

along with their argument that billions and billions of dollars of new spending they support does not raid Social Security.

Well, my friends on the other side of the aisle, which is it? Is spending on education, health care, welfare, and the environment a "raid" on the Social Security trust fund or not?

FAST TRACK IS NO LAUGHING MATTER

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today with a great deal of pride in what we have done as far as passing the tax package. But last night in this very Chamber when we considered something equally as important, the fast track authority, there were not the votes for it. Over 150 votes on the Republican side, less than 30 votes on the Democratic side, as I remember that tally.

Today, a leader on the Democratic side gets up and makes fun of that vote. Mr. Speaker, that is deadly serious to agriculture across this country. I am ashamed of that tongue-in-cheek remark being made in this House.

Where was the leader of this country? Raising money across the country in Illinois, in the West Coast, on the East Coast. Not here working to pass fast track. It is a disgrace for them to say this is a do-nothing Congress when it is they that are doing nothing.

A GOOD DAY'S WORK, INDEED

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, rural America is in a serious economic crisis. We have a price disaster and, for reasons beyond the producers' control, prices are at historically low levels today.

The House took historic action to bring relief to farmers and ranchers by reducing debt taxes, restoring income averaging, allowing deductions for health care, and refunds due to loss carryback provisions.

We have done it at the same time that we have made a commitment, an historic commitment, to save Social Security. Despite the opposition of our liberal friends on the other side, the group that keeps its promises has dedicated \$1.4 trillion of projected surplus to save Social Security and hard-working Americans will get a break.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good day's work, indeed.

BEACH CONTAMINATION

(Mr. BILBRAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, all over America, children and families went to beaches to enjoy summer. But in San Diego County, the children showed up to their beaches to find big contamination signs all over their community.

In the City of Imperial Beach where I grew up, my children were greeted with this sign. The EPA was outraged. The environmental community was outraged.

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You would say, why? Because the pollution that was closing American beaches came from Mexico. The pollution from Mexico continues to flow across the border.

The Sierra Club and Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, and the EPA refuse to be as outraged at American beaches being polluted by foreign people, foreign governments as they are if it would have been an American company.

I wish those who claim to want to protect the environment would be as much against pollution from other countries as they are from our own. I think that this desecration of the American community, the desecration of our beautiful beaches in Southern California has to stop.

I call on this administration and people who claim to care about the environment to stand up and be as outraged as those of us who showed up at the beaches to be greeted with this sign.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of our Congress today to continue the discussion in our RECORD on America's responsibility for the rights of all people across the world.

On this day and in this year, such a discussion seems appropriate. Today we mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document somewhat overdramatically labeled as the Magna Carta for all humanity. Still, despite the United Nations' own spotted record of tolerance for human rights abuses, this document should be marked and underlined.

The declaration echoes the cries of freedom that began in the west some

2700 years ago, among the ancient Greek ruling class. From the birth of Athenian democracy to the Magna Carta's promise of fairness through Thomas Jefferson's own Declaration of Independence, we in the west have separated ourselves from those civilizations who believed that the iron fist of oppressive order was preferable to a society based upon the premise that free men and women would create the strongest of all societies.

The West's experiment in freedom, which freed the ancient Greeks from the fear of Persian aggressors at the Battle of Marathon, sustained the "kids who saved the world" on the bloody beaches of Normandy in their battle over Hitler's Nazis, and who strengthened Nelson Mandela's resolve as he watched his life slowly pass away in prison protesting apartheid, must be defined today.

As Woodrow Wilson once said, I believe in democracy because it releases the energy of every human being.

As America leads this world into the 21st century, it must reaffirm the first principles that launched its winning ways at the battle of Lexington. The respect, the adoration and America's founders' near worship of man's freedom is not a weakness, it is our civilization's greatest strength. When we turn a blind eye to the Buddhists being oppressed in Tibet, we weaken ourselves. When we ignore Christian persecution in Sudan for the sake of a possible oil pipeline, we weaken ourselves. When we allow our allies, whether Salvadoran or Saudi, to torture political opponents, America becomes less than it once was. We must do better. We must see more, and we must say more.

Like our ancestors of freedom from ancient Athens, England, Normandy, and South Africa, that stepped out in faith for freedom, we must do what Frances Bacon once suggested. We must have the faith to pursue an unknown end. We must take the first step in China, Tibet, Sudan, the Middle East, Central America and all across the globe, as we reach into the 21st century, ensuring that the rights of all men and women are respected.

It is a daunting task. It is a marathon project, when we observe what has been happening in China, Sudan and across the globe. But an ancient Chinese saying goes like this: A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

Let us hope that this Congress, this community, this country, and this world is ready to take that first step for freedom into the next century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHUMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)