

House elections. Mr. FOSSELLA was overwhelmingly elected by over 60 percent and we are fortunate to have him join this House this morning.

Mr. Speaker, selfishness is not an effort to keep more of what Americans earn, it is the right thing to do.

SAY "NO" TO FAST TRACK

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the full court corporate press for fast track legislation is on. The USA NAFTA captains are back. Remember these folks, colleagues? These are the same corporate CEO's that came here and promised NAFTA would be a boon for American workers. We would run trade surpluses with Mexico. Our people would be in full employment.

Guess what? These same folks are back. Their salaries are up dramatically, their profits are up, but 43 percent of them have laid off American workers. They have moved the jobs to Mexico. Twenty percent of them are documented for threatening their workers with moving their jobs to Mexico unless they accept lower wages, but for us, is it not wonderful? Twenty percent of them are also in the top givers of soft money to politicians.

They are here now in the back rooms and trying to get into your offices. Say no to the corporate money. Say yes to the American workers. Say no to fast track, no, no, no.

AMERICA NEEDS A NEW IRS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, we can control disease in America, but we cannot control the IRS. Here we go again, and as my mother used to say, same song, just a different verse. The IRS has found a new way to abuse the American taxpayer. This time they are renegeing on an agreement with the restaurant industry.

After complaining for years that they are not able to tax the tips earned by hard-working restaurant employees, the IRS proposed a new voluntary taxation plan. Restaurants could, but were by no means obligated to, use this method of recording this income. To nobody's surprise, the IRS has now resorted to intimidation, threatening audits on any business that does not follow their extortionary demands.

This type of harassment must end. Fortunately, the IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1997 will prohibit this abuse of power. Yes, Mr. Speaker, today is a new day, and we need a new IRS. The time has come to restore the common sense and accountability of this country's tax collection agency.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATIONS, HOUSTON, FOR SUPPORTING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

(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, I am very proud this morning to announce that the citizens of Houston, TX, are decent people. Resoundingly, yesterday they defeated a clone of proposition 209 out of California, and they proclaimed their commitment to affirmative action and equal opportunity for all. They rejected a referendum to deny the city of Houston the opportunity to implement affirmative action.

With congratulations to local elected officials and all of us who worked very hard, but most of all congratulations to the citizens of Houston, who understood what affirmative action is. It does not take away from someone else and give to another unfairly, it simply opens the door of opportunity for someone equally qualified.

To the Canady legislation to be marked up in the Committee on the Judiciary, be forewarned, the people of America are saying that equal opportunity is what we believe in and what this country stands for. We will fight all the way to maintain the opportunity for all citizens. Thank you, Houston, for standing for what America truly believes in, and that is equal opportunity and access for all of us, through an effort to defeat discriminatory practices by the use of affirmative action.

PRESIDENT WRONG TO LABEL TAXPAYERS SELFISH

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, we Republicans believe that one of the greatest family values we can promote in Congress is to allow hard-working people to keep more of the money they have earned, and have the right to spend it on their families. How I wish the President would join us in that family value.

I was stunned to pick up the front page of the newspaper yesterday and to see the headline: "Clinton Labels Tax Cut Selfish." I read from the newspaper, lest anybody think I am exaggerating: "President Clinton yesterday called voters attracted to Republican tax cut promises selfish, saying they should be satisfied instead with a revived economy, and *happy* to pay for government services" (emphasis added).

Yesterday, in Virginia he scolded voters for backing the selfishly gratifying pledge to slash taxes. "This is going to be like one of those meals you order and you are hungry 30 minutes later," the President proclaimed.

Mr. President, I am gravely disappointed in these comments. For a leader who likes to remind us he "feels our pain," I wish you would recognize the pain caused by oppressively high taxes on working American families. You have a chance to join us in the fight to return more of their money from the IRS to their pocketbooks. I urge you to reconsider who is the truly selfish one in this debate.

VOUCHER PROPOSAL DEFEAT IS VICTORY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(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, last night this body voted down the Gingrich voucher proposal. This was a great victory for America's public schools and a great victory, more important, for America's public school children. This Nation's commitment to public schools, to public education, is one of the cornerstones of our democratic society.

The notion, the notion that every child, regardless of race, gender, station in life, is entitled to public education, that is what we have been about in this great Nation.

Today our public schools do have a lot of problems. Vouchers is not the way to fix them. Vouchers simply provide an out for a lucky few, while draining precious resources that could be spent on replacing leaky roofs, buying new computers, or hiring new teachers. This is a way to take money from public education and put it to private education for the privileged and for the few.

Let me congratulate my colleagues who stood up on the floor last night. They stood up for public education, and they voted down the Gingrich voucher plan.

VOTES REFLECT SOLIDARITY WITH CHINESE IN STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Congress has a unique opportunity today to stand in solidarity with the long-suffering Chinese people in their struggle for freedom, for democracy, for respect for human rights.

There is a series of bills before us today ranging from enforcing a ban on slave labor products to condemning the abhorrent practice of forced abortion.

The House will vote on sanctions on Chinese missile exports to Iran, as well as my bill, which will place human rights monitors in our Embassy and consulates in China.

We will send a message to the people of Tibet and Taiwan that we want them to have self-determination.

The House will vote on adopting a voluntary set of principles which promote good corporate citizenship by

United States companies doing business in China.

We pressure China to stop selling nuclear-related technology to countries such as Pakistan that are trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The House will increase funding for the National Endowment for Democracy to promote democracy in China, and we will express our disgust at the Chinese practice of harvesting and transplanting human organs from prisoners, and we will deny U.S. visas to those Chinese officials.

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS UNIFIED IN OPPOSITION TO FAST TRACK

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the major environmental organizations, some of which were strong supporters of NAFTA in 1993, have expressed their opposition to the current fast track proposals moving through the House and Senate. The National Wildlife Federation, the National Audubon Society, and Defenders of Wildlife have joined with the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and dozens of other grassroots environmental organizations around the country who oppose this legislation.

The debate currently raging over fast track is not a question of whether the United States enters into a global economy, it is a question of how we participate in that economy, and whether we should sacrifice the rights of workers in this country and around the world in the name of free trade. It is a question of whether we should capitulate to multinational corporations which would bargain down the environmental protection standards of nations around the world in the name of competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, the United States cannot afford to encourage a race to the bottom when it comes to preserving the global environmental or the rights of workers to a safe workplace and a fair wage. We should vote down this fast track legislation when it comes up at the end of this week.

SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN EDUCATION REFORM AGENDA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher in Edwardsville, IL, I often use my 1-minutes to praise teachers and students who have touched so many lives in central and southern Illinois. My past in education also makes me very aware of the need for reforms in our local schools.

That is why I rise today to urge parents, teachers, and students to embrace the bold education reform agenda that

was proposed by my fellow Republicans. This education agenda includes six measures which provide every child in America with first-class learning opportunities in safe, secure schools where children can focus on learning and teachers can focus on teaching.

Sending more money to Washington bureaucrats is a policy of the past, and we must begin to give control of our schools back to the States, local schools, teachers, and our parents, where it belongs.

PROTECT AMERICA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND SLOW DOWN FAST TRACK

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

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks I have grown increasingly concerned about the World Trade Organization's impact on our sovereignty. The WTO allows a panel of trade experts to rule that Federal and State laws are barriers to trade. If we do not take action to comply with the WTO's ruling, other nations then can level punitive tariffs against us.

While many have glossed this over, Congress has already changed one law to avoid these sanctions. The WTO has cases pending against several State and Federal laws. In Florida, we require foreign agricultural producers who ship crops into our State to pay for inspections when their produce enters our ports. These inspections protect locally grown crops from exposure to foreign-based infestations, which could devastate a multibillion-dollar agricultural industry.

While the State law does not violate any Federal statute, it is currently being challenged in the WTO. I would urge my colleagues to take a close look at the WTO before voting on fast track. Protect our sovereignty and slow down fast track.

IRS REFORM

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder that the vast majority of Americans feel that nobody in Washington is on their side. Consider the IRS, as some speakers have already. For too long and for too many times, this agency has acted in an arrogant, heavy-handed fashion, running roughshod over hard-working taxpayers.

Fortunately, I believe Congress has listened to the American people and is now on the verge of passing a bill that will provide taxpayers with some much needed protections against the abuses of the IRS. This bill makes it easier for taxpayers to recover legal fees when the IRS is wrong. It allows taxpayers to sue the IRS for up to \$100,000 for negligent collection practices, and

most important, it shifts the burden of proof in court cases from a taxpayer to the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to stick up for the American people by standing up to the IRS. I urge my colleagues to support this important IRS reform.

INCONSISTENCY IN AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has never earned high marks for consistency. We do spend many hours debating the minor differences in the management of many centralized programs that are generally unwarranted. But when it comes to foreign policy, I see both sides of the aisle are eagerly agreeing with the President that we must threaten force and use of force in Iraq.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, there is no indication that this is a proper position. We have been told by the Ambassador to the United Nations that the reason we must threaten force in this area is that it is a direct threat to the security of the United Nations. Here all along I thought I was here in the Congress to protect the security of the United States.

We are inconsistent because the majority of Americans want us out of Bosnia. Most Members of Congress argue and vote to get us out of Bosnia. There is no indication that we are going to get out of Bosnia. Yet, here we are, chanting away that we should use force and threaten force in Bosnia. We do not have that same policy with China.

THE PRESIDENT JOINS REPUBLICANS IN ESSENTIAL IRS REFORM

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in response to the last speaker, I would point out that Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that, "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines."

I think President Clinton must have meditated on Emerson when he recently flip-flopped on reforming the Internal Revenue Service. Although the Clinton administration originally opposed IRS restructuring, the President wisely sacrificed consistency and jumped on the bandwagon of the IRS reform bill developed by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Building on the recommendation of the bipartisan Kerry-Portman Commission, this reform legislation would overhaul IRS management by placing the agency under an independent oversight board. It would expand taxpayer