Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I feel constrained to respond in light of the fact that our manager is not here. When you lose 17–1, not showing up is probably the best advice. But I want to say to my brother OXLEY, he and I are fraternity brothers and good friends. He is the manager of the Republican team. This was his first year as the manager. I hope it is not a preface of what is to come, because if it is, we on this side of the aisle are in a lot of trouble. But it was a good time. We played at one of the beautiful stadiums in America, in Bowie, Maryland, in my district.

On behalf of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), our manager and all the players on both sides, I want to congratulate all of those who were responsible for raising over $100,000. That is the purpose of the game, to raise dollars for young people, for organizations in the city and in this community, to enhance the lives of children.

And some very old people feeling much older today than they felt the day before played last night so that much younger people, probably much better athletes, will have opportunities that they might not otherwise have.

I want to congratulate both Manager OXLEY and Manager SABO for their leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to announce that one speech on either side concerning the Congressional baseball game will be accommodated outside the limit of five one-minute speeches per side.

TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, in the preamble to the Constitution, the people of the United States declared that one of the purposes of having a Constitution was to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our posterity. Mr. Speaker, one of the best ways to promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and to our children would be to pass meaningful tax relief, letting people keep more of what they earn means that their standard of living will go up.

It means that people can better save and provide for their families, better save for their children's education and maybe even better save for their own retirement. The Constitution speaks of providing the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity and reducing death taxes means that family farms can stay in the family, and the family business can remain in the hands of the people who built it.

I urge my colleagues to support the tax relief bill when it comes before the House. I think that is in the best interests of our Constitution and our people and their posterity.

ILLEGAL STEEL IMPORTS IS NOT FREE TRADE

(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, just knowing that the President would veto any steel quota bill, in 1 month steel imports from Japan rose 40 percent; from South Korea 50 percent; from Brazil 80 percent; from Indonesia 140 percent; and from Russia, our good buddies in Russia, 550 percent increase, in 1 month. Unbelievable. While the administration is getting tennis elbow over there for patting themselves on the back for killing the steel bill, foreign companies are getting hernias all over America unloading steel on American docks.

Beam me up. If this is free trade, I am a fashion leader.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are in a quandary. We face some difficult choices. As the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) works on his tax cut package, Republicans in Congress are engaged in a fierce debate. What taxes should we cut? CBO, or the Congressional Budget Office, projects budget surpluses totalling $824 billion over the next 10 years. That is real surplus, not counting Social Security surplus.

Some Republicans want to cut taxes on capital gains. That is the best way to keep the economy growing. Other Republicans want to cut or eliminate death taxes as a simple question of fairness. Some Republicans want to eliminate the senior tax. It is unfair to tax seniors who want to continue working at age 65. And some Republicans want to cut the marriage tax penalty, an obvious candidate for elimination because penalizing people because they are married is just plain stupid.

Democrats are arguing about which taxes to raise, but Republicans are considering tax cuts, tax cuts for all Americans.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to call on the Republican leadership to bring up the Patients' Bill of Rights. I think many know that on Wednesday of this week, the Democrats initiated a discharge petition on the Patients' Bill of Rights, and as of yesterday afternoon, we had over 180 Democratic Members who had signed that petition to bring this HMO reform bill to the floor.

Yesterday also in the Senate, there was major action on the part of the Democrats to try to bring up the Patients' Bill of Rights, and also I should point out that the AMA, the American Medical Association, had a vote the other day which strongly indicated why we need HMO reform. I think it is abundantly clear that the American people, the Democrats and even some of the Republicans other than the Republican leadership are very supportive of HMO reform in a comprehensive way that essentially would be brought about most effectively by the Patients' Bill of Rights.

It is time to bring this up. It is time to stop talking and have some action on this issue which is so critical to the American people. More people contact my office about the problems that they have with managed care and the lack of patient protections than any other issue, and the horror stories continue. We must take action.

REPUBLICANS UNVEIL BEST AGENDA

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I was asked by someone the other day, ''What is the Republican agenda?''

Now, of course my first reaction was to think clearly this is someone who has never watched the 1-minute speeches.

But instead I told them about the Republicans' BEST agenda:

B is for best defense, E is for excellence in education, S is for saving Social Security, and T is for tax relief.

Republicans clearly have the BEST agenda.

A stronger military, improved education, a reformed Social Security system that will protect present and future seniors into the 21st century and tax relief for the middle class, investors, job creators and families. That is our agenda.

B for best defense, E for excellence in education, S for saving Social Security, T for tax relief. It is a positive, winning agenda for the Republican Party and for securing our Nation's future.

BUSINESS AS USUAL IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, in Washington, the usual pattern is for the liberals to completely avoid any talk about raising taxes and then lo and behold they end up raising taxes once they get in office. In fact, this is how taxes got to be as high as they are today.

But this year it appears that the liberals are changing their strategy. To