

I think we should be putting more money into classrooms in this country, not into bureaucracies in Washington, not into bureaucracies in State capitals, not into bureaucracies at the local level.

The administration's proposal puts money into classrooms to reduce class size. I have got two kids in kindergarten. I want them to have smaller classes. I want children throughout this country to have smaller classes because that is how they are going to get a better education. That is what is going to allow us to compete better in the future with countries throughout the world.

We are headed in the right direction when we are talking about education and when we are putting resources into education because there is no better investment than investing in our children.

STAY AND WORK FOR EDUCATION

(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, let me say that I believe one of the most important issues that we have to be concerned about is the education of our children.

As I am pointing out to my colleagues and the Speaker, let me emphasize the accomplishments of this Congress, a Republican Congress. I think the most important point is the least number of days worked in decades.

If we had children in school and they sent home a report card or the teacher called us and said that Johnny or Mary had not been in school for 5 days or 1 month or they had not been in school since they got out of kindergarten, and it was now the third grade, we would be concerned.

I am glad to be here because the district I represent has schools that are crumbling. It has wires that are hanging down. I need the money, as do rural areas need the money, from organizations. I need the hundred thousand teachers. I need trained teachers for the children of America. Let us stay here and work and work for education.

FROM DEFICIT TO SURPLUS WITH THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it is funny how the other side has such stunning lapses of memory. Whenever a number of Ivy League law school graduates appear before the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight or other congressional committees or courts of law, I find suddenly their brilliance evaporates, and they have a hard time remembering where they were yesterday.

The other side has completely forgotten that the government went from running \$200 billion a year deficits to a \$70 billion a year budget surplus.

Is there anyone who seriously thinks that welfare reform would have passed had it not been for the Republican majority elected to Congress and taking the oath in 1995? Is there anyone who seriously thinks the President would have been forced to accept the Republican balanced budget proposal of 1996 had it not been for that majority? Maybe they have just forgotten.

Here is another example. This is the stock market in 1993, and this is when it took off in 1995. That is a reflection of the American economy, a chart that does not lie. We will never see it from the other side, I gather, but I think it is pretty obvious why.

INVEST IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that, as education goes, so goes America. As education goes, so goes America. We are here in the last days of this Congress to try to build on bipartisan support for increasing local control, but also having Federal, State, local partnerships to address the dire need to invest in our education system.

One area that is so important, as a parent of three children, is to make sure that we reduce the class size. Would we rather have our teachers teaching 25 children or 18 children? That is a huge difference. That is local control, but it is a critically important partnership with our Federal local government.

We also need after-school programs to reduce crime and drugs. We are doing that in places like Elkhart, Indiana. But we need more support. Let us invest and work in supporting our education system in this country

FUND-RAISING GETTING IN THE WAY OF PASSING BUDGET

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me congratulate the President on his 100th fund-raiser. That is a quite a milestone for a guy who has only had time for two cabinet meetings this year.

This year, most of the money is American money, a novel concept. I understand that Chinese money has kind of been discouraged. Big step for the DCCC and the Democrat party. I congratulate him on that.

But it would be nice to think, why not try to get the cabinet meetings up to 5 this year. One hundred fund-raisers; five cabinet meetings. I do not know. He might want to talk about

Bosnia, health care education, jobs, taxes, who knows.

This week, Congress worked. We worked Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and of course Tuesday, and we will be working until we get the budget passed. Why? Because we have a great provision in there to put more dollars into the classroom for the school kids of America.

Why? Because there is a farm disaster, \$700 million in the State of Georgia alone. The President has vetoed the bill. No cabinet meeting on that, too. But, then again, who needs the cabinet member from the USDA.

Then of course we have Social Security, a Republican plan to petition and wall off \$1.4 trillion dollars so it cannot be used for general funds. All these are important, all these are working over the weekends. I hope the President will consider skipping one fund-raiser to help us out.

FUND EDUCATION

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my colleague who just spoke must be working in a different Congress than I am working in. There were three votes on Saturday, no votes on Sunday, two or three votes yesterday, and he says we are working.

We ought to be here trying to do something about education, and, instead, the Republicans are trying to get out of town and go home.

The education issue has been on the table all this year, ever since the President made his State of the Union address. They want to go home. They have not dealt with it.

This is an issue that every single American understands. Every single American understands it. If we reduce the ratio of students to teachers, reduce that ratio, each single student gets more attention. Each single student gets more reading time. Each single student gets to relate to the teacher in a way that they can learn, and that is what this is all about. Let us fund education, and then we can go home.

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AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP ACT

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to vote for an increased opportunity for home ownership for all Americans. I am very thrilled about this bill. The credit for this really goes to our colleague from New York (Mr. LAZIO) but I was pleased to be part of it.

I just wanted to draw my colleagues' attention to the fact that we have in