

by keeping our word and our promises to the American people. In this Congress, promises made are promises kept.

FEDERAL RESERVE INTEREST RATE POLICY THREATENING AMERICA

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

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, why is it that every time the economy begins to improve in the eyes of the Federal Reserve that is bad? Is bad news good news? That is a true fiscal oxymoron.

I will never understand the Federal Reserve. I will never understand why every time the economy is growing and jobs are being created, Alan Greenspan and his colleagues decide to slam the brakes on by raising interest rates.

The recent boost in interest rates by the feds is the seventh increase in the past year. Short-term interest rates have doubled from 3 to 6 percent. Long-term rates are expected to hit 9 percent, a level we have not seen since the early 1990's.

These hikes are beginning to put a stranglehold on the people of the country and the 20th Congressional District in Pennsylvania. Economists are predicting an economic slowdown, but the Federal Reserve is still not satisfied. Unbelievably, Mr. Greenspan and his colleagues feel that unemployment remains too low.

Good news is bad news? Bad news is good news? I frankly do not get it. Mr. Greenspan, stop hurting the recovery that is under way.

IMPROVING THE HOUSE SCHEDULE

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, we began the 104th Congress with a commitment to improve the House schedule to make this Congress more family friendly, recognizing that the first 100 days of this session would be devoted to fulfilling the legislation promised in the Contract With America entailing long days and a full House schedule during this time.

We have worked hard to keep on that contract schedule and trying to balance the floor schedule with time for family has been difficult. But I believe there are a few ways we can adjust the House floor routine in an effort to improve upon the family friendliness of this Congress.

least provide the floor staff with some help when the schedule goes into the late hours so that the staff can spend some time with their families.

Mr. Speaker, schedules, nerves, and tempers are beginning to fray. An earlier starting time could not only help in moving the House's business along, but it could also allow some additional family time, and truly make this a family friendly Congress.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM NECESSARY FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican attempt to dismantle the Nation's School Lunch Program. I think it is a shame and a disgrace for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to choose to tamper with something as basic as a school lunch.

Currently, 57 percent of all students participate in this most needed program. We cannot abort our responsibility as national law makers and put tens of thousands of young innocent school children at the risk of not having the opportunity to have a balanced meal during the course of a school day, many of which depend on this meal as their only source of nutrition for the entire day.

I believe that this Congress has a direct interest in the health and welfare of the Nation's children; making sure that each child attending school receives a well-balanced meal each school day.

This is a responsibility and an obligation that one Member of this Congress is not willing to give up, and I hope my colleagues agree.

SAVE THE NADEP

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the Defense Department prepares the latest list of military sites it will recommend for shutdown, there is one site that any objective observer would conclude does not belong on that list—the Jacksonville Naval Aviation Depot.

Since the 1993 round of base closings cut the Nation's number of naval aviation depots in half, the Jacksonville NADEP's unique role as a cornerstone of America's military readiness has only increased. The core purpose of a

just as precise as any other NADEP. In fact, the Jacksonville NADEP is so efficient that in 1994 it actually turned a profit of \$27 million.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want the strongest possible national defense at the lowest possible cost. If the Defense Department wants to achieve this goal, the Jacksonville NADEP is the last base it would ever want to close.

SUPPORT URGED FOR KOREA/VIETNAM MEMORIAL NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

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

Mr. MCHALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my wholehearted support for the Korea/Vietnam Memorial National Education Center, now being created in my district of Pennsylvania.

President John F. Kennedy once said that "a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers". For too long, some among us have chosen to forget about the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam; to push aside the sacrifices made on our behalf by those who served in the uniform of our country. We asked much of them, and gave little in return.

We must now remember these events, and pay honor to those who made the sacrifices which democracy often put on those whom Lincoln called the "common people"—men and women of ordinary means, but also of extraordinary courage and uncommon valor.

The Korea/Vietnam Memorial National Education Center, will serve as a living tribute to the men and women who answered the call of their country, and as a lesson for those to whom we will entrust our hard-fought peace.

I ask that the members of this body join me in supporting this important memorial to our veterans, and to brave patriots from freedom-loving countries throughout the world, who deserve no less than this tribute. The Korea/Vietnam Memorial National Education Center is our chance to let them know that they matter, and that we care.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA NOT HELPING AMERICANS

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