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AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT LAW ENFORCEMENT TO HAVE TOOLS IT NEEDS TO FIGHT TERRORISM

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, the American people are shocked and outraged over the tragedies of TWA Flight 800 and at the Olympic Park.

The American people want us to show determination and common sense in giving our Nation's law enforcement community the tools it needs to fight terrorism.

One proposal is to put chemical markers, or taggants, in gun powder to help the FBI identify the vicious cowards responsible for bombings.

What sensible person would side with the bombers and against the FBI? We have a chance, before we leave this week, to do what the American people would do if they could vote themselves.

The President has asked us to pass this antiterrorism proposal. Unfortunately, the long arm of the National Rifle Association has reached into this House and prevented us from even taking the issue up.

It is time for this House to stand with the American people, and stand up to the NRA. Let's pass meaningful antiterrorism legislation.

PRESIDENT CLINTON FINALLY COMES AROUND TO TRUE HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, good news for all Americans today. Not only has President Clinton agreed to sign the bipartisan welfare reform bill, he has said he will also sign the bipartisan health care reform bill.

With the enactment of the health care bill, this commonsense Congress is giving Americans genuine health care reform without a government takeover. The bill establishes medical savings accounts, fights fraud and abuse, provides a long-term care insurance deduction, allows the self-employed to deduct 80 percent of health care costs, and allows people the freedom to change jobs without losing their health care coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I'm glad President Clinton has finally come around. True health care reform is what the American people want.

PUTTING AMERICA AGAINST ITS OWN IMMIGRANT ROOTS

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, another Democratic initiative, health care and insurance reform, will soon become law, affecting millions of Americans. The Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, which reforms insurance portability and preexisting conditions in insurance, will permit us to go home and say, rightfully, that this is not a do-nothing Congress.

But along with same-sex marriage, abortion, and illegal immigration, Republicans are looking for another wedge issue to divide the country and get some votes. They have found it in "English Only," an initiative that puts America against its own immigrant roots and the sweeping tides of history.

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It tells the billions that are watching the Olympics in Atlanta that America is saying that any language besides English is not important. "English Only" is bad for business, since most of our commerce is done in other languages. It is bad for tourism. It is a bad

nativist, isolationist initiative that the Congress should reject summarily.

CONGRESS ACTS TO MAKE ENGLISH OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for America. We are finally going to address an issue that the American people have been asking us to address for a long time, like the 45,000 people, 97 percent of the people who called in to USA Today in one weekend who said let us make English our official language.

Winston Churchill said a common language is one of the Nation's most priceless inheritances, and as an American I am delighted to say today that we are going to address this issue. English is a legacy for you and for me. No matter what our background or ethnic group, we all want to pass on this legacy for posterity so we can remain one Nation, one people, one language.

We Americans are from every corner of the globe. We represent every ethnic group, every religious group, every nation. But we are one nation, one people. Why? Because up to now we have had a wonderful commonality and today we are going to make English our official language so that we can respect all cultures, but also reaffirm our common bond and unifying force, the English language.

MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING TO AMERICA MUST BE STOPPED

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a former Mexican drug agent says the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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