

we have, but they have made a choice educationally which is paying great dividends in terms of being able to employ their work force in a foreign country.

We should not allow the situation to develop where we have to rely on foreign sources for the work force of the future because those foreign centers in the final analysis will take the know-how back to their own countries and increase the competition.

We may be on top of the heap now and consider ourselves invulnerable economically, but that is not the case. Let's declare a state of emergency and start thinking about the things with the greatest sense of urgency, and get away from the incremental approach where everybody in this capital that has some power has some idea of what should be done with education.

The Committee on Appropriations more and more writes education bills, taking the power away from the authorizing committee, because they have the power to do it, not the know-how. Many things proposed in the Committee on Appropriations are not harmful, they will do some good, but the whole idea of a scatter gun approach, that any man with power interested in education is able to impose his will on us because they can get the appropriate bill passed and an amount of money appropriated, that is the wrong approach to education reform.

We need a comprehensive approach where we understand that large amounts of resources are needed, and we must focus on what is most important and set some priorities.

I think the President, some people accused him last night of giving a laundry list not only of education programs, but other programs, I think he understands that laundry list has priorities. He understands some of the connections.

I am confident this President can deliver on his educational agenda, as well as the rest of his agenda. I have had a lot of calls from people asking me and people who are really concerned about the child care initiatives and the education agenda of the President. Those announcements have been going on for the last 10 days, announcements coming from the White House about new programs for child care, tax credits and more money for day care centers.

There are large numbers of people among my constituents that are very interested in the reality of those things, will he be able to deliver, and those questions, of course, have come in the last few days as a result of the problems that have come forward from the White House with respect to the President's personal life.

My answer to the constituents who want to know will we really get the child care initiative program implemented, does he have the ability to go forward and do this, where some people want the training, they finally think that people who want to go into the child care field can get some training

which allows them to qualify for a job which is a decent paying job and be in a position to be promoted, will it really happen? Will we get more money, so day care centers are not just for the very poorest people, but also for some working families that are not on welfare.

All these questions are being asked, and my answer to them is yes, this President can deliver, and he will deliver. I have seen nothing happen at the White House which says that he will not be able to deliver on the agenda which was laid out last night.

I answer some people by saying, look, Thomas Jefferson in his first year in office was confronted with a problem where they were trying to drive him out of office, accusations were made about his private life, and the press of that day had a drum beat going to try to get him out of office. But they did not succeed. Thomas Jefferson refused to even address their criticisms, to address their charges.

Thomas Jefferson kept his focus on what he was doing, and Thomas Jefferson delivered the Louisiana purchase, which doubled the size of the Nation at a very low price. Thomas Jefferson fathered the Lewis and Clark expedition. Thomas Jefferson restored certain liberties that the Federalists had carelessly begun to take away from people. His accomplishments were magnificent, despite the fact he was confronted with a major challenge on the basis of his personal life.

There is no reason to assume that this President cannot deliver because of the present challenges. There is no way to assume that he will not be around or be able to negotiate and to drive his program through to conclusion. I think it is very important to understand that.

I have been here 16 years. I was here when another government was set up in the basement of the White House. People have forgotten Irangate. They have forgotten that in the basement of the White House there was an operation running which was raising money, where money was being raised to fund the Contras in Nicaragua. Not only were they raising money, but they entered into a deal for Iran to buy arms, to let Iran buy arms from us, and use the money raised from that to fund the Contras. That was a government operating out of the basement of the White House, contrary to what Congress had already clearly stated in legislation they should not do.

This Nation survived that, and no President was impeached as a result of that, and that was far more serious than anything I have heard recently. I think it is important that we keep our focus on the things that are important to the American people.

Common sense dictates that the agenda set forth last night ought to be realized. We ought to allow the President the opportunity to deliver that to the American people. I think it can happen. At the heart of it, I think,

should be his educational initiative. At the heart of his educational initiative should be the school construction priority. We are going to hear more about this in the future. I do not intend to let it get lost again.

Last year we had a great start. The President mentioned in the first session of the 105th Congress a school construction initiative. Later on negotiations took place with the White House and the school construction initiative was taken off the table. We must not let that happen again. From start to finish, we must focus on the fact that if you care about children, if you want to improve American education, at the core of the improvement process has to be a massive school construction initiative in this Nation.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1213. An act to establish a National Ocean Council, a Commission on Ocean Policy, and for other purposes, and in addition, to the Committee(s) on Resources, Science, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. DEGETTE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for January 27 and today, on account of business in the district.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of a family emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KLINK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CAMPBELL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KASICH, for 5 minutes, today.