THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A YES VOTE ON TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day on the Potomac. it is a historic day. For a very long time the people of America have wanted open debate and a vote on term limits. As we say in Kansas, it is time to fish or cut bait. The American people think that Congress has cut enough bait. They want a vote on term limits.

Term limits are extremely popular with the American people because they want a citizen legislature. They do not want the same excuse that they have heard about we already have term limits every 2 years, because they do understand the system.

They know name recognition, the PAC's, franking all work for the incumbent.

The term limit vote is important. The American people want a ''yes'' vote for term limits or your congressional seat next year. So what are you going to do? Are you going to fish or cut bait?

WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE HUMAN BEINGS, NOT ANIMALS

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

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, in politics, today, we make points by making good sound bites.

I wonder if my colleagues on the other side of the aisle got the sound bite they wanted on welfare this past weekend? The soundbite winner-by far was our millionaire friend from Florida who compared people who are forced to seek Government assistance to alligators.

Last week, I asked the question, ''Do we really have to divide America to reform welfare?'' I do not think so. But I am deeply afraid that others have a different agenda based on divineness, race-baiting and the meanest kind of speech I can think of.

I represent 1 of the 10 poorest districts in America. On behalf of my constituents, I ask for an apology from those who compared decent human beings to alligators, to wolves, and to mothers not capable of caring for a committee chairman's cat.

People forced on welfare are people. Not animals. They want to work—we owe them real solutions to provide them jobs and the tools to keep those jobs. We also owe them an apology for degrading them on the floor of this House.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FOGLIETTA. A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORKILDSEN). The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, it seems quite obvious that Members of the House have not abided by the ruling of the Chair concerning buttons would not be worn while the House is in session.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will state while a Member is addressing the House he or she may not wear badges or buttons. At other times it maybe permitted under previous rulings of the Chair.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a strong supporter of congressional term limits who has promised to voluntarily limit his own tenure, and I rise to congratulate those Members of the other party who have gone against their leadership and have joined us in support of term limits.

Unfortunately, it is obvious that there is one party in the House that is sympathetic to term limits and one party that is violently opposed to term limits.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to vote in favor of term limits to give us the votes to pass the amendment. Over 70 percent of Americans are in favor of term limits, and if we are truly a representative institution I believe our voting should reflect that.

This is your chance to prove that you are responsive to the public and to the national interest, and not just part of inside the Washington Beltway.

TIME TO REIN IN THE IRS

(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, IRS testified down here that the Bill of Rights and the Constitution are great, but they should not be applied to taxpayers. Taxpayers should remain guilty in a tax court or they cannot do their jobs.

Check out this case: A woman, Edith LiButti, up in New Jersey, once had a great race horse, ''Devil His Due.'' The IRS says you do not own all of that race horse, your dad has a partial interest; we put a lien on the horse. They wrecked her business, destroyed her reputation, and now they are saying their evidence is ''they have reason to believe'' her dad has a partial interest.

Reason to believe? There can be no taxpayer Bill of Rights in America without changing the burden of proof. Taxpayers should at least be treated like a common criminal, by God.

Let me say this: It is time for the Congress to give the devil his due. That is the IRS. It is time to straighten this mess out. I want your support on H.R. 3, and I know the IRS is getting to all of the big people around here and scaring them that they are not going to be able to raise taxes.

Let us get on with our business.

A ROUGH DRAFT MADE BETTER

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the gentlelady from Colorado said the Constitution was not a rough draft. I agree that the bedrock principles upon which this Nation was founded are not in need of refinement. But 27 times—on 25 different issues if you subtract out the on-again/off-again concept of prohibition—the sons and daughters of our Founding Fathers revised the Constitution to better adapt those principles to the times. I am sure the gentlelady agrees that the Bill of Rights, the 13th amendment abolishing slavery, the 15th amendment affirming the right of all races to vote, the 19th amendment granting women's suffrage, or even the 22d amendment—which embodies term limits for the President of the United States—have improved upon the Founding Fathers' work. No, the Constitution was not a rough draft—it was a living document and it can withstand prudent modifications to reflect the march of time. Support term limits.

The author of the first Bill of Rights in this country said: ''Nothing so strongly impels a man to regard the interests of his constituents as the certainty of returning to the general mass of the people from whence he was taken.''

So said George Mason, IV, who refused to sign the Constitution because term limits was not in it.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH's whip organization has been awesome as he has rolled up victory after victory no matter how controversial his legislative agenda.

He rolled up a large majority of Republicans to push GATT through a lame duck Congress. Speaker GINGRICH did yeoman's work behind the scenes to deter any congressional scrutiny of the $40 billion Mexico bailout, and when we finally forced a vote on the floor the Republican leader threatened committee assignments, subcommittee chairs and other retaliations if his minions did not toe the line.

Just last week they flexed their leadership muscle gain on welfare and nutrition reform, but the muscles of the Speaker's whip organization have suddenly gone flaccid with the prospect of term limits.

The Speaker has constructed a bizarre rule and amendments that are designed to fail. It is time for supporters of the Republican contract to sue for breach of contract, or maybe to invoke the ultimate term limits in November 1996 and vote the rascals out.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, since the 1st day of the 104th Congress, I have been proud to join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to change the way Congress does business.

This week, we will vote on the most important reform yet—term limits. Opponents argue that we do not need term limits since we have elections.

Yet from 1976 through 1994, 9 out of every 10 incumbents were re-elected. Even in 1994, the re-election rate was still 90 percent.

Term limits will give the American people more elections in open seats. They will bring new Members to Congress who have different experiences and fresh ideas.

That is what the American people want. Recent polls consistently show that two-thirds of the American people support term limits.

And the American people will be watching to see who supports real congressional reform, and who votes for the status quo. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' for final passage of term limits.

TERM LIMITS FOR INCUMBENTS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, we heard about the cycle of dependency and people living off the taxpayers' money.

And who was saying it?

The same Republicans who have been getting a Government salary for 20 or 25 years, and today are going to talk about fake and phony 12-year term limit.

Last week, Republicans said ''you get 2 years to learn job skills on your own, no job training.''

But, the gentleman from Florida, sponsor of a 12-year limit, says he needs a longer learning curve to master this job.

Last week, they pointed to pictures of alligators and said that is a welfare recipient.

And then they got a pat on the back.

This week, I have pointed out the hypocrisy of Republicans who support term limits as long as it does not cut into their career, and I am lucky if I don't get whacked over the head.

Last week, I heard about tough love.

Well, this week I want to offer that same kind of tough love to my Republican friends who are having a tough time kicking the congressional habit. If you love this place, tough.

Vote for term limits that are retroactive. If you have been here 12 years, you are out.

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AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS BENEFITS FROM MULTILINGUAL SOCIETY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, America has a secret weapon in the dog-eat-dog world of global, economic competition: language.

If you don't believe me ask the Japanese. When asked what was the most important language for world trade, a Japanese businessman once replied, ''The most useful international language for world trade is not necessarily English, but rather the language of your client.'' It makes perfect sense. Customers would much rather buy a product from someone who speaks in a language they can understand.

America's secret weapon is the 9.9 million children who come from homes where a language other than English is spoken. These children can help America crack Japanese, Russian, and Latin American markets by speaking to global customers in languages they understand.

Our biggest mistake would be to waste our tremendous language resources by following the simplistic drumbeat of English-only narrow mindedness.

Support American competitiveness and reject English-only.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my opposition to the constitutional amendment of term limits.

Mr. Speaker, term limits of Members are already in the Constitution. According to article II, subsection 1, the House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen by the people every 2 years. So we already have term limits, and for those people, I find it very ironic, Mr. Speaker, for the people who talk the most and the loudest about term limits are the people who have served in this body for over 12 years.

So if we really want term limits, I make the suggestion let us lead by example. I want every Member who supports term limits to sign the term-limits pledge to our contract, which provides they would serve ''x'' number of years and then resign from office.

So if you really are for term limits, then I suggest the Members of this body sign the pledge to say, ''I will voluntarily limit my term by a year certain,'' and if you really want to lead, lead by example and not by taking up some amendment that probably will not pass in the disguise of the Contract With America. Let us have a contract with our district and resign from office after 12 years.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday of this week the Department of Labor will be hosting a ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of passage of the Mine Safety and Health Act. Although I will not be able to attend that ceremony, I do want to call it to my colleagues' attention, and commend those in government, industry, the mining work force, and others, who have helped, over that period of time, to make our country's mining industry the safest in the world.

Anniversaries are a time not only to look back but to look forward. Clearly one of the major challenges over the coming years, in all Government programs, is to determine how can we assure the best use of the taxpayer's dollar. We know now what maybe Congress did not appreciate 25 years ago, that we cannot afford to do everything, and so we have to make sure that when Government spends money, it is getting the most value for the taxpayer's dollar.

In that regard, I would note for my colleagues that the Mine Safety and Health Administration spends over $550 per year per covered employee, while its sister agency, OSHA spends about $2.84 per covered employee. We should determine whether it is good use of taxpayer dollars to continue to duplicate many of the functions performed by these two agencies. Just as is true with OSHA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration spends too much time inspecting safe work sites and enforcing trivial requirements.

Over the coming weeks and months, I hope to examine those issues and see whether the answers given 25 years ago remain the right answers today for allowing our country's mining industry to be competitive in a tough world marketplace, while continuing the improvements that have been made in worker safety in this very important part of our Nation's economy.

PROPOSED CUTS TO STUDENT AID THREATEN AMERICA'S FUTURE

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