CHRISTOPHER SIMMONS TO RECEIVE SCOUT'S MEDAL OF HONOR

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor to praise the heroic action of 8-year-old Christopher Simmons of Mount Vernon, Illinois. On April 6 of last year, Christopher and his younger brother Michael were helping their neighbor with some yard work when out of nowhere, a 95-pound dog attacked young Michael. Instantly, Christopher's quick intuitions led him to save his younger brother's life from the vicious jaws of the male boxer. Had it not been for Christopher's selfless and chivalrous behavior, this life-threatening situation could have resulted in tragedy.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to announce today that Christopher will be presented the distinguished Scout's Medal of Honor. His heroism is worthy of much praise and serves as a model to the American people.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was hoping that we could deal with campaign finance reform this week. I come fresh from the campaign trail. Mine was a hard-fought race, too close to call even on the last day. That was just 3 weeks ago, and today I feel like a foot soldier come back from the frontlines to find that the generals do not seem to understand the battlefield.

Madam Speaker, in my race, so-called issue advocacy dominated the landscape. My opponent and I did not agree on much, but we were both dismayed at special interest outside groups with unlimited funds which interfered with our ability to communicate with voters on matters of concern to them.

These folks will be back this fall in every contested race, and they have said that eventually candidates will be incidental in congressional races. Madam Speaker, they are talking about me and all of my colleagues. We have the responsibility in this place to return the power of the elections to the citizens of our district. We must pass bilateral, bipartisan campaign finance reform such as the Shays-Meehan bill. Our credibility depends on it. We must do it now.

PRESIDENT OWES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE TRUTH

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, this whole presidential scandal is a sad, unfortunate situation, but it will not end until Bill Clinton comes forward and tells the American people the truth.

We have heard enough from the presidential political hit men and spin doctors. It is time for Mr. Clinton to come forward so that we can put this behind us and move forward.

Madam Speaker, the presidency belongs to the American people, not to one individual. Being President is more than a privilege, it is a profound responsibility, a sacred duty. The individual who sits in the White House is less important than the honor and integrity of the institution itself.

Mr. Clinton owes it to the American people, to the proud tradition of the presidency, and to the country to come forward and tell the truth so that we can return to the Nation's business. The truth.

ECONOMISTS' CLAIMS OF JOB AVAILABILITY BOGGLES THE MIND

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, economists say there are jobs everywhere. Check this out: messenger singer, press clipping cut-and-paster, sandwich signboard carrier, drive-in theater specialist, dust collector, pretzel twister, pantyhose crotch specialist.

Madam Speaker, I suggest there be a new job title called ''sleeper specialist,'' because it is evident even when these economists are working, they are sleeping on the job.

Madam Speaker, I would like to just yield back all the boxer shorts sorters and the brassiere cup molders.

Beam me up.

Madam Speaker, if these are jobs, I am a fashion leader.

UNFORTUNATE PASSAGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, yesterday the foreign affairs conference report was unfortunately passed without a recorded vote. For weeks, arms had been twisted because the votes were not available to pass it. This surprised some and pleased many who preferred not to be recorded on this crucial issue.

But, unfortunately, the process only adds to the cynicism that many Americans hold for the U.S. Congress. Nearly a billion dollars were appropriated for the controversial back dues to the United Nations, which for many of us was not owed.

It was argued by many right-to-life advocates that the bill was worth passing because the antiabortion language was stronger than ever and would now be codified. Unfortunately, the antiabortion language was weaker than ever with a convenient, huge loophole for the President to continue funding countries and groups that perform and promote abortion, language now to be codified.

Events surrounding the passage of the foreign affairs conference report occurring yesterday should not make any of us proud.

WHAT HAPPENED TO $250 MILLION?

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday the Republican majority brought together three committees, the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Resources, to hear the General Accounting Office and the Inspector General tell us that the Forest Service had lost and could not find $250 million.

Later today, the Republican majority will ask this Congress to give the Forest Service another $250 million to go back to the old, discredited policies that gave us this kind of devastation of our national forests: clear-cuts and ravages of riparian watersheds that will not be corrected, will not be brought back for decades and decades after they cut the logs.

Madam Speaker, we must stop the Smith forest bill because it is not about forest health, it is about a waste of the taxpayers' money and it is about devastation of our national environment, of our national forests. We should not give $250 million more to an agency that cannot account and cannot find and cannot tell us how they spent the $250 million we gave them last year.

CONGRESS SHOULD SPEND HIGHWAY TRUST FUNDS ON TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

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

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, next week we have a chance to give taxpayers some tax relief simply by spending their tax dollars the way they were supposed to be spent.

We are going to be dealing in the House with a highway bill that has the potential to take the highway trust fund off budget so that it can never again be used to mask the size of the deficit. In other words, this highway bill enable us to spend highway money to really help the infrastructure and the transportation needs of America.

If we are going to maintain a highway trust fund and collect tax revenues for it, then we should spend that money for transportation needs. If we can't do that, or won't do that, then we should eliminate the gas tax and the trust fund altogether.