

This is when the child crusaders came together, without hesitation, launching into action, combing 50 States, searching among thousands of people. In the end, all 5,172 children were brought home. After hundreds of hours of manpower, success occurred because of the dogged determination of the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children.

Through the tenacious work of peace officers and the tireless efforts of the U.S. Postal Service and thousands of nameless citizen volunteers, children were united with their parents. Yesterday, I was with the President at the White House when the First Lady honored these valid heroes, demonstrating the face of tragedy is best met by strong hearts and iron wills, and people just taking care of people.

And that's just the way it is.

HOUSE GOP IGNORES THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF AMERICA'S WORKING CLASS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, having come to Congress in this 109th, I am come to the conclusion that it is not good for any party to have complete power here in Washington. It creates a hubris that then, I think, does immense damage to the Nation. Over the last 6 years, we have seen the control of Congress and the White House by Republicans; and for whatever reason, it appears that the economic direction that we have taken in the country is in favor of the upper class, and the benefits are supposed to trickle down.

Mr. Speaker, there is a tsunami of frustration rolling across America. People are hurt. The average family is now paying \$1,200 more a year for health insurance. College tuition has jumped 40 percent and gas prices have doubled. Housing is the least affordable in the last 14 years. A tsunami of frustration is rolling across America.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can do better.

PROBLEMS WITH SENATE IMMIGRATION APPROACH

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the Senate's amnesty plan. Their bill is fundamentally unfair as it benefits only those who came to this country by breaking our laws. No illegal alien is left behind by this bill, because it gives aliens in-state tuition rates at colleges.

Further, the Senate bill would allow 217 million new immigrants to come here over the next 20 years. That is two-thirds of our current population. Some of my constituents have been

sending me bricks suggesting that they go toward building the wall on our southern border.

When constituents have to step in to help send bricks to Congress, obviously they feel very strongly about the immigration issue. Actually, Americans should start sending bricks over to the Senate, and I hope that they do. However, the problem is they probably will not mail them. They will be throwing them at the Senate.

DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the House is back in session for yet another week. The sad fact is that this House has only been in session 43 days this year; but once again, the Republican majority refuses to schedule any meaningful legislation to address our Nation's energy crisis. So that is why we call this the do-nothing Congress.

The Republican Party's cosy relationship with Big Oil is causing pain for the American consumer and jeopardizing our national security. Last year, Big Oil recorded record profits, thanks partly to billions in tax breaks that Republicans rewarded their friends last year. Yet, House Republicans remain defiant in their opposition to repealing the \$8 billion in tax breaks they have given to their friends in the oil industry.

Mr. Speaker, this is really a question of fairness. Why should oil companies continue to receive giant tax breaks from the Federal Government when they are recording record profits. Democrats want to repeal these unnecessary subsidies so we can provide consumers with some relief.

WAR SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our Speaker and the majority leader for taking a fiscally responsible stance on the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and the Global War on Terror. Our leaders pledged that this House would reject an emergency supplemental spending package that exceeded the amount requested by the President, and this was absolutely the right stand to take.

I am sure there are folks who could argue the merits of the additional funding proposed by the Senate, but we should debate those merits at another time. This war supplemental spending is for emergency spending for the war on terror. It should not be used as a free-for-all for nonemergency spending that should be debated in our yearly budget and appropriations process.

I am very pleased that the House and Senate reached an agreement on this supplemental package that eliminated

the \$14 billion in additional funding that had been added by the Senate. This action proved that this Congress is committed to fiscal discipline.

The conference report now accomplishes its original goal by providing \$65.8 billion in funding for our troops so that they have the equipment and resources they need to win the war on terror.

DEMOCRATS FIGHTING TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITY TO ALL

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, the American people want Congress to focus on their priorities, and that is exactly what the House Democrats are doing. We are fighting to expand opportunity to all Americans, not just a privileged few.

At a time when the average college student graduates with more than \$17,000 in debt, Democrats want to expand the opportunities available to them by cutting the interest rates on their college loans, not increasing them, like the Republicans are doing.

At a time when wages remain stagnant for most Americans, Democrats continue to fight to raise the minimum wage because we want a fair and working wage. By increasing the minimum wage, we would not only expand opportunity for 7 million workers, but we would also increase wages for middle-class workers who have not seen a substantial pay raise in over 5 years.

At a time when high-paying jobs are going overseas, Democrats have an innovation agenda for science, engineering, information technology.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that this House really got to work.

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SCHOOL SAFETY ACT

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider the School Safety Act authored by Congressman PORTER of Nevada. This bipartisan legislation will help make every classroom in America safer.

Recently, Michigan officials found that while the schools check their own State criminal records before hiring a coach or a teacher, 2,500 felons were still hired by Michigan's schools because they had out-of-state arrest records.

In 1998, President Clinton authorized States to share arrest records in compacts, and 25 States have done this but 25 have not, including Illinois.

John Porter's bill will link the criminal records for all 50 States. It will give school boards the tools they need to prevent a felon with an in-state or out-of-state arrest record from being put in charge of a classroom or team.