

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, that, by the way, is about 2½ million American families which are no longer in welfare in the last 3 years.

Mr. KINGSTON. Which are very significant. That is not just measured in tax dollar savings, that is measured in people who are happy, who are independent, greater self-esteem, greater satisfaction, because they went out and found a job, and working they are working their way up the ladder.

Finally, this Congress has cut taxes for the first time in 16 years, which we believe the American people are overburdened, and they need to hold as much as their own money that they earn as possible.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for helping with the special order tonight to shine light on what has, I think, historians will record as one of the most productive Congresses in recent memory.

We have managed to balance the budget ahead of schedule. We have managed to turn the authority out of Washington and back toward the States and cut taxes for the first time in 16 years.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 589, I hereby give notice that the following suspensions will be considered tomorrow, Thursday, October 15, 1998:

H. Res. 597, expressing the sense of the House with respect to the Brutal killing of Mr. Matthew Shepard;

H.R. 4829, authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Historic Site to the Archivist of the United States;

H.R. 1467, a bill to provide for the continuance of oil and gas operations pursuant to certain existing leases in the Wayne National Forest;

H.R. 700, to remove the restriction on the distribution of certain revenues from the Mineral Springs parcel to certain members of the Agua Caliente and of Cahuilla Indians;

S. 2500, to protect the sanctity of contracts and leases entered in to by surface patent holders with respect to coalbed methane gas;

S. 2272, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act;

S. 2133, to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance;

House concurrent resolution, correction in enrollment to H.R. 3910;

H.R. 3972, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from

charging State and local government agencies for certain uses of the sand, gravel, and shell resources of the outer Continental Shelf;

S. 1132, Bandelier National Monument Administrative Improvement and Watershed Protection Act;

And H. Res. 598, Steel Import Resolution.

CLARIFICATION OF ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here this evening to clarify some of the issues that we have been working on. I was just in my office when my good friend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BOB SCHAFFER) were speaking.

I was working with my staff on some of the key educational issues, and I heard some of the comments. I thought, well, I better get down to that floor and clarify some of these issues.

Yesterday, I was in Maryland with the President of the United States, with leaders in the House and leaders in the Senate, and we had an opportunity to visit a school which has wonderful children, a great principal. We met the superintendent. We were there with the Governor of Maryland.

We talked to some of the teachers. We talked to the students. They are working so hard to give those children the very best education they could. Yet, I was shocked to see three or four trailers outside in which the children were learning.

This is the United States of America. This is not a Third World Nation. In a middle class community in Maryland, the children were forced to have classes in trailers because the community was not able to get school construction bond issues through their local communities.

I have worked on the issue of school modernization a long time and let me tell my colleagues why. A couple of years ago, I did a survey of the schools in the metropolitan New York region, and I was shocked.

I grew up in Bronx, New York. I raised my children in Queens. Now I live in Westchester County. So I am very interested in what is happening in the entire metropolitan region.

In this survey, it showed that one out of four, one out of four schools have children learning in classrooms that were meant to be locker rooms, meant to be bathrooms. This in the United States of America.

Two-thirds of these schools have boilers, have roofs, have other areas that have to be fixed. Around the country, there is \$112 billion worth of improvements that have to be made in these schools.

A couple years ago, CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN in the Senate and I introduced a

bill. We introduced it again with our good friend the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) that would do something about this problem. I do not think we should be talking about liberals, conservatives, right wing, left wing.

I am a mother. In fact, I am a grandmother. I bet Jillie is watching this program. Because we want to be sure that our youngsters, like my grandchildren, are going to go to schools that are going to give them the best education they could get.

I am shocked to think that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would say only bureaucracies want to do this. Let me make it very clear what the school modernization proposal that our President is talking about and has been so forceful about, what our leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), is talking about, what TOM DASCHLE in the Senate is talking about, this is a proposal that allows local communities to make the decision. The Federal Government's role is to pay the interest on those bonds. But it is the local community that has to float the bonds.

Do my colleagues know what? My good friends on the other side of the aisle are talking about cutting taxes. What this proposal will do is help lower property taxes, because unless the Federal Government is a partner with local school districts, the local school districts will have to assume this burden.

Just a couple of weeks ago, I toured a school in my district in Westchester County. This district has about \$8 million in repairs. They cannot go out with a bond issue of \$8 million because this middle class community has so many responsibilities that it will be voted down. So they go out with bond issues of \$35,000 and \$45,000.

My colleagues and I know when we have repairs in the House, whether we are fixing a bathroom or some leaky pipes, if we go out piecemeal, we do not get as good a price as if we put it all together.

So by the Federal Government paying the interest, giving a tax credit to these bonds, and the local government going out and floating these bonds, the Federal Government is not making the decision. So all this talk about bureaucracies is kind of a joke. It is the local communities that make a difference.

My friends and all of the good people, the hardworking people who are watching us tonight have to understand that there is a real difference in views about school modernization. My colleagues, my friends on the other side of the aisle and I would love this to be a bipartisan issue, because, again, this is the United States of America. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not feel that the Federal Government should be a partner in modernizing our schools. The Democrats on this side of the aisle feel strongly, passionately that the Federal Government has