LOAN THEM ANOTHER $23 BILLION

(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, Uncle Sam and the International Monetary Fund have loaned Russia billions and billions of dollars, and with each loan Russia promised to repay. Guess what? Russia says, and I quote, they cannot repay their loans this year, next year, not even in 10 years.

How is that to fund the KGB, Congress?

Russia says though, and I quote, Russia still expects America to loan them another $23 billion to carry on with their reforms.

Beam me up here. I say, ''Expect this.''

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the facts that Russia opposes NATO, supports Milosevic and dumps steel illegally in the United States of America.

WE MUST NOT FUND THIS SENSELESS BOMBING

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, how many innocent civilians must die before we stop bombing Serbia? We rightfully cherish the lives of our three servicemen and rejoice in their return, but how many Serbs will never rejoice because of all the death and destruction we have rained down upon them by casually dismissing as necessary mistakes of war a war that is not real to us yet only too real to those who are needlessly killed.

Serb victims are people, too, who love their families and hate the war, yet become the victims of this ill-conceived policy of NATO aggression. It is a strange argument, indeed, that the capture of our three soldiers was illegal and yet our bombing of civilians is not. Violence, when not in one's own self-defense, can never be justified, no matter how noble the explanation. It only makes things worse.

The goal of peace and harmony can never be achieved by bombs and intimidation. That goal can only be achieved by honest friendship and trade when permissible and neutrality when armed conflict prevents it. We must not fund this senseless bombing.

TEACHERS LIKE DAVE SANDERS, SHANNON WRIGHT AND CHRISTA MACAULIFFE ARE AMERICAN HEROES

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute America's educators during Teacher Appreciation Week. It is essential in these trying times at our schools that we pay tribute to the professionals who give so much to their work with our communities' children.

Every day 3 million American teachers go to work. They arrive early in the morning and often stay late at night. Their dedication under supremely difficult circumstances cannot be adequately described, but through all this hard work they open a world of opportunity for our children and bring endless possibilities to our communities and to the future of our country. Every day they work their miracles in the classrooms. We entrust them with our most precious resource, our young people.

Tragically, Mr. Speaker, some pay the ultimate sacrifice. Teachers like Dave Sanders of Littleton, Colorado, or Shannon Wright of Jonesboro, Arkansas, and astronaut Christa MacAuliffe are American heroes. We salute their memory and their colleagues this week.

THIS IS TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this is Teacher Appreciation Week. Almost every Member of this body can think of a special teacher who has touched his life in ways that have never been forgotten, can never be repaid and can

only be appreciated by those who have benefited from such good fortune.

There are special teachers with extraordinary talents in every kind of school in America, in rich and poor, urban and rural, public and private. Great teachers give something of themselves that we take with us for the rest of our lives. It is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a teacher.

But great teachers do not get the recognition they deserve. Their contributions are so great, they ought to have an entire week devoted to their achievement, and so they have. This is their week, and I join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the wonderful gifts teachers have brought to all of us during their teaching careers.

Teaching is a noble profession, and it is an honor for me to salute all those great teachers who are proud to have made teaching their passion and their life's work.

WIC—MORE THAN JUST FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, IT IS GOOD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate 25 years of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, what is widely known as WIC. WIC is not just a program that makes a lot of sense, it saves millions of dollars, too.

Every WIC dollar spent for pregnant women results in the savings to the Medicaid program of anywhere between $2 and $4. Well-fed mothers and children are healthier people. Children who eat a nutritious diet grow up to be stronger, better-adjusted adults. WIC allows high-risk young families to properly feed their children during their critical months of growth and development. WIC helps to assure normal childhood growth, reduces early childhood anemia, increases immunization rates, improves access to pediatric health care and prepares children for learning.

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What more can we ask for? It truly proves the maxim that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. WIC, it is a good program for America.

HOLBROOKE'S HONORARIA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues' attention to what President Clinton promised would be the most ethical administration in the history of our Nation.

The Washington Times lead story today details how special envoy to the President, Richard Holbrooke, in the middle of critical negotiations with Yugoslav President Milosevic in 1998, broke off those talks to deliver two speeches in which he was paid $40,000.

Now, there is a pesky Federal ethics rule that says for government employees, including unpaid presidential appointees, they are barred from accepting side compensation that relates to the employee's official duties.

Quote, just as his talks reached what Mr. Holbrooke said was a dangerous moment, he flew to Athens to give a speech about Kosovo, picking up $16,000 in payment. A few months later, Mr. Holbrooke did the same thing, abandoning diplomatic efforts in the middle of an air-strike deadline to deliver a speech in New York for $24,000.

Mr. President, honestly, based upon past comments, he would be the perfect candidate to be Ambassador to the United Nations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WIC ON 25 YEARS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, children are 25 percent of this country's population but they are 10,000 percent of our future. There is no better way to invest in our future than to make sure that every child gets good nutrition and health care, right from the very start. That is what the WIC program does, and that is what they have been doing for 25 years.

At WIC clinics, low income, at-risk pregnant women get healthy foods, nutrition, education and access to health services. The outcome is strong, healthy babies. WIC stays with the new mother after her baby is born, helping to form good eating habits, health habits and a lifetime of good habits. For every $1.00 we spend on WIC, we save $3.50 in future costs for medical care, income support and special education.

Talk about a good investment in our future, talk about WIC. Congratulations, WIC, on this anniversary of 25 years, and thanks for strengthening America's future.

THE POLICY OF NOT USING FOOD AS A WEAPON IS GOOD POLICY

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, there is no more fundamental need of human beings than the need for food and medicine. For years, our country has had a policy of imposing unilateral economic sanctions on nations of the world with which we disagree, nations like Iran and Libya and North Korea and many others.

If one is a farmer in America, this policy has hurt American agricultural exports, especially if other nations of the world do not impose such sanctions and are free to trade with such enemy nations.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 212, a bill which lifts sanctions on food and medicine so that we can sell our commodities to these nations, subject to the President reinstating those sanctions if doing so is in the national security interest.

Last week, the President, by administrative order, lifted sanctions on food and medicine to Iran, Libya and Sudan. This can result in the likely sale of $500 million in wheat sales to American agriculture. The policy of not using food as a weapon is good policy, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 212.

BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS WEEK

(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 Brain Tumor Awareness Week. Each year 100,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. Brain tumors are the second leading cause of cancer death for children under 19, and the third leading cause of cancer death for young adults ages 20 to 39.

Brain tumors attack the essence of the individual. They attack the control center for thought, emotion and movement. There are over 100 different types of brain tumors, making effective treatment very complicated. Currently, there is no cure for most malignant brain tumors. Only 37 percent of men and 52 percent of women survive 5 years following the diagnosis of a primary benign or malignant brain tumor.

Congress needs to appropriate increased funding for the National Institutes of Health and advocate for a strong investment in brain tumor research. We also need Federal legislation that gives patients access to clinical trials and other therapies that are not approved yet by the Food and Drug Administration. I urge more research for brain tumors and more funding for the NIH.

SUPPORT BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT AND ITS EMPHASIS ON PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to be considering bankruptcy reform legislation, and I rise in strong support of it. In 1998 we had studies that showed that at least $3 billion was written off in bankruptcy by wealthy debtors who could have afforded to pay it back.

More and more wealthy Americans are using the bankruptcy system to buy a throwaway lifestyle that they cannot afford, then expecting hard-working Americans who pay their bills each month to pick up the tab. That is not right, and Congress needs to do something about it.