The bottom line is the President thinks it is more important to shut the Government down than provide relief for those who suffered from a disaster.

Mr. Speaker, the President wants to shut the Government down.

AMERICA NEEDS HIGH EDUCATION STANDARDS

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, America needs high education standards, and I rise today to urge my colleagues to sign on to my resolution in support of educational standards of excellence.

This simple resolution is a commonsense approach to improving education in this country. As a former State superintendent of my State's public schools, I know firsthand that setting high standards and equipping our students and teachers with the tools they need to meet those standards is the best way to assure quality education in our schools for all of our children. This Congress must take aggressive action to provide leadership that is needed to raise educational standards.

Yesterday, I received a letter of support from the Council of Chief State School Officers, which represents the educational policy leadership in each of the 50 States in this country. This letter reads in part:

> The Council * * * is pleased to support your resolution urging States to adopt challenging academic standards and tests to measure student achievement.

Later this week I will introduce my bill, and I urge my colleagues to join with the chief State school officers in each State in support of the educational standards resolution.

BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT PUTS MORE MONEY IN POCKETS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing from my liberal friends who are outraged that Congress is trying to cut taxes. They look at Washington and they know that Congress is trying to balance the budget and they simply cannot understand why Republicans are calling for tax cuts.

Well, Mr. Speaker, should Congress balance the budget first and then cut taxes? The answer is no. To say that we cannot balance the budget and cut taxes is to forget what that assumes. It assumes that Washington cannot cut spending more. It assumes that Washington should continue to take much of your money while it is waiting to get its act together. It assumes that Washington should do the wrong thing for just a few more years while it is waiting to put its financial house in order.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, this is exactly the kind of thinking that got us in this trouble in the first place. The balanced budget agreement gets it right and puts more money in the pockets of American families.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL: A BAD BILL GETS WORSE

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the reviews of the Republican tax bill are pouring in. A bad bill gets worse. A favor-the-rich tax plan. Loophole-filled tax cuts are an economic time bomb.

What we are now seeing is, after people have a chance to review the Republican tax bill, they now understand that over 60 percent of the tax cuts go to people in the top 5 percent of income in America. And corporations over time would again go back to paying no taxes at all for the privileges that American society extends to them.

And how do they pay for these exploding tax cuts that will make the deficit worse? They want to take people who are eligible for Medicare at 65 and make them eligible at 67. That means millions of workers who retire or are laid off at their jobs at 58, 59, 60-years-old, will have to wait 7 years to have health care coverage. They want to take poor elderly women, who have the smallest pensions, and tell them they will not pay for their Medicare, and they want to penalize families that put their children into day care and not give them the tax cuts.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LAWSUIT AGAINST DOE REGARDING NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to dispel a myth and share with my colleagues the truth about a lawsuit against the Department of Energy regarding nuclear waste. Many falsely claim that it forced DOD to accept this garbage by January 31, 1998.

However, the Department of Energy advised its contract holders that it anticipated that it will be unable to begin acceptance of spent nuclear fuel for disposal by January 31, 1998. The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management contends that the delay in disposing of the contract holders' spent fuel is an unavoidable delay and, according to DOE, is not liable for failure to perform under the terms of the contract.

The contract states that neither the Government nor the contract holder shall be liable for damages caused by failure to perform its obligations, if such failure arises out of causes beyond control and without fault or negligence of the party.

Now that the truth has been told, there is no legal obligation by DOE to accept nuclear waste by January 31, 1998. We should not let false information or tactics scare us. Vote ''no'' on 1270.

PROPOSED EPA OZONE AND PARTICULATE MATTER STANDARDS

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments, America's air quality has improved and those improvements are continuing. Yet after industries have expended billions of dollars, and even before the improvements that will result have been fully realized, America's economy faces additional regulation.

Mr. Speaker, now is not the time to burden America's economy further. An example is an industry that provides employment to nearly 9,000 men and women in the Fifth District of Virginia. Over a year and a half period, the wood furniture and related industries engaged in a negotiated rulemaking with the EPA, the American Lung Association, the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund, and others.

The rulemaking resulted in an agreement that would cost the industry an estimated half billion dollars and would substantially reduce smog-causing emissions and title 3 pollutants. Mr. Speaker, the agency called this process a credit to industry, environmental and governmental cooperation. But almost before the ink was dry, the agency was back proposing more burdensome regulations that their own scientific advisory committee cannot agree will have significant health and environmental benefits.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there are many of us here who are willing to work for standards based on quality science and health and environmental benefits—but not these regulations and not at this time.

NO TAXATION WITHOUT RESPIRATION

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

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, Washington is confiscating the American dream. Family farmers and small business owners work their entire lives to earn a living and build a farm or a business they and their children can be proud of. Then, at the moment of greatest family grieving, when the owner dies, the IRS steps in to take up to 55 percent of that farm or that business. The IRS calls this the estate tax. This is a death tax. It is a tax for dying.

The farmer and the businessperson have paid income taxes, self-employment taxes, property taxes, and school taxes. After all that, Washington wants

to take up to 55 percent more just because the owner died; no other reason.

□ 1015

Death and taxes may be inevitable, but they do not have to happen at the same time. It is time for Members of this body to realize that we should have no taxation without respiration.

ENACT FLOOD RELIEF TODAY

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today many inside the Washington Beltway are gleefully calculating who is winning and who is losing in the disastrous supplemental debate. Is it Congress that has lost because they failed to timely pass a bill? Is it the President who has lost because he vetoed the bill with the extraneous riders?

I will tell my colleagues who has lost. The people of Grand Forks, ND, without homes that have been devastated by the flood; they are the real victims. But I actually think it goes beyond that. When the American people see a disaster that Congress cannot respond to, I think they feel less confidence in their Government, and everyone loses.

We had a wonderful bipartisan effort in building a responsive relief bill. I hope today represents the day when this bipartisanship will again reemerge in this body and will actually get the bill enacted. Legislation does nothing to help people without enactment.

It is time to put partisan differences aside, pull together, and get the job done. People are hurting very, very badly and they desperately need the flood relief. Let us enact it today.

MONMOUTH COUNTY, NJ, A FINE PLACE TO LIVE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to acknowledge Monmouth County, NJ, one of the five counties that make up my congressional district. Monmouth County has been recognized by Money magazine as the third best place to live in America. According to the magazine, ''For people who like to live near but not in big cities, there may be no better locale.''

The low crime rate, beautiful and scenic area, and deep sense of community may have gone previously unnoticed by Money, but it has been no secret to us in New Jersey. Monmouth County consists of 53 towns that serve as a model of what many towns strive to be and of what many people look for in a community. For many people, Monmouth County is a place to settle down, raise a family, and relish in the American dream come true.

I congratulate the people of Monmouth County on their distinguished achievement. I truly am honored today to have so many of the communities of Monmouth County as part of my congressional district of New Jersey.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH: ALL-AMERICAN CITY

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

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the city of St. Joseph, MO, for earning the All-American award from the National Civic League. St. Joseph is a city rich in history. The wagon trains that opened the West departed from St. Joseph. Gold rushers crowded its streets on the way to California, and it was from St. Joseph that an icon of western adventure, the Pony Express rider, began his journey and a favorite of western lore, Jesse James, ended his.

This award recognizes St. Joseph for its civic accomplishments. The Neighborhood Partnership Revitalization Effort, the Healthy Communities Quality of Life Program, and the city's historic and heroic recovery efforts after the devastating 1993 flood have earned St. Joseph this distinction. St. Joseph residents have always known how special their community is. Now the rest of the world knows.

SAMPLEMATICS

(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, to understand why the President vetoed the disaster bill, thus denying many of the victims the needed relief, we have to understand samplematics. Sample matics is yet another Democrat attempt to redo mathematics as we know it.

It works like this. Let us look at traditional math. The traditional math will tell us, if we have 10 people in this House, 5 in this House, and 10 in this House, we would have a total of 25 people. Correct? Similar Math 101, no big problem.

Samplematics, according to the Democrats, if we have 10 people in this building, we count 10; 5 in this one, we count 5. The third building, we take a lunch break, so we just say, well, that building might have 50 people in it; and, therefore, we come up with 65.

Even though the Constitution, even though the law says we have to count people in a census head by head, what the Democrats want to do is give census the day off and say, estimate when you feel like it. That is samplematics. That is why the President of the United States canceled disaster relief, and that is why we in Congress have to send him a message to quit playing games and give the people the relief they need.

PASS DISASTER RELIEF

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last night House Democrats joined our colleagues from the other body in an all-night vigil to protest the majority party's failure to pass disaster relief legislation. I think the public has some idea of the incomprehensibility of my Republican colleagues' view of this piece of legislation. They just do not get it.

We worked through the night to send a simple message to our Republican colleagues: Democrats are serious about disaster relief, and we are willing to work around the clock if necessary to do that to get the job done. There are thousands of families in the Midwest. They are desperately waiting for Federal assistance so that they can begin to rebuild their lives again. Families in Minnesota, the Dakotas and in over 30 States across this country are waiting for these disaster relief funds. It is a disgrace that the majority party has chosen to load the bill up with extraneous provisions. They know it. They have acknowledged it.

The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH], the Speaker, has said this is a bill to embarrass the President of the United States. This debate, these issues ought to be debated another time. Pass the disaster relief bill. Help people in the United States make their way.

A BALANCED BUDGET AND PAYING OFF THE FEDERAL DEBT

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning and I would like to use my 1 minute to provide a positive vision for the future of this great country that we live in. The first part of that vision would include the Republican-led Congress working with their counterparts on the other side of the aisle to fulfill our promises of 1995.

We promised the American people a balanced budget so our children could look forward to living the American dream in this great country. But the promise cannot end there and the vision cannot end there. After we get to a balanced budget, we still have a $5 trillion debt, which means our families are paying $500 a month to do nothing but pay the interest on that debt.

So this vision, it needs to be bigger than just balancing the budget, it needs to go to the point of paying off that Federal debt so our families no longer need to send $500 a month to Washington; they can keep it in their own households instead. When we pay down that debt, the money goes back into the Social Security trust fund as well so our seniors can rest assured the money is there.