flights, are superior in quality and size to those grown on Earth. This means that researchers can better develop drugs to battle disease.

In fact, protein crystal grown on the shuttle have already allowed researchers to develop drugs that are in FDA trials even as we speak.

But the growth of many crystals requires more than a few days available aboard the shuttle. That is why we need the space shuttle.

It will permit researchers to grow their crystals in a nearly perfect microgravity environment for long periods of time.

Mr. Speaker, researchers from universities and companies around the world strongly support the international space station, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

MAY 7, 1996, TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to you and congratulations to every hard-working American taxpayer. Or should I say offer condolences? Because at long last, today, May 7, is tax freedom day.

We have heard a lot of talk, a lot of playground taunts about the gas tax and repealing the Clinton gas tax. That would be but a modest first step, a reasonable first step.

Let me put it in perspective, Mr. Speaker. One of my constituents stopped by my Washington office this morning and told me in the wake of Bill Clinton's tax increase, the largest in American history, including retroactive taxes, her tax bill increased 213 percent.

That is compassion? That is common sense?

Mr. Speaker, in the words of my colleague from Ohio, beam me up.

A REAL MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE; PASS CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT REFORM

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

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, Mother's Day is just a few short days away, and I have a great idea for the congressional leadership and President Clinton.

For all the mothers of America, let us enact tough new child support enforcement reforms.

Last year this Congress voted to give the States the tools and the teeth to enforce child support orders when it passed the welfare reform package. Unfortunately, the President vetoed that bill, and the child support reforms along with it, and since that time child support has been tangled in the larger welfare reform debate.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. No more excuses, no more delays. The children are suffering. Let us pass this legislation now. No one expects the welfare reform dispute to be settled for months, if at all. Yet we all agree on a bipartisan basis on the reforms to strengthen our child support system.

Child support evasion is a national disgrace. Each year millions of families are denied billions of dollars to which they are legally and morally entitled. First the children are the victims and, second, the taxpayers. Let us pass this legislation.

GIVE THE TAXPAYERS A BREAK—REPEAL THE CLINTON GAS TAX

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton crunch is hitting the American people hard. The most conspicuous evidence of the Clinton crunch right now is the soaring gas prices all over our Nation. Back in 1993, President Clinton enacted the largest tax increase in our Nation's history. And included in this tax package was a $4.8 billion tax increase on gasoline. This Clinton gas tax is hitting all consumers right where it hurts—in the wallet.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to keep more of what they earn, not continue to give more and more of their hard-earned money to the Federal Government. I call on my Democrat colleagues to support a repeal of the Clinton gas tax. While $4.8 billion may not seem like much money to some of the Clinton Democrats, it's considered a whole lot of money to the majority of the American people.

Give the taxpayers a break. Repeal the Clinton gas tax.

LET US BE FAIR

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, we read in the Washington Post this morning that Leader ARMEY is taking the leading role in defining the remainder of this Congress' Republican revolution. Apparently the revolution he wants to bring about is to cut education so that we can go about reducing the gas tax without any promise, any commitment that that will actually be passed through to consumers.

While oil companies are profiting, and obviously many are based in his home State of Texas, we seem to think the only way we can help people who are suffering from incredible increases at the pump would be to cut programs that will help their children.

This is the same leader who indicates we ought not to have a minimum wage, let alone an increase in it, that would take it, in real dollars, from 1950 to 1960.

It seems to me if we are going to address the issue of cutting taxes on gasoline without passing them through to consumers, we certainly ought to be willing to take up the issue of a minimum wage for those people who struggle each day to put food on the table for their families. That would be a fair way to lead this institution.

□ 1430

SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF THE GAS TAX

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from California, who just spoke, was not on the big spenders list every year, then those folks would have more money in their pocket instead of increasing the deficit so much.

Mr. Speaker, they said, Do we want to repeal the gas tax? Yes. Do we want to repeal the Social Security tax that the 1993 Clinton tax package put on our senior citizens? The President promised a middle-class tax cut. Instead, he increased the marginal rate on the taxes for the middle class.

The Democrats want to protect the power, the power to tax you, to bring money to Washington, DC, to support a big bureaucracy, and then turn that money back around and give it to you for education, as low as 23 cents on a dollar, so they can fund their big Federal bureaucracy. if they want to help education, look at Haiti, look at Somalia, look at Bosnia: Billions of dollars for the President to send our troops. And guess what? Aristide is still there, Aideed is still there, and in Bosnia it is going to cost $10 billion. If they want to help education, cut out the foreign expansion. Support elimination of the gas tax.

WHITEWATER INDEPENDENT COUNSEL SHOULD FOCUS ON THE JOB AT HAND

(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, the calls for Whitewater Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to address concerns over his outside legal practice continue to mount. This weekend, former independent counsels—both Democrats and Republicans—added their voice to the chorus of concerned citizens questioning the judgment and independence of Mr. Starr.

Lawrence Walsh, former judge and independent counsel for Iran Contra, said: ''The one excuse for an Independent Counsel is his independence * * * he can't be involved with anything that impairs his freedom of action.''

And Gerald J. Gallinghouse, another Republican who investigated President Jimmy Carter said, ''He should either get in or get out.''

Mr. Starr's investigation is now almost 2 years old and is costing the taxpayers about $1 million a month. At