

that is smaller, more efficient and friendlier to the American people.

SUPPORT THE MINIMUM WAGE WITH THE MINIMUM TRUTH

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days I have gotten a tremendous number of calls from people concerned about what might happen to the minimum wage. One of the reasons why much of that concern is coming is because I represent a district right next to one of our leaders here, Mr. ARMEY, who has been talking about doing away with the minimum wage altogether and talks about Charlie, who lost his job because of an increase in the minimum wage back in 1977.

Well, they tell me that is not true, and I saw in the Washington Post yesterday that it was proven that was not a true story.

I simply ask, Mr. Speaker, that when our leaders get up to attempt to talk about why they want certain policies, they should just tell the truth. No one has lost a job because of an increase in the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask all of us to look very closely at what we pledge when we say, "with liberty and justice for all." Our working poor have to be considered. We cannot expect that all of us will know how to make decisions if we do not have at least a minimum truth in our support of the minimum wage.

THE SPEAKER TARGETED IN POLITICAL INVESTIGATION, SAYS THE MIAMI HERALD

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have an article here that appeared in the Miami Herald on February 21 that says they will find some dirt on GINGRICH, and one of our colleagues is quoted as saying that people have been assigned by House Democrats to "investigate Gingrich on a daily basis," and "we are going to stay on his back."

I really doubt if the American people sent our colleagues here to try and downgrade or to try and develop some sort of a list of how we can do in a particular Member of this House. I think the American people sent us here to do the people's business and to pass legislation and work together.

THE PEOPLE SEEK ANSWERS

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, 50 days into the Contract With America and there seem to be more questions than answers.

I want to know, how do we protect public safety and at the same time say we do not need more police on the streets, especially in our urban centers that have such problems?

How do we prepare the next generation to work in a more complicated, competitive world and say, "Oh, no, we don't need student loans anymore, and if we have them, they are going to be harder to pay for"?

How do we stand up for the average working person and at the same time say, "Let's have a tax cut" that is so big we could not pay for it unless we increased the deficit or at least broke our promise to our older Americans and decimated Medicare?

And, finally, how do we protect the Constitution of the United States and pass legislation that totally disregards the privacy of each and every one of our homes?

As we move into the second 50 days, these questions are going to have to be answered, and I am sure there will be other questions. My only hope is that as the American people see what is in this contract, they will not wish that they had negotiated an escape clause for their own protection.

FARM ISSUES DESERVE MORE ATTENTION

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, farmers deserve a break from the burdensome and bureaucratic regulations which dictate how agribusiness is run. Last night after much deliberation we passed a permanent tax break to help cover the cost of health insurance for farmers and other small businessmen. This is only one step toward relieving the farmer's burden—we must do much more.

Congress needs to re-implement the investment tax credit so farmers will have an incentive to expand their operations. We need to pass legislation that will ease the burden of private property takings. We need to pass a capital gains tax reduction which will allow farmers to invest in further improvements on their farm. The farmers should be able to leave their farms to

WHO HAS BENEFITED BY THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA?

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, on the last day of this Congress, I stated, At the end of each day, I believe it is important to be honest and to ask the question:

Who was helped—and who was hurt—by what we did?

We are now at the 50th day.

Who have we helped?

Mr. Speaker, on day one, I also stated, This Nation is strong because we have historically made a place for all who live here, including those who are weak—the young, the poor, the frail, the disabled.

Soon we will consider welfare reform legislation. The future of Federal nutrition programs hangs in the balance under that proposed bill.

We have another 50 days left on the 100-day promise to change America.

Who are we helping? Who are we hurting?

We have not helped the seniors. With the balanced budget amendment, Social Security and Medicare will likely be cut?

We have not helped workers. The unfunded mandates bill leaves workers protections at risk.

We have not helped our youth. The crime bill would jail them rather than deter them.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMOSKEAG VETERANS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today is George Washington's birthday and that is certainly an important event, but it is also the annual meeting of the Amoskeag Veterans.

The Amoskeag Veterans is perhaps New Hampshire's oldest standing militia, maybe one of the oldest in the country. The Amoskeag Veterans meet twice a year, on George Washington's birthday and on Bunker Hill Day. They are indeed a regiment of 72 American citizens who are battle-ready.

As we discuss the defense supplemental today, I hope the people of this country and my colleagues here in Congress will be advised that this group has been around for over 200 years. It