

Let me give some examples. The law which says the Federal Government will monitor the presence of arsenic in drinking water, the Republicans say that is unnecessary.

Another law which said that one industry, a special interest group, the cement kiln industry, would have a waiver of air pollution standards, the Republicans said, that is a good idea. Well, that amendment passed with the Gingrich Republicans' support, and after 3 separate efforts, 35 moderate Republicans finally took all the heat they could at home and decided to join the Democrats and repeal it.

Since then, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] has tried to get an awful lot greener. Every time he has come to the floor, he has talked about saving the environment, but the American people know better. You have to put money in the Environmental Protection Agency to protect the purity of the water we drink and the safety of the air that we breathe.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to comment on some of the comments that were being made on the other side of the aisle by Republicans about Earth Day and progress on the environment.

It is certainly true that a lot more needs to be done on environmental protection, whether it is cleaner air or cleaning up more of the hazardous wastesites under the Superfund Program. But to suggest that the answer to that or the way to do that is to cut back on the number of people who work for the EPA, or to cut back on the investigators and those who go out and enforce the existing environmental laws, or to weaken those laws so that they do not provide as much environmental protection, well, that makes no sense at all.

If you are concerned about the environment, you do not turn the clock back 25 years on a bipartisan basis in this House and the Senate and in the Presidency to try and improve environmental quality and to increase enforcement. That is what Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership are trying to do here in this House. They are trying to turn back the clock.

They are saying we do not need the people to do the investigation, we do not need the enforcers. We are going to let industry do its own thing. The bottom line is that you are not going to improve the quality of this Nation's environment unless you do more to protect the environment, have stronger laws, and have better enforcement. That is what we need.

That is not what is happening here. Unfortunately, we are leading up to Earth Day this year with this Republican leadership working in the opposite direction.

NEW REPUBLICAN AGENDA IS SAME OLD GAME PLAN

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, recently the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], the Republican leader, unveiled what he calls a, quote, new agenda for this Congress. But in fact what we really have in this new agenda is the same old Republican game plan of hurting working families and the health and safety of working families while bailing out the special interests.

At a minimum, the hardworking families of this country should be able to count on the Congress to protect the public health, but this Congress has been a polluter's dream come true. During the 104th Congress, Republicans invited polluters to rewrite the Clean Water Act. They also proposed letting big companies off the hook for cleaning up hazardous waste that they dumped.

The House Republican leadership has insisted on deep cuts in environmental protection, halting cleanups in many areas. They have also encouraged their folks to let people know that they are environmentally conscious, and then they say, "go plant a tree, go hug a tree, go to a zoo, that will make people think you are environmentally conscious."

Do not be fooled by the phony agenda the Republicans have unveiled. It is a sad attempt to mask the truth. After almost a year and a half of failure, the Gingrich Congress continues to pursue an agenda that puts the needs and the health of Americans at risk.

REPUBLICAN TURNAROUND ON ENVIRONMENT COMES TOO LATE

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, after a year of the most comprehensive and concentrated attack on the basic environmental laws of this country, the Speaker of this House and the majority leader of the Republican Party believe that they can turn around a record and con the American people into believing that all of a sudden the Republican caucus in this House is in favor of environmental protection. It simply will not wash.

After a year of voting against clean air and clean water, voting against Superfund liability, voting against the Endangered Species Act, voting to eviscerate wilderness areas of this country, you will not turn around America's image of the Republican caucus in this House by recycling batteries or reauthorizing the Coastal Zone Management Act. It takes more than that to protect the environment, and it takes more than that to turn around the image the American public have of the Republicans and the environment.

They have tired to destroy the laws, and now they are trying to hide the record because they are reading the polls and the election results in November.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE STEVEN SCHIFF, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVEN SCHIFF, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 4, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: this is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that four members of my Albuquerque District Office have been served with subpoenas issued by the Second Judicial District Court (Bernalillo County, New Mexico) in the case of New Mexico v. Martin.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

STEVEN SCHIFF.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

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TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2337) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for increased taxpayer protections, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2337

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2".

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; amendment of 1986 Code; table of contents.

TITLE I—TAXPAYER ADVOCATE

Sec. 101. Establishment of position of Taxpayer Advocate within Internal Revenue Service.