

freedom, all the cocaine and marijuana he wanted, and sex parties. In fact, it was such a hard time, Richard Speck, with two other inmates, made a 2-hour video, a porno video, in the prison TV studio. Two hours. And listen to what Speck says on the tape. He says, "If those squares knew what a good time I was having, they would actually turn me loose."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Eight nurses are rolling over in their graves. The only free thing that Richard Speck should have gotten was 50,000 volts. Is it any wonder America has more murder than any other country on the planet?

All the politicians down here are worried about the rights of criminals. I think they better start being concerned about the rights of the American people.

DEMOCRAT PARTY THE PARTY OF HIGHER TAXES AND BIG GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, no matter how hard they try, no matter how much help they get from the liberal media to convince people otherwise, the Democrat Party is and remains the party of higher taxes and bigger government.

Just look at Bill Clinton's 1997 budget. This budget has tax increases and creates more Government programs. Surprise, surprise.

Mr. Speaker, it is almost reflexive that the Democrats want to raise taxes and spend more money in Washington. Bill Clinton creates 14 new Government programs in his budget and does not even begin to cut domestic spending until 1998. In fact, 76 percent of his spending cuts come after the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, this budget gives the American people more of what they do not want: Higher taxes, higher spending, and bigger Government. It also provides that liberal Democrats are unwilling to do what it takes to balance the budget and do the right thing for America's children.

LET THOSE WHO PAID BE REPAID

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, much has been said about the on-going gasoline price crisis and the proposed repeal of the 4.3-cent gas tax.

I would like to offer my three-point plan for this repeal.

First, we must guarantee that this repeal is directly returned to the consumer in the form of lower prices at the gas pump. We must not simply feed the profit margin of big oil companies. We cannot repeal this fee and naively assume that gas prices will decline ac-

cordingly. Let those who paid be repaid.

Second, we must pay for this repeal. I have a bill, H.R. 1497, the Insurance Tax Fairness and Small Company Economic Growth Act, that will collect almost \$2 billion every year, simply by closing a tax loophole that only benefits the 18 largest mutual life insurance companies.

Third, this Congress must provide answers for the American people about the cause of these price increases. Congress must hold hearings and conduct an investigation. The American people deserve answers from their elected officials and it is our duty to provide those answers.

Mr. Speaker, I say again, the consumer must benefit from our actions—let those who paid be repaid.

MINIMUM WAGE QUOTES

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, now the President wants to "make work pay" by raising the minimum wage. Yet just 2 years ago he said that raising the minimum wage is "the wrong way to raise the income of low-wage earners."

President Clinton knows that upgrading worker skills results in an increase in wages. He has said that "what you earn depends on what you learn; the most effective way to help is to make workers more productive because wages reflect the value of what people produce."

"After all, most minimum wage workers are not poor." That is Secretary Reich to President Clinton.

"An increased minimum wage often takes from the poor to help the middle class." That is economist Robert Shapiro, friend of Bill Clinton's.

UNDERSTAND THE DEBATE ON MEDICARE

(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, the House is expected to consider another budget resolution this time around. It would seem to me my Republican colleagues would have learned a lesson from the last budget experience. At that time the American public said "no" to severe cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, in education, in the environment.

Although we fought that battle and staved off those cuts, the congressional majority is back here again to cut Medicare. We are looking at a \$168 billion cut in Medicare. Cuts of this magnitude force rural hospitals to close and will limit the ability of senior citizens to choose their own doctor.

What are our priorities? What are our values in this Nation? We now have 99 percent of our seniors covered for

health care through the Medicare system. Why would we want to dismantle Medicare?

It was the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] who said not too long ago that what he wanted to see with Medicare was to have it wither on the vine.

The money they cut from Medicare does not go into the Medicare trust fund. Do not let them kid you with that argument. What they will do is one more time pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. The tax break package is \$180 billion, and the cut in Medicare is \$168 billion. Understand the debate.

PASS THE CLINTON GAS TAX REPEAL ACT

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, in AL GORE's book, "Earth in the Balance," the Vice President peers into his crystal ball and cheerfully foresees the end of the automobile as America's primary transportation. If he and his Democrat colleagues are attempting to force the automobile out of existence through excessive gas tax hikes, Americans had better fasten their seatbelt, we are in for a wild ride.

While the rest of the Nation averaged just over a 1 cent increase in gas prices, the families on California's central coast witnessed some prices closing in on the \$2 mark for a gallon of gas. The American people are tired of unnecessary burdensome taxes to feed the coffers of Washington benefactors. Last week, I introduced H.R. 3415, the Clinton Gas Tax Repeal Act, which will stop this mindless taxation.

The Republican prescription for gas relief is to put money back into the pockets of every working American family. The Democrats prescription for gas relief is a Gas-X tablet and an election year nap. Americans deserve better. Pass H.R. 3415.

TREAT ALL SIDES FAIRLY WITH BUDGET CUTS

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as we listen to the Republicans talk about budget, budget, balance the budget, balance the budget, well, we will get a chance today to see how serious they are, because we are taking up the defense bill.

I want to tell you, as I said earlier, the British may be having trouble with mad cow disease, but the Republicans are having trouble with sacred cow disease. This is the biggest scared cow you have ever seen, this defense budget. Everybody else is downsizing. Not us. They had to add more than the President asked for. In my entire time of being here, I have never seen that.

So it is very interesting that the people who on the civilian side of the budget say cut, cut, cut, on the defense side spend, spend, spend. Even if they did not ask for it, spend, spend, spend. It is very hard to listen to those people talk about being serious about the budget. Both sides should be treated the same, and I hope they will.

CONCERNS ABOUT 1997 BUDGET

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, we've now had a look at the Republican's 1997 budget, and I have several major concerns.

It appears that many of the cuts proposed last year have reappeared in the new budget. These include cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, cuts in the earned income tax credit, and in education.

I am greatly concerned about the impact of these cuts on seniors, on rural health programs, on student loan programs.

I also worry about extremist positions on these budget areas which will lead once again to Government shut-downs, disruption of service to Americans, and a tremendous waste of time and money.

Mr. Speaker, we have the means to reach agreement on a plan to balance the budget in 7 years.

In discussions earlier this year, Republicans and the President agreed on certain cuts, enough to realize \$711 billion in savings.

At the time of the discussion, only \$635 billion in cuts was needed to balance the budget by the year 2002. More recent figures show similar areas of agreement.

Let's build on areas where we agree. Let's balance the budget while protecting essential programs for Americans—education, the environment, Medicaid, and Medicare.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, May 10, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, 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 Jim Dyer, currently the staff director of the Appropriations Committee and formerly a staff assistant for Congressman Joseph McDade of Pennsylvania, has been served with a subpoena issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in the case of United States versus McDade.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compli-

ance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BOB LIVINGSTON,
Chairman.

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, but not before 5 p.m. today.

HEALTHY MEALS FOR CHILDREN ACT

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2066) to amend the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to schools to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and school breakfast programs, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2066

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Healthy Meals for Children Act".

SEC. 2. INCREASED FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOLS TO MEET THE DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS UNDER THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT.

Section 9(f)(2) of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(f)(2)) is amended by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

"(D) USE OF ANY REASONABLE APPROACH.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—A school food service authority may use any reasonable approach, within guidelines established by the Secretary in a timely manner, to meet the requirements of this paragraph, including—

"(I) using the school nutrition meal pattern in effect for the 1994–1995 school year; and

"(II) using any of the approaches described in subparagraph (C).

"(ii) NUTRIENT ANALYSIS.—The Secretary may not require a school to conduct or use a nutrient analysis to meet the requirements of this paragraph."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] will each be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GOODLING].

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Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 2066 which amends the School Lunch Program to provide schools flexibility in demonstrating how they have met the dietary guidelines for Americans.

This bill not only has bipartisan support in Congress, it has the support of the American School Food Service Association, the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Boards Association, and the Association of School Business Officials.

During the 103d Congress, the National School Lunch Program was modified to require schools to meet the dietary guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and breakfast programs. I supported this change.

The law permitted schools to use nutrient-based menu planning, assisted nutrient-based menu planning or a food-based menu system, which was the only method of menu planning used under prior law, as long as they met the dietary guidelines. On Tuesday, June 13, 1995, the Department of Agriculture published their final regulations on the school meal initiatives for healthy Americans. Unfortunately, these regulations did not meet congressional intent with respect to providing schools with flexibility in how they demonstrated they were in compliance with the dietary guidelines.

Schools throughout the Nation expressed concern about the implementation of these final regulations. Of special concern were changes to the food-based menu system which had the potential of adding from 5 to 10 cents to the cost of school meals. The reason for the increased cost was a requirement that schools add additional servings of grains, bread, and fruits and vegetables to school meals. Even schools currently meeting the dietary guidelines under the previous food-based menu plan would have to enact such changes. The alternative would be to use the nutrient standard menu plan, which would require schools to make a significant investment in computer hardware and require extensive training and technical assistance to implement the new software and procedures associated with this plan.

On July 1995, I introduced H.R. 2066 with my colleague on the committee, GEORGE MILLER. H.R. 2066 will not change, in any way, the requirement that school meals meet the dietary guidelines for Americans. It will, however, permit schools to use any reasonable approach to meet the dietary guidelines, including those contained in the regulations issued by the Department. Adding additional fruits, vegetables, and grains is certainly one way to ensure the dietary guidelines are met. However, schools could choose to bake instead of fry certain food items or use low-fat alternatives to some food items. There are not just one or two ways to meet the dietary guidelines.

Nothing in this act affects the ability of States to determine if schools have met the dietary guidelines. Compliance reviews will continue to take place. There will still be State and Federal audits and corrective action will still be required for schools not meeting the dietary guidelines.