

otherwise known as BAQS, bogus air quality standards.

Mr. Speaker, the administration tells us this is to save the children. But, Mr. Speaker, what do you tell the child whose family cannot afford a home because the so-called new air standards put the cost of those new homes beyond their family's means? What do you tell the child whose father is out of work because these so-called new air standards shut down his business? What do you tell the community that cannot build a new hospital because these new so-called standards cannot be met?

Mr. Speaker, America's children do not need weird science. They need homes, parents with jobs, new schools, new hospitals, all which would become endangered species if these so-called new standards are allowed to go into effect.

ROBIN HOOD IN REVERSE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, it appears as though the Republicans are going to treat us to another episode of their favorite show, Robin Hood in reverse. He takes from the poor and the middle class to give to the rich. This is also known by the term "tax relief for the rich." The issue is not whether there ought to be a tax refund. The issue is tax fairness.

If you look at the Republican tax package, 60 percent of the tax benefits go to the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans. They give millionaires \$12,000 to \$24,000 in tax relief through estate taxes and indexed capital gains, but when we suggest that teachers, bus drivers, entry-level policemen ought to get a child tax credit, they have the audacity to say that is welfare. No, that is tax fairness.

The working people, the working middle class in America ought to get the lion's share of the tax relief, not the wealthy millionaires who are collecting large capital gains tax breaks.

We believe in tax fairness. The Democrats are advocating a child tax credit for everyone. When they had their Contract on America, they said it was a good idea: Give working America a tax break. They reneged on that promise. Promises made, promises broken.

MEDICARE OVERPAYMENT

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, today the New York Times ran a very interesting article but a very sad article. It is entitled "U.S. Overpaid \$2.3 Billion Last Year" in Medicare and it reads:

"In the first comprehensive audit of Medicare, Federal investigators said

Wednesday that the government overpaid hospitals, doctors and other health care providers last year by \$23 billion, or 14 percent of all of the money spent in the standard Medicare program.

"The books and records of the Medicare agency and its contractors were in such disarray that they could not be thoroughly audited," said the inspector general. She said that there was no way to tell how much money of the overpayment resulted from fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I think the buck stops with the President on this issue. I think before we get into the next cycle, I think the President absolutely must pay attention to this fraud and abuse in Medicare.

HOUSTON OILERS MOVE TO TENNESSEE

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, recently the Houston Oilers received the final agreement to leave Houston and become the Tennessee Oilers, playing in Memphis, TN, this year and later on in Nashville, TN.

As a long-time Houston Oiler fan, I am looking for a new professional team to adopt. I worked as a 13-year-old at the old Oiler football games at Jeppesen Stadium, now Robertson Stadium, on the University of Houston campus.

Today I am cleaning out some of my Oiler paraphernalia like a lot of people in Houston are doing. I want to present them to the gentleman from Nashville, TN [Mr. CLEMENT] and say, "You can have this hat, you can have this glass that says Houston Oilers," even a bumper sticker from our local radio station that plays the Oilers and their games, and even a pin that says, "Love You, Blue."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman [Mr. CLEMENT].

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I thank him for remembering Sam Houston and Davy Crockett and the countless volunteers that fought for Texas and independence. I have always heard all my life, if it had not been for Tennessee, there would not have been a Texas.

Well, we are not going to get Houston oil but we are going to get the Houston Oilers. We appreciate it very much. Payments are in full, and we deeply appreciate the gentleman realizing that we now have bought a great team. We want him to come see them play in the near future in Memphis and then in Nashville, TN. We have a lot to be proud of, and we will sure help the gentleman and work with him to get another team.

BOEING-McDONNELL DOUGLAS MERGER

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the European Commission's Merger Task Force voted to disapprove the Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger. The Economic Community charged Boeing would have to make greater concessions if they would receive approval from the EC.

I have sent a letter, developed a letter to the EC and I have sent it to every congressional office. At this time I am urging every Member of Congress to send that letter and show solid support for keeping their nose out of our business.

CROP INSURANCE

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, later today there may be an amendment to take Federal crop insurance from the American tobacco grower, yet it will be left for wheat, rye, barley, and all the other crops. Some do want to destroy the American tobacco grower. In 1896 William Jennings Bryan said, "If you destroy the American farmer, grass will grow in the streets of every city of the land."

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In 1997, if we destroy the American tobacco farmer, 350,000 good jobs will be lost. We will be buying Chinese cigarettes, we will be buying Brazilian cigarettes, and we will be wrecking our trade surplus that agriculture so richly provides this Nation.

Save crop insurance and help the American economy.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 858) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 858

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.