

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, over the last 4 years an increasingly permissive attitude, even a tolerance in some circles, of illegal drug use has regrettably developed. The lack of institutional leadership from the President and from the media on this issue is reflected in the dramatic increases in the use of marijuana and other drugs by our young people. Overall drug use by teens in America has more than doubled since 1992, more than doubled. We need real leadership and we need it now.

Today Speaker GINGRICH will join the Florida delegation in a hearing to look at the troubling reemergence of Florida as a major drug trafficking route. This hearing is an important step in fighting the complacency and focusing, once again, on winning the war on drugs rather than settling for a stalemate or a draw. I hope the administration will join us in renewing our effort to kick our Nation's drug habit. We could use the help in Florida.

REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are beginning to fear that they are not going to be able to win the President's support for their tax cut plan for the rich. So what do they do? They threaten to shut down the Government again.

Many Americans remember in the last session of Congress when the Republicans did not get their way and so they decided to shut down the Government. Now the Speaker fears he will not get his way with his tax cuts for the rich so he wants to hold the Government hostage once again.

Mr. GINGRICH told a meeting of Ways and Means Republicans Wednesday that the GOP-controlled Congress would not send any appropriation bills to the President for his signature until the President signs a Republican tax cut plan. This is according to two GOP sources that spoke to Congress Daily.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have been working hard to push our plan that would truly benefit middle-income families. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership is not honoring the agreement they made with the American people. First they broke their promise to middle-class Americans, and now they want to shut the Government down again.

PROMISES AND ASSURANCES

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, this is going to be a big week for Americans. We want to talk about tax cuts and what we can do to help children. But Carol

Browner, Director of the U.S. EPA, is at it once again. She has made her final ruling, with agreement by the White House, that there are going to be some new ozone rules.

They did not look at the sound science. We know that from George Wolf that heads up the subcommittee. They did not release the information when we asked for it. Now in fact they might have cut some deals across the country that some areas do not have to go under these new rules, but they will not tell us whether they have or have not.

We need the truth, Mr. Speaker. The American people need the truth. These policies are not going to help people with respiratory problems. They are simply going to throw people out of work.

Most important, Mr. Speaker, this is the United States. It is time, no matter where we stand on these issues, that we do not let unelected bureaucrats decide national law. The people send Members of Congress here to talk about national law. The Director of the U.S. EPA is trying to mandate that we will do a certain policy without addressing the give-and-take of talking to the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to get behind the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KLINK] in his efforts.

NO TAX BENEFIT UNDER REPUBLICAN PLAN FOR MIDDLE-INCOME AMERICANS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the real question this morning is, what do the schoolteacher, the police officer, the firefighter, the bus driver, and the single working mother have in common? No tax benefit under the Republican tax plan.

Many will say that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Let me say, not so. The Republicans have absented themselves from the 1994 Contract on America, which says that they would give a tax refund to those who pay income tax, those who receive an earned income tax credit, and those who pay payroll taxes. Not so.

They all signed it. They have all forgotten. Now they call the schoolteacher, the police officer, the firefighter, the bus driver, and the working mother, they are on welfare, because they do not want to give them a child tax credit.

Absence does not make the heart grow fonder for the working people of America. The Democratic alternative recognizes when you go to work every day as a bus driver, a schoolteacher, a single working mother, you deserve a tax credit for your child. That is the plan that is for all working Americans.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I hope the American people that are observing this debate over taxes now realize why tax cuts come so slowly in this Congress. There are some elitists in this Chamber and a lot of egos that think that Washington can spend your money better than you can.

The tax bill currently before Congress is going to benefit every American, whether it is a \$400 more in your pocket or \$1,500 more in your pocket. Middle class working families are going to gain a little bit from this tax cut. But this tax cut is just a little bit. Compared to the \$250 billion tax increase that we just had 4 years ago, this is an \$85 billion net tax cut, just a portion of the huge tax increase that just happened a few years ago.

If we are going to have a country that has been as successful as we have, we have to get back to a system where we let the people keep more of the money in their pocket, where we reward the people that work hard, that try, that save, that invest, and the people that work hard are better off than those that do not.

IN SUPPORT OF TAX FAIRNESS FOR WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago the Republicans signed a contract with the working families of America and promised to provide them with tax relief. They proposed a law called the American Dream Restoration Act, which calls for a \$500-per-child tax credit for families making up to \$200,000. This was item 5 on their Contract With America.

Amazingly, the Republicans will give a \$500-per-child tax credit to people making \$200,000 but they want to deny this tax relief to families making \$20,000. Yesterday the New York Times reported that the Speaker of the House might finally give the child care tax credit to all working families. Then he changed his mind.

My colleagues, what is going on here? Are the Republicans going to keep their promise or not? Are the Republicans going to make good on their contract they signed or is this just another case of promises made, promises broken?

BOGUS AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we had the administration officially come forward with its national ambient air quality standards,