

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 proposed by 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.)

in the so-called "Contract With America." During the first 50 days of this session, not one job has been created, not one family is more secure, not one working, middle-income individual is better off, and not one child is more secure.

While the Republicans have spent these first 50 days fighting for tax cuts for the wealthy of society, we Democrats are fighting for a minimum wage increase to make work pay and break the cycle of welfare dependency. While Republicans are proposing cuts on Medicare and AFDC, we are fighting to save Medicare and protect child nutrition programs, which are so vital to many poor children.

If the current proposals continue, children will be the real losers under this contract.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA HELPING AMERICANS

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how the previous speaker knew that not one person was better off in America. I have talked to a lot of people in America in my district and they are very happy with what is going on. The polls indicate people are better off and definitely happier with the way things are going in this Congress.

We are not just up passing bills. Americans know that. We are up here taking away from Big Brother in Washington, the Government, and we are returning the control of this country to the people we work for, the people all across America.

We are doing something else too, something that perhaps the former majority who are now the minority failed to do, and that is we are keeping our word. We are accomplishing exactly what we said we would do in the election. We are out here working harder in January and February than this Congress has ever worked, certainly more than it has in the last 40 years. We have had four times as many hours in session, we have had eight times as many votes, we have had six times as many committee meetings. The reason for all of that is not because we want more Government, it is because we want less Government. We are cutting down Government, that is what this is about, and we are returning it to the people.

everyone of a four-letter word that Speaker GINGRICH has not uttered—jobs.

Speaker GINGRICH's policies have not and will not create one new job or make the life of one American better.

But it will make the lives of millions of Americans worse:

The elderly who will see Medicare destroyed.

The college kids who will pay thousands of dollars more for student loans.

And the children who will not have school lunches to eat.

In fact, for all Speaker GINGRICH's talk, only one bill has been signed into law so far—congressional accountability. When we passed this last year, it was blocked by Republicans in the Senate.

Let us face it, it is no great accomplishment to vote on the first 5 items in a pollsters top 10 list.

Speaker GINGRICH promised a revolution.

So far this is more like the phony war.

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THOUGHTS ON 50 DAYS' PROGRESS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today is the 50th day of the Republicans 100-day Contract on America. Congratulations on putting forth a goal and sticking to it.

It is important to have goals and objectives in our lives and in legislation. Legislative goals should be those that are achievable through a consensus with America, not goals that stick it to America. It should be a contract with all of America.

We Democrats do not need a plan to stick this to that or a contract with this group against that group. Our contract has always been the same. We work hard, ensure a thoughtful, deliberate process.

So let us look back at the first 50 days of the Democratic majority in 1993. By now two bills had already been signed into law: the national motor-voter bill and the family and medical leave bill, with little or no Republicans support. In the GOP first 50 days, only one bill, the Congressional Accountability Act, has been signed into law, just one, and that was with 400 Members voting for it in a bipartisan manner.

Even though the score, using the GOP marker, is two to one in favor of the Democrats, let us forget the 100-day marker. But rather, let us be

permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on this occasion of the half-way point of the Republican's 100-day Contract for America. During the recent election, the Republican Party snowed the people of this Nation with empty, meaningless promises.

While this contract may sound good on the surface, its provisions are vague and unrealistic at best. The worst, I fear, will result in deceptive and detrimental and consequences for our country.

This contract cuts student loan funding and availability.

This contract cuts taxes for the wealthy, while at the same time taking food out of the mouths of children and young mothers.

This contract would end public assistance for the poor and disabled, with no provisions for putting people to work.

It has taken the majority party of this House 50 days to pass three contract items. It will soon become clear that the remainder of the Republicans' proposals are bad ideas masked in falsehood and obscurity. The contract for America is bad, deceptive, and dangerously detrimental for senior citizens.

WHAT DOES THE RECORD SHOW OF THE FIRST 50 DAYS?

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, last night I saw a wonderful cartoon in the latest issue of Business Week. It had an elephant dressed in an obviously very expensive suit, wearing a button on the lapel that said, "Been robbed, raped, maimed or murdered? Call a block grant." That has a lot to say about what we have done here in the first 50 days.

We took the crime bill that was passed last year, took away all preventive measures and took away the police on the street who will make the streets safer for us. And that, along with trashing the Constitution, are two very important things that have happened here in the past 50 days. And all Americans ought to know it.

We have done very little to address the problems that are really on the minds of Americans today. They have educated their children at great expense.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?