

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the President asked Congress for disaster relief funding 85 days ago, nearly 3 months. American families are suffering. Why has Congress failed to provide urgently needed disaster assistance? It is because the Republican leadership chose the disaster relief bill as their vehicle to extract political concessions from the President.

Newspaper accounts in the last several days have said that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH], who appeared here this morning, never expected the President to sign the bill by adding the provisions. They were done in order to embarrass the President, the same Speaker who brought us two Government shutdowns.

The Republican leadership has blocked \$5.6 billion for disaster victims in 33 States, \$1.9 billion for U.S. military operations in Bosnia and elsewhere. People are hurting and they need our help.

Congressional Democrats held vigil on Tuesday night to send a simple message: We are willing to work around the clock to get the job done. I applaud those Republicans who are finally saying, enough is enough, forget the political games, let us get disaster assistance to those in this country who need it.

CLOWING BAN VERSUS PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon the Subcommittee on Technology will conduct a hearing to review the President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission Report on Cloning.

When the President accepted the Commission's report and announced legislation to ban the use of cloning technology to create human beings last Monday, he stated the following, and I quote:

Our scientific explorations must be guided by our commitment to human values, to the good of society, to our basic sense of right and wrong. Nothing makes the necessity of that moral obligation more clear than the troubling possibility that these new animal-cloning techniques could be used to create a child. Attempting to create a human being is unacceptably dangerous to the child and morally unacceptable to our society. Creating a child through this new method calls into question our most fundamental beliefs. It has the potential to threaten the sacred family bonds at the very core of our ideals and our society.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the President on his remarks, and I intend to support the Cloning Prohibition Act. But how is it, Mr. Speaker, that our President can ban a technique to create a human life but veto legislation banning the grisly procedure known as partial birth abortion?

EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF BILL

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today the House can help a lot of fathers, today; we do not have to wait until Sunday, on Fathers Day, by passing the emergency flood relief bill. Today the House has a chance to do what should have been done many months ago, for fathers yes, mothers, children, a whole lot of other people, by passing a flood relief bill that helps West Virginia, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, the Dakotas, the Midwest, California.

The Senate has already agreed to take out the nonrelated matters, the things that do not have anything to do with flood relief. But yet the House has not yet gone along with that. But it can. Why are we arguing about how we shut the Government down or do not shut it down or the census, how we count in the year 2000?

The fact is, if we do not pass this bill today, a lot of local governments may be shutting down and there may not be enough people to count in some of our flood-torn areas. If the House passes it today, West Virginians can begin rebuilding the river banks in Cabell and Putnam County. They can begin working on Herbert Hoover High School and the others that were damaged; farmers can begin getting that emergency assistance because they lost their fences and suffered other damage.

If this bill does not pass today, Mr. Speaker, then Sunday a lot of fathers and their families can ask whether this leadership really cares.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, the Committee on Ways and Means continues to debate the details of what would be the first major tax cut enacted in 16 years. This proposal is consistent with the balanced budget agreement. The proposal contains permanent tax relief covering people throughout their lives from the childhood years to the education years, from the saving years to the retirement years. It offers a \$500 per child tax credit covering 41 million children.

Education incentives are offered by creating investment accounts to allow parents to save tax-free for their children's higher education. A 10-percent capital gains tax cut rate would cover 5 million Americans, including 2 million senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this package represents a clear and more simple vision: Allow the American people to do more by letting them keep more of their earnings.

SUPPORT EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in 1989, northern California was struck by the Loma Prieta earthquake. Families lost their houses, their homes, their personal possessions, their family photographs. It was a terrible disaster and a tragedy.

Before we could even ask, Chairman Jamie Whitten, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, came earlier to work than usual and started to prepare the Federal response. He knew that the American people and the American Government have a compact between them that, when disaster strikes, the Federal Government is there to provide comfort and meet the needs of the people.

The Republican leadership in this House of Representatives have broken that compact with the American people, they have violated it. For their own political agenda, they are holding hostage the families of the disaster stricken areas of our country. These families have suffered tremendous losses. They have serious doubt about how they will be made whole. Instead of having the comfort and the embrace of the Congress of the United States, they are ignored.

Despite the best efforts of President Clinton and indeed even the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the radical Republican leadership refuses to help the families of America. I hope our colleagues will join the 20 brave Republicans and our Democratic leadership in supporting the emergency disaster relief bill today.

REPEAL THE DEATH TAX

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

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, in America today there is a growing sentiment to repeal the Federal estate tax, commonly known as the death tax. After a lifetime of hard work, many family farmers and small business persons know the death tax will destroy a large portion of their life's work.

The death tax in many ways, Mr. Speaker, is like a disease; and like a disease, treatment is expensive, complicated, and not well understood. In order to prepare for death taxes, a business person must call in a variety of financial specialists. The average family business will spend \$20,000 on attorneys, \$12,000 on accountants, and \$11,000 on other financial advisors just to prepare for death taxes.

Mr. Speaker, that is over \$40,000 which could have been used to create jobs, buy new equipment, pay higher wages, or increase benefits for employees. All of these items would help grow the economy and improve our quality