Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, among the highest priorities for America's families and America's parents is a good education for their children and the ability of their local schools to be able to deliver world class standards in world class education for our young people and, at the same time, to make sure that today's students go to school in a safe environment and a drug-free environment.

Unfortunately, under the current funding plan proposed by the Republicans we see funding for safe and drug-free schools cut by 25 percent, funding for title I that for the first time is bringing the advances in technology and teacher improvements to economically disadvantaged schools cut by 17 percent, Goals 2000 that allows the Governors of States to implement world class standards in reading and mathematics and critical thinking in the sciences for the first time so that young people can compete against the best the world has to offer to keep America's economy strong; we see these programs slashed in this funding resolution. Hopefully on March 15 we will reverse that trend and restore aid to education.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH AS OPPOSED TO INSTABILITY THROUGH WEAKNESS

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, Presidents Bush and Reagan brought down the Berlin Wall with a defense policy that was called peace through strength. They built up our military, rebuilt declining forces, and they forced the Soviet Union to the bargaining table, and they, by doing that, brought stability to the world.

Mr. Speaker, despite President Clinton's own Joint Chiefs of Staff recommending that he spend more money on defense to give the right kind of equipment to these young troops that he is deploying all over the world, he has refused to do that. His new defense budget has come down. It drastically cuts the new equipment that his own people recommended he give to his troops, and this President apparently follows a policy of instability through weakness.

TAX RELIEF FOR UNITED STATES TROOPS IN BOSNIA.

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2778, tax relief for United States troops in Bosnia. We have before us today a piece of legislation that really is an excellent piece of legislation. It shows that we can in fact work in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, as men and women struggle to bring peace to a region that has seen more than its fair share of horror and tragedy in Bosnia, we have decided that it is very timely at this time of year, before April, to address the concerns of our men and women in Bosnia and their tax situation, and what we have done is make it easier for men and women in Bosnia to file their income tax returns and have their combat pay exempt from taxation.

Also, it was realized that officers in the area had a cap on their compensation that could not end. As a result, only a part of it could be tax free.

I am pleased that the Committee on Ways and Means was able to report this important legislation in a bipartisan manner, and I also am pleased that we are able to relieve our men and women in Bosnia from the worries that all of the rest of us across the United States have concerning getting ready to pay our taxes to the United States Government.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS) laid before the House a communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 27, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L (50) of the Rules of the House that a member of my staff has been served with a subpoena issued by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, Maryland. This subpoena relates to her employment by former Representative Kweisi Mfume.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which a vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after the debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

SPECIAL TAX TREATMENT FOR UNITED STATES TROOPS IN BOSNIA

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2778) to provide that members of the Armed Forces performing services for the peacekeeping effort in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be entitled to certain tax benefits in the same manner as if such services were performed in a combat zone, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2778

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS PERFORMING SERVICES IN CERTAIN HAZARDOUS DUTY AREAS.

(a) GENERAL RULE.—For purposes of the following provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a qualified hazardous duty area shall be treated in the same manner as if it were a combat zone (as determined under section 112 of such Code):

(1) Section 2(a)(3) (relating to special rule where deceased spouse was in missing status).

(2) Section 112 (relating to the exclusion of certain combat pay of members of the Armed Forces).

(3) Section 692 (relating to income taxes of members of Armed Forces on death).

(4) Section 2201 (relating to members of the Armed Forces dying in combat zone or by reason of combat-zone-incurred wounds, etc.).

(5) Section 3401(a)(1) (defining wages relating to combat pay for members of the Armed Forces).

(6) Section 4253(d) (relating to the taxation of phone service originating from a combat zone from members of the Armed Forces).

(7) Section 6013(f)(1) (relating to join return where individual is in missing status).

(8) Section 7508 (relating to time for performing certain acts postponed by reason of service in combat zone).

(b) QUALIFIED HAZARDOUS DUTY AREA.—For purposes of this section, the term ''qualified hazardous duty area'' means Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, or Macedonia, if as of the date of the enactment of this section any member of the Armed Forces of the United States is entitled to special pay under section 310 of title 37, United States Code (relating to special pay; duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger) for services performed in such country. Such term includes any such country only during the period such entitlement is in effect. Solely for purposes of applying section 7508 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the case of an individual who is performing services as part of Operation Joint Endeavor outside the United States while deployed away from such individual's permanent duty station, the term ''qualified hazardous duty area'' includes, during the period for which such entitlement is in effect, any area in which such services are performed.

(c) EXCLUSION OF COMBAT PAY FROM WITHHOLDING LIMITED TO AMOUNT EXCLUDABLE FROM GROSS INCOME.—Paragraph (1) of section 3401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (defining wages) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''to the extent remuneration for such service is excludable from gross income under such section''.

(d) INCREASE IN COMBAT PAY EXCLUSION FOR OFFICERS TO HIGHEST AMOUNT APPLICABLE TO ENLISTED PERSONNEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 112 of such Code (relating to commissioned officers) is amended by striking ''$500'' and inserting ''the maximum enlisted amount''.

(2) MAXIMUM ENLISTED AMOUNT.—Subsection (c) of section 112 of such Code (relating to definitions) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) The term 'maximum enlisted amount' means, for any month, the sum of—