their communities, and improve their country.

You know, Americans who thought they voted for the American dream on November 8, 1994, instead have found what they have is NEWT GINGRICH staring down Freddy Krueger in ''Nightmare on Elm Street 2000,'' slashing slashing and slashing, only the programs that invest in middle America. This contract has not created one single job outside of the bureaucracy that it is going to expand. It has not lifted the standard of living for average American taxpayers or their children or future generations.

This contract is a sham.

HANOI IS STILL LYING

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, Hanoi is still lying. Mr. Speaker, in his 1992 campaign, President Clinton promised never to lift the trade embargo on Communist Vietnam unless and until there is a full and good-faith accounting for Americans missing in action.

But a few weeks ago American and Vietnamese diplomats toasted each other over Russian champagne to celebrate the new diplomatic ties.

According to one report, Mr. Speaker, Hanoi brutally murdered hundreds of POW's before the Paris peace agreement was reached and they have lied about it ever since. Vietnam is one of the worst abusers of human rights in the world. Thousands are being imprisoned for political or religious beliefs.

Mr. President, why did you break your promise to POW/MIA families? Are the profits of multinationals worth recognizing the Hanoi regime and breaking faith with hundreds of brave American families?

FAREWELL TO RAYMOND SULLIVAN, FORMER SPRINGFIELD FIRE CHIEF

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Raymond M. Sullivan, a good friend and exemplary public servant who recently passed away. Raymond Sullivan served as the former fire chief for the city of Springfield and fought fires for the city for 39 years.

Born in Springfield, the son of Irish immigrant parents, Raymond Sullivan lived within a mile and a half of his birthplace his entire life. Ray Sullivan was educated in Springfield's schools, and together with his wife, the former Mary Lou McCarthy, he raised three sons: Garrett, Brian, and Gerald, and one daughter, Mary Lou. He was a grandfather to seven children.

After serving his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Raymond Sullivan joined the Springfield Fire Department in 1951, achieving the rank of lieutenant 7 years later. He served as acting deputy chief from 1982 to 1984 and as the fire chief to the city between the years of 1984 and 1990.

Raymong Sullivan was referred to by his friends who knew him both as a ''fireman's fireman,'' and as a devoted family man.

Mr. Speaker, in a time when community service and family values are what we are striving for across America, we should stop to remember people like Raymond Sullivan who are modern day examples of both of these virtues.

Raymond Sullivan will be missed.

THE TAX RELIEF ACT HELPS SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Contract With America's Tax Relief Act. I support this bill because not only does it allow all Americans to keep more of the money that they have worked hard to earn, but also because it upholds the Republicans' contract with the senior citizens of America.

My district, which has the largest number of senior citizens in the country, has made it quite clear to me that they want the Federal Government out of their lives and especially out of their pocketbooks. The Tax Relief Act delivers on the Republican promise to do just that. This legislation allows seniors to earn more income without losing Social Security benefits by increasing the Social Security earnings limit.

The Democrats obviously don't believe in rewarding hard work. In 1993. President Clinton dramatically raised taxes by 35 percent on the recipients of Social Security. I am happy to report that this legislation repeals Clinton's tax on seniors over the next 5 years.

Some have argued that tax relief is not compatible with deficit reduction. These cynics are wrong. Balancing the budget and reducing the size of Government go hand in hand with lower taxes. Our seniors deserve direct and immediate benefits from the effort to reduce the bloated Federal Government. There is everything right with letting seniors keep a little bit more of what they earn—after all it is their money. The contract promised tax relief and through this legislation, we are trying to deliver. Let us pass H.R. 1215 for America's senior citizens.

PRESIDENT CLINTON DESERVES CREDIT

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton deserves credit for two initiatives this week, one foreign and one domestic. On foreign policy, he deserves credit for taking a risk and entering into a dialog with Jerry Adams and Sinn Fein. This was important because stability has come to that very torturous issue with the IRA and Great Britain. While there have been some feathers ruffled with our major ally, Great Britain, this hopefully will be straightened out when Prime Minister Major comes to Washington next week.

Mr. Speaker, the President should be commended also for downsizing the Small Business Administration. By reducing its modest funding needs from $813 million to $529 million and eliminating 500 full-time positions nationwide, the SBA shrinks by 35 percent during fiscal 1996. The major portion of the savings would come from a progressive alteration of the fee structure for loans in the SBA's successful 7(a) program. Making taxpayers have more access to accessible loans, downsizing, this is in line with positive initiatives to shrink government.

SENIOR CITIZENS EQUITY ACT

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

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that provisions from H.R. 8, the Senior Citizen's Equity Act, are part of H.R. 1215, the tax bill we will be considering next week.

These provisions would lift the earnings penalty on seniors who need to continue working in our society. H.R. 1215 also includes provisions to repeal the 1993 Clinton tax hike on Social Security benefits and to provide tax breaks for older Americans who purchase long-term care insurance.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to understand how Congress could continue to allow our Nation's laws to punish work and send the message to seniors that society no longer wants the skills and experience of older workers.

Under the earnings penalty, working seniors lose $1 of every $3 of their Social Security benefit. FICA and State taxes bring the penalty up to a 56-percent marginal tax rate—twice the tax rate of millionaires. This is simply not fair.

I have been working to relieve seniors of this tax burden for 8 years. Seniors cannot wait any longer. It is time to retire the high tax burden on our Nation's seniors instead of retiring older Americans who need to work to remain independent, productive members of society. It is time to pass the tax bill.

TERM LIMITS IS A REPUBLICAN STRATEGY, NOT A PROGRAM

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

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier in the 1-minute period today we heard a number of Republicans get up and boast extravagantly about the number of Republicans that voted for term limits last night and boasted that it was something like 85 percent of all the Republicans who did it.

When you look at the term limits proposal that was offered by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], to limit terms to 12 years, and make them apply to Members who are serving here now, how many Republicans voted for that? The answer is less than 1 out of 4 voted for that. If I was a Republican, and I was busy cutting student loans and cutting school lunches so that I could cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans; I would be in here talking about term limits, too, because you see term limits is not the Republican program, it is the Republican strategy: Talk term limits while you are busy eliminating the ability of middle-class Americans to grab themselves by their bootstraps and lift themselves up to a better way of life than they have had in the past. Term limits is a Republican strategy, not the Republican program.

The program remains what it always has been, make the rich richer and the poor poorer and the middle class have a harder time catching up.

PRESIDENT CLINTON DID AN END RUN—AROUND CONGRESS

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, no amount of class warfare can obscure the fact to the American people that the Republicans voted for term limits, the Democrats voted against term limits. But today I would like to speak about another issue.

As we are discussing the Contract With America, billions of dollars are being drained from a fund that was established to stabilize our currency. Where are these taxpayer dollars going? They are being sent without so much as a vote of Congress to the bank accounts of Wall Street speculators and to the efforts to prop up a corrupt Mexican elite. While we are trying to balance the budget by cutting spending, President Clinton did an end run around Congress to transfer billions of dollars of taxpayer dollars to this Mexican bailout scheme and ten's of billions of more will be spent unless we put a stop to it.

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Mr. Speaker, the only way to put a stop to it is to sign a discharge petition, and I hope my colleagues will join me in signing the Stockman discharge petition, and I hope the public will see whether their Congressman's name is on that discharge petition.

THE TERM LIMITS VOTE—NOTHING MORE THAN A BIG POLITICAL SHOW

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, when I hear NEWT GINGRICH and the rest of the Republican leadership characterize yesterday's vote as historic, it makes me laugh. There was nothing historic about the vote yesterday; in fact, the whole exercise was nothing more than a big political show designed to confuse people into thinking that House Republicans really support term limits.

I have always been skeptical of the legislators who claim they are for term limits but have been in office for 15 or 20 years. The best test of any politician's credibility on term limits is whether they are willing to put their careers where their mouths are and limit their own service. Yesterday, when we voted on an immediate term limits amendment, only 54 Republicans were willing to support the bill.

Until recently, I had no real proof that the Republican leadership would not work aggressively to pass term limits legislation. Yesterday changed that. The party discipline that the Republicans showed when cutting school lunches or home heating oil for the elderly and working poor was absent on term limits yesterday. If House Republicans really wanted to pass term limits they would have allowed a vote on the Sanford-Deal statute which would have only required a majority vote for passage.

As someone who has unconditionally supported term limits for all Members of Congress—including myself—I viewed yesterday's charade as an insult to those of us who really support term limits.

Most House Republicans do not really support term limits, they just like to campaign on them. The public should not be fooled by career politicians who claim to be for term limits as long as they do not apply to themselves.

FULFILLING OUR CONTRACT WITH SENIOR AMERICANS

(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, next week this House will fulfill our Contract With America, and, more specifically, our contract with senior Americans. We promised to vote on raising the punitive Social Security earnings test limit so seniors would not be penalized for working.

Next week, during the consideration of our tax relief bill we will fulfill that promise. We will also vote on repealing the unwarranted double taxation of Social Security benefits that was imposed by the 1993 Clinton tax bill.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will recall the Clinton tax bill. That is the special extra tax that President Clinton and the Democrat Party placed on, quote, ''wealthy seniors'' with incomes in the range of $30,000 to $40,000. Well, instead of taxing, quote, ''wealthy seniors'' living on fixed incomes like the Democrats do, the Republican Contract With America provides seniors with much needed tax relief to help with the increasingly high cost of long-term health care, among other things. Our bill also helps families stick together and encourages them to help one another by providing a generous tax credit for family care givers.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax bill is good for seniors and it deserves this House's support now, before our seniors grow any older or any poorer.

WHY WEYRICH IS WRONG

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week Paul Weyrich, one of the founding fathers of the modern-day right wing, wrote in the Washington Times that the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] and the other Republican members of the Ethics Committee should resist the temptation to appoint a special counsel to investigate the Speaker. Appointing an outside counsel, Weyrich argued, would bring a cloud over the Speaker and affect his ability to govern.

Mr. Weyrich is wrong, just dead wrong. There are, indeed, very serious charges hanging over the head of the Speaker. But only an outside counsel, an independent objective individual, can clear the air and remove this matter from the realm of partisan politics. This is the route the Ethics Committee has taken in every high level case since 1979.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] and the other Republicans on the Ethics Committee should not be subjected to threats by Paul Weyrich or by anyone else.

We need an outside counsel to investigate the Speaker and the committee should proceed without delay.

SEEKING BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR A MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUT

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, to a carefully assembled crowd of special interest groups, power brokers, government bureaucrats, Democrat Party stalwarts and the other sycophantic apple polishers, the President kicked off his reelection effort with his Atlanta economic summit. Boasting on his economic record to this tough audience, the President somehow failed to mention that interest rates are higher than when he was first elected. The public debt is expected to rise another $1 trillion, trade deficits are at an all-