

save and invest for their future. Tax free home sales, three-year income averaging for farmers and death tax relief will also reduce the burdens on American families. We all know that they can spend the money a whole lot smarter than the Federal Government can.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Congress gave the American people more good news on taxes, voting to extend the R&D tax credit through 1999, accelerate the full deductibility of health care costs and extending the work opportunities tax credit. We still have much more to do but this is a great start. What a difference a Republican Congress has made.

LACK OF LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, this Congress lacks standing to criticize the President. This is a do-nothing Congress. Look what this Congress has accomplished under the Republican leadership. They have killed a national child care initiative. They have killed a Patients' Bill of Rights. They have killed the tobacco settlement, and they have killed campaign finance reform.

We Democrats are here today fighting for education, trying to salvage something out of a pathetic year. We want smaller class sizes for our kids. We want better school buildings in this country. We want higher education standards for this country. We have got to salvage something because every child in this country deserves a chance to be a productive citizen in this global economy.

The Republican leadership in this Congress cannot run a railroad. It is because they do not want the train to leave the station. And we Democrats are going to stay here fighting for education as long as it takes.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FACT AND OPINION

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between fact and opinion. I think any objective observer would look at the facts and agree with this conclusion: We have a part-time President and a full-time fund-raiser.

Just consider the facts: Yesterday the President's New York City fund-raiser was his 100th of the year, yesterday, the 100th fund-raiser of the year. Meanwhile he has had only two cabinet meetings. For those of us who have not had higher math, who were raised on whole math, rain forest math or other liberal nonsense, that works out to approximately one cabinet meeting for every 50 fund-raisers. Of course, we are not sure exactly how much important

business was discussed at those two cabinet meetings aside from denials, retractions and half apologies.

This Congress has put aside \$1.4 trillion for Social Security, passed a balanced budget, IRS reform and tax cuts, making it perhaps the most successful Congress in a generation. Meanwhile the part-time President allows Saddam Hussein to thumb his nose at us, North Korea to threaten its neighbors and a national missile defense system to remain on the shelf.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS IS COASTING

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, after doing half a job, this Congress for the past year has been coasting. Here we are, almost 15 days beyond, two weeks beyond the fiscal year and the budget matters are not being addressed. For these 10 months, bills and proposals that the President put on the table and the Democrats have been pushing on education and investing in people have been languishing. There has been no response.

The Republicans in Congress have said no!

The only Republicans Congress response is to pass some window dressing bills in terms of authorization, then to turn around and not even put the money into the appropriation bills that would fund those important education programs. I think it is time to offer real money for school to put the dollars behind the rhetoric in school construction, to offer more than just duck tape and lip service to deal with the worn out facilities that our children are supposed to be taught with in and learning. I think it is time to put teachers in the classroom and provide smaller class size, the type of quality assistance that our children need today more than ever.

This generation deserves the same investment that past generations had and that others in this country had. Our children are our future. Education is the ticket to success and opportunity in our democracy. Let us vote for these education programs and initiatives.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Matthew Shepard a 21-year-old student in Wyoming is dead, brutally murdered by those who for one reason or another did not like him. The perpetrators need to be punished swiftly, thoroughly and appropriately, namely, the death penalty.

Wyoming is trying to do its job. Let us here in the Congress let Wyoming do

its job. Wyoming provides for the death penalty in cases such as this. Yet there are those who are clamoring for Federal legislation to "increase penalties for such crimes." One really wonders what would be an increased penalty over the death penalty. I would be interested to see. It may very well violate the constitutional ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

Let us not rush to judgment and pass vastly expansive Federal legislation such as that which came before the Subcommittee on Crime earlier this year which included terms which would provide the basis for Federal jurisdiction which were nowhere defined in Federal law. Passing legislation as a knee jerk reaction to an awful incident is not the best way to govern. We need to resist the urge, let Wyoming and the other States do their jobs.

VIAGRA

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, pardon me, but today I rise because I am outraged by a New York Times report that the Department of Defense has requested between \$50 and \$100 million for Viagra, the new sex drug designed for impotent men. Instead of offsetting this request from its \$26 billion budget, Secretary Cohen has requested an increase in the 1999 military readiness bill. When the military brass were on Capitol Hill saying that our reasonable belt tightening had resulted in an impotent military, I guess I did not fully understand the scope of the problem.

With \$50 million worth of Viagra, the entire military industrial complex will be locked, cocked and ready to rock. Pretty scary.

Mr. Speaker, they just do not get it, with Monica-gate, the Aberdeen Proving Ground sex scandal and widespread sexual assaults throughout the military, our Commander-in-Chief and his Secretary of Defense concocted this idea that our military needs this extra expenditure. Let us have no more talk of this expanding malfunctioning missile salvation operation.

MATTHEW SHEPARD

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, the senseless and tragic death of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming, following by only a few months on the heels of an equally tragic murder in Jasper, Texas, reminds us of how imperfect are our efforts to eradicate violence, hatred and bigotry in our society. By all accounts, Matthew Shepard was a gentle young man, liked by all who knew him, an unlikely person to incite such mindless and brutal violence in others.

How then does this occur? How do individuals get it fixed in their heads