## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair announces that there will be ten 1-minutes on each side.

## TAX RELIEF

(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, it has been 16 years since Americans have had tax relief. Since that time they have talked about and dreamed about keeping a little more of their hard-earned money. In those past 16 years, not once but twice has this Government raised their taxes, taking more of what they worked so hard to keep.

With the Federal taxes and the State taxes and the hidden taxes like the 28 cents and a dollar loaf of bread that goes back to our governments, we worked nearly half of a year just to pay the governments' taxes. So it is appropriate that today this body will vote to give tax relief to Americans like those working Americans in Wichita, KS, who work so hard and will now be able to keep more of their own money.

## MOLLIFYING BOB DORNAN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, how much will it cost the American taxpayers to mollify Bob Dornan? So far the Republican leadership has allowed the House Committee on House Oversight to waste hundreds of thousands of dollars on an investigation that has produced nothing.

The victory of the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] over Bob Dornan was certified by the Republican secretary of State of California. It is valid. However, Bob Dornan cannot get over the fact that he lost to a Hispanic woman, and for some unknown reason he can command the Republican leadership to jump to attention and harass the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] for over 9 months now.

Mr. Speaker, it is not in the public interest to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to hold a kangaroo court aimed at nothing other than political payback. The people of the 46th District of California have chosen their Representative, and we should respect their choice.

## 105TH CONGRESS MAKES HISTORY WITH TAX CUTS FOR WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 16 years, the American people are finally going to get a tax cut. To my friends on this side of the aisle who voted no in 1993, when President Clinton and the then-liberal Democratic majority engineered the largest peacetime tax increase in American history, I commend you for your hard work and your perseverance. To my colleagues who came here with me in 1995, pledging to cut taxes, I share in your excitement. We have delivered on our promise.

Finally, to the liberals in this House, I offer my condolences. I know how difficult this must be for you. After years and years of taxing and spending, the tide has finally turned. The American people are going to get to keep more of the money that they earn, and Washington bureaucrats are going to have to learn to do with a little less. That is the way it ought to be.

Mr. Speaker, the liberal minority has ranted and raved for the last several weeks about tax cuts for the rich, totally bogus. Next year when tax time comes, millions of working class Americans are going to realize that what they heard from the liberals was not true. Let us cut taxes.

□ 1015

## U.S. HEALTH POLICY DENIES EQUAL FUNDING FOR U.S. CITIZENS OF PUERTO RICO

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the $24 billion children's health initiative contained in the budget reconciliation agreement. The President has stated that this is a victory for every child in a poor household who needs health care. Unfortunately, there is no victory celebration by the children in Puerto Rico and the other territories.

This initiative extends to the children living in the territories an egregious United States national policy which views the lives and health of United States citizens in Puerto Rico and the other territories as far less valuable than the lives and health of those residing in the States.

Puerto Rico's participation in the children's health care program is less than one-seventh of what it would receive under the standards established for the States. There is one and only one reason for this treatment: The United States citizens residing in the territories have no voting representation in Washington, DC, and, therefore, no viable means of defending themselves against such unjust treatment.

It is already unjust that U.S. national health policies deny equal funding for adult United States citizens of Puerto Rico and other territories. However, it is absolutely outrageous that the United States would endorse a discriminatory policy denying equal health care to the children of the United States citizens residing in Puerto Rico and the other territories.

## STEP 21 FOUNDATION BASED ON GREED, NOT FAIRNESS

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, in the debate over the future of transportation in this country, STEP 21's continuing refrain that ISTEA is unfair because some States receive less Federal transportation money than they collect in Federal gasoline taxes is an invalid, misleading comparison.

If the STEP 21 States believe that fairness in these matters is best defined by the amount of money a State sends to Washington, then such logic should be used on all moneys that pass between the Federal Government and the States.

According to a study prepared by a major university, ISTEA works States send over $1,000 per person to Washington more than the STEP 21 States. The average amount of taxes STEP 21 States send to Washington is $4,400 per capita, while the average ISTEA State sends $5,400 per capita. Where is the fairness in that?

The study done annually on the balance of payments to the States clearly shows that when all funds are considered, most STEP 21 States are receiver States while ISTEA works States are the real donor States.

## FBI LEAKS TO PRESS ARE NO MISTAKE

(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, Louis Freeh said the FBI did not leak the name of Richard Jewell as the Atlanta bomber to the press. Who is kidding whom? Every policeman in America knows it is a common practice of the FBI to leak information to the press.

Let us tell it like it is. The FBI is once again lying through their teeth. They lied about Ruby Ridge, they lied about Waco, they are lying about Richard Jewell. Lies, lies, lies, and they say they are mistakes.

Let there be no mistake, Congress, these are not mistakes, these are crimes and it is time for FBI criminals to be prosecuted. Stand up, Congress.

## A DAY FOR CELEBRATION

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of celebration. This House will take up an agreement reached between the Congress and the White House on a tax reduction package.

The last time Congress and the White House reached an agreement on a tax package was in 1993, and at that time taxpayers were not celebrating. They were not celebrating because that tax package was the largest tax increase in U.S. history.

So today marks a much different kind of agreement. We are going to allow working men and women to keep more of their money and we are going to give less money to the U.S. Government.

## A GENUINE COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it was Abraham Lincoln who said, ''Upon the subject of education, I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in.''

Mr. Speaker, most of us, if not all of us, agree that education is essential for the next generation of Americans to compete in the global economy. But education is not only about multinational competition. At root, providing educational opportunities is a moral issue, for it is our obligation to the next generation and our obligation to the future of this country.

This budget is a step toward honoring Abraham Lincoln's commitment to education. It calls for a $31 billion investment in our Nation's schools. It contains a $500-per-child tax credit that will make it easier for more families to send their children to college. It increases funding for Pell grants, offers tax relief for new college students, and takes several other steps at lightening the increasingly heavy burden of college tuition costs on working families.

For the millions of American children who will now be able to make it to college, this budget offers a step toward providing new opportunities for them.

## TAX REDUCTIONS BENEFIT FARMERS, SMALL BUSINESSMEN

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, a week ago I participated, for a day, in the annual bike ride across Iowa. And as I rode my bike through those rolling hills of corn and beans, I could not help but think about how today Iowa farmers are going to be smiling.

Why? Well, we are going to raise the exemption for death taxes to $1.3 million. Something important for family farmers. We are going to allow them to pay those death taxes in installments and extend that. We are going to allow family farmers to income average in order to smooth out the rough edges of lean years.

We are going to increase the deductibility of health insurance for the self-employed farmers, small businessmen, to 100 percent. We are going to cut capital gains taxes, something very important to a farmer who defers his income to the day that he retires.

We are going to provide favorable tax treatment for livestock sold when they have to get rid of their herd because of bad weather. We are going to retain current provisions on ethanol. And we are going to, for businesses that are small, reduce the AMT.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good day for farmers and small businesses in small towns all across rural Iowa and America.

## CONGRESS SHOULD VOTE TO END SOFT MONEY FOR NEXT ELECTION

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, over 2 years ago the gentleman from Georgia, Speaker GINGRICH, and President Clinton shook hands saying they wanted to reform the campaign finance system in this country. A bipartisan group of Members of Congress wrote the President the beginning of this session and asked that we do campaign finance reform in the first 100 days. Just this last week, 25 Members of Congress asked the Speaker to schedule campaign finance reform in September.

We have heard nothing from the Speaker since he shook hands with the President of the United States over 2 years ago. We have received no response from the Speaker, and campaign finance reform is not scheduled.

This leaves us only one alternative. Those of us who believe that this is a critical matter on the agenda of Congress, and that we should have a right to vote on ending soft money for the next election, will use all of the authority given to us by our constituents to make sure that this is on the agenda in September. If the only alternative we have is a showdown in September to end soft money, we will take that offer, Mr. Speaker. Members should come early and plan to stay late.

## FAMILY FINANCE QUESTIONS SHOULD COME FIRST

(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, to be certain, campaign finance questions are important, but family finance questions should come first.

Mr. Speaker, today on the floor of this House we will take an important step to ensure that American families keep more of their hard-earned money and send less of it here to Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand just the ''fax'', F-A-X, a letter sent to me via facsimile from the Wilkins family in Casa Grande, AZ. The Wilkins family, Barney and Margie, are school teachers. Their kids are B.J., Megan, and Molly.

The letter reads, Mr. Speaker, ''Thanks for such a nice 19th wedding anniversary gift.'' They are talking about the tax cuts we will pass later today. ''We appreciate your hard work.'' And the P.S. says this: ''Please continue to cut taxes so we don't have to work three jobs.''

This is what it is all about. Why should working families sacrifice so that Washington can waste money? The contrary should be true. Washington should sacrifice so that working families can keep more of their own money, and we make that start today.

## TIME TO BRING THE INVESTIGATION OF CALIFORNIA'S 46TH DISTRICT ELECTION TO AN END

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the gentlewoman from California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, duly elected to the 46th District in California 10 months ago, certified by the Republican Secretary of State 10 months ago.

It is important that we bring this to a close. The Committee on House Oversight has been hearing in special session all the evidence. It is now, Mr. Speaker, that we call for a close. The gentlewoman from California won over a 900 vote plurality and has been duly elected. Let us bring this to a close, let the gentlewoman serve her people in that district and get down to the work of the American people.

## CONGRESS IS GIVING CHILDREN OF AMERICA THE GIFT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today my family celebrates the fifth birthday of my twin daughters, Dana and Claire. But long after the presents that they open today are put away and forgotten, this Congress will have given them, and given to the children of this country a much greater present. It is because today marks the end of a historic week in our Nation's economic history.

For the first time in almost 30 years, Congress will pass a balanced budget and tax relief for working Americans, so that families who earn the money will be able to keep more of the money they earn. The day where Washington and the IRS have first claim on family income is over.

This Republican Congress, working with our friends on the other side of the aisle, are giving my children and