

passed a couple of bills that are not too bad. They are almost identical to bills the Democratic Congress passed the last time; that is, the line-item veto, making Congress live by the laws that we pass.

What else have we done? Well, we have taken cops off the streets, attempted to return to the billion-dollar nonsense of star wars, allowed governments to break down your door without a search warrant yesterday, stopped tax credits for many American small businesses.

Giving this Congress credit for the actions of these first 50 days is like giving a driver's license to a teenager based on the number of car accidents he has had.

WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON AT THE WHITE HOUSE DURING THE FIRST 50 DAYS?

(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, quite rightly, the attention of America has been focused on this Chamber during the last 50 days, but it is only fair to ask what has been going on at the White House during the first 50 days of our Contract With America.

The President's embattled Commerce Secretary finds himself the subject of yet another Justice Department corruption probe. The President supposedly laid down the law with baseball owners and players—they did not listen to him either—in an unsuccessful bid to end the baseball strike.

Then the President sent a Surgeon General nominee to the Hill, misled Congress several times at to the number of abortions this nominee performed, and then attacked the pro-life movement for being concerned.

Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans have been busy with our Contract With America, the White House has been trying to legitimize a Cabinet Secretary's alleged corruption, attempted to play umpire in a millionaires' dispute, and failed to do a thorough background check on a Cabinet nominee, while all the while misrepresenting the nominee's record.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are worried about average, everyday American concerns, not worried about millionaires, corrupt politicians, or left-wing political movements.

That is why we will move in the next 50 days to enact our Contract With America.

January 1 of this year, reformulated gasoline has been required by the Clean Air Act in southeastern Wisconsin and other areas of this country. This reformulation contains either ethanol, MTBE, or ETBE.

Immediately, constituents started calling to complain of engine problems and reduced mileage, but more importantly they complained of adverse health effects.

I recently spoke with an allergist, Dr. Roger Hirsch, who confirmed that he noticed a pattern of symptoms for his patients starting in the second week of January. These symptoms included respiratory problems, light-headedness, low-grade headaches, and itchy and burning eyes.

When these symptoms reoccurred 3 to 4 weeks later, Dr. Hirsch began to suspect that there was a common cause. Going by the flood of calls received by my office, other congressional offices, and State and Federal hotlines, there certainly is.

To address this problem, my colleague, Mr. BARRETT, and I are introducing legislation today that would suspend the reformulated gas requirement until the complaints of adverse health effects are thoroughly examined. The onus would be on EPA to prove that this fuel is safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this bill. We are all for clean air, but we should not create health hazards achieving it.

SUPPORT THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

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

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, when the subcommittee marks up its rescission package this evening, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's fate will hang in the balance. I rise in opposition to zeroing out funding for this important component of our public education system.

The debate is primarily philosophical, not fiscal. Government spends money on its priorities, and quality educational programming should remain a priority. Consider that public television's greatest reach is consistently among preschoolers. In 1993, 83 percent of America's preschoolers, our children and grandchildren, watched PBS. Almost half of all Massachusetts residents young and old watch a local PBS affiliate every week.

Cable is not a substitute, as many cannot afford cable. PBS reaches 99 percent of the country. Broadcast television is not the answer either, as the

FIRST 50 DAYS SAID TO BE MARKED BY POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY AND SYMBOLISM

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, we have now seen 50 days of the GOP majority in Congress in which symbolism reigns supreme. The people of the Nation, children, families students, and older Americans, are at risk. They are concerned and they are worried, and they should be. These actions promise to undercut the basic needs of working men and women.

During these first 50 days of the GOP they have retreated from the active, positive role of the Government, the cooperative role, and have replaced it with confrontation and threats of denial of benefits to those who need help in our society. The new majority has tried to make a virtue of their political actions. It will not work.

A deliberate Congress is necessary, and consideration in this Congress has been pushed aside by the new majority in the name of political expediency. The lockstep votes of the GOP have demonstrated a discipline—in fact, an almost ideological stand, not pragmatism—that prevails in this House today.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of these first 50 days cannot be totaled or added up today. They will have to be added up in the names of those who endure the human suffering that is going to be created by the abandonment of the American people by this new majority's actions.

THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE FIRST 50 DAYS OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(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, what has the Republican majority done in the past 50 days that the Democrats were not able to do in the past 40 years?

More votes, more hours, more hearings, more debate, more bipartisanship, more bills reported and real, positive change in the way business is done in Washington, DC.

Republicans are on a roll and no matter how hard the Democrats have tried to support business as usual, we will continue working hard to change Congress in the next 50 days. We will keep