So I rise this morning to bring our vision for the future of this great country to the American people. Our vision includes a balanced budget, fulfilling our promises of 1995, and it also includes paying off the Federal debt so that our families do not have to send $500 a month to Washington and our seniors can rest assured with Social Security.

NEW CLEAN AIR STANDARDS ARE MISGUIDED

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

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, EPA is moving forward with new clean air standards that are, at best, misguided.

How can Administrator Browner say that we know all there is to know about particulate matter when EPA has identified it as one of its six high-priority research topics because of a high degree of uncertainty about the size and composition of the particles that may be responsible for adverse health effects.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent my whole life in Pittsburgh, and people there value clean air as much as anyone. We have a State implementation plan in place right now, and the air keeps getting cleaner. With new standards, the air will not get cleaner, as new regulatory deadlines will supersede existing ones.

With the stakeholder process, our community has come together to examine how to meet our air quality needs. I would note that, after participating in this rigorous process, the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Lung Association, despite threats from the national organization, opposes the new standards.

If anyone at EPA believes that implementing these standards will not have any economic impact, I invite them to walk with me in the Mon Valley section of Pittsburgh and explain to those people where those industries have gone.

PRESIDENT CLINTON REVOKES REAGAN PRO-FAMILY ORDER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we have just got to wonder what they are thinking about sometimes down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. What is the President up to now?

Well, here is a quote from a recent Washington Times article:

> In a single sentence, President Clinton last month quietly revoked an executive order issued by President Reagan that required that all Federal policies be assessed as helpful or harmful to families.

Now, President Reagan's 1987 order was issued so that any new Federal policy would take into account its effects on American families. Now that sounds pretty reasonable to me. Apparently, President Clinton feels otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, President Reagan's executive order was issued to protect American families from intrusive and overreaching government bureaucrats. By revoking that commonsense order, President Clinton clearly showed us all where his loyalties lie.

The score: Big Government 1, American families 0.

SAY NO TO MFN FOR CHINA

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the House passed an amendment that I offered yesterday demanding that Ngawang Choephel, a young Tibetan who studied music at Middlebury College in Vermont, be released immediately from a Chinese jail where he is being held on trumped up charges.

Unfortunately, however, Ngawang Choephel is not alone as a political prisoner in China. In fact, there are large numbers of them. According to the U.S. State Department's own human rights report released earlier this year:

> All public dissent against the party and government was effectively silenced by intimidation, exile, and the imposition of prison terms. No dissidents were known to be active at year's end.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should not be supporting most-favored-nation status with China when that country has absolutely no respect for civil liberties. Congress should not be supporting most-favored-nation status with China when we have a $39 billion trade deficit with them and when corporate America is throwing American workers out on the street as they move factories to China and hire workers there for 20 or 30 cents an hour.

Let us say yes to the freedom of Ngawang Choephel and no to MFN with China.

FLOOD RELIEF

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise out of frustration today about what is happening with the flood relief money for northwestern Minnesota and the Dakotas. But I am mostly frustrated with some of the rhetoric, and I am very disappointed with the some of my colleagues for trying to turn this into a partisan political issue.

Some people say, ''Well, this bill is not perfect.'' Absolutely it is not perfect. There is money in there for the troops in Bosnia. I do not support that. There are a lot of other things in this bill that I do not support. But if I wait for the bill that is perfect, that has only in the bill what I absolutely agree with, we are never going to get a bill.

I think the President is being absolutely unreasonable on this because there is money, as I say, in there for Bosnia, there is money in there for parking ramps, there is a lot more money in there, and incidentally, there is money in there that the President did not request. It is money for relocation, and that is very important money for the folks up in the Red River Valley. So if we wait for all the lights to turn green, we are never going to leave the house.

Now why is the President holding up this flood relief money? Because he does not like the anti-Government shutdown provision in it. Is there any Member in this body that will stand on this floor and say they want to make certain that we have the chance to close down the Government come October 1? If they believe that, they ought to come to the floor and say that.

IN SUPPORT OF A CLEAN DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATION

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the President asked the Republicans for a clean disaster relief bill 84 days ago, 84 days. Instead, they sent the President a bill that tells the government how to conduct the census. I ask my colleagues across the aisle, what does the census have to do with the disaster relief?

The Democrats want to vote on a clean bill, but the Republicans will not let us. The Democrats want to help the people of the Midwest to rebuild their lives, but the Republicans will not let us. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are playing politics with people's lives. They know that, if they pass a clean spending bill to help the flood victims, the President will sign it. But they will not do it.

Mr. Speaker, this is wrong. How many times must we say it? People are suffering and we have got to help them. Give us a clean disaster relief bill.

□ 1030

KEEP GOVERNMENT OPEN AND OPERATING

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Let me give Members my ideas why the President does not like the provision in the disaster relief bill that would continue Government operations at 100 percent of the previous year's level if for some reason an appropriation was not passed into law. It is because if the President passes that provision, he feels he cannot force Congress to put in those increases in appropriation bills that he would like to have. He found out in the last 2 years that he can win in deciding how much to spend on social programs

by vetoing appropriation bills and close down Government. He has learned and he thinks he knows that with the help of the liberal press he can spin this politically so he can demand any spending he wants out of Congress in those appropriation bills and simply say, ''If you don't put in those appropriation bills that I, the President, want, then I'm going to veto it and any government close-down is going to be the Republicans fault.

If worse comes to worse, it is reasonable to keep Government open and operating at 100 percent of the previous year's level, and not let the President of the United States take over the spending responsibility of the legislative branch and dictate to Congress what is going to be in those appropriation bills.

PASS FAIR DISASTER AND TAX BILLS

(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, I can tell my colleagues what all of us want on the Democratic side of the aisle. We want fair and clean legislation to help the people in the Midwest and we, yes, want the bag of tricks to stop, the trickery that the Republicans are trying to play on the American people.

Frankly, this supplemental appropriation bill does two damaging things. One, it says that the balanced budget deal is not really a deal. It says that the promise of $1.5 billion to help our seniors with Medicare premiums, we will not have to commit to that nor will we have to give you that. That is why we want to put in the supplemental appropriation bill some kind of language that keeps the Government doors open, not because we care about that but because we want to bust the budget and we do not want you to do anything about it.

The census? That is not relevant to appropriations for the people in need. It is the same kind of trickery over and over again. It is the same way with the Republican tax plan, a plan for the rich, not for small businesses, not for middle income or low income individuals who send their children to the lowest income colleges. There is no money in there for them.

Mr. Speaker, let us get away from the bag of tricks. Give the money to the people in the Midwest and pass a fair tax bill.

SUPPORT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the State Department authorization bill which we will be voting on this morning, and I ask our colleagues to note that this bill, H.R. 1757, contains no foreign aid and no U.N. arrearages. These matters will be taken up later in separate legislation.

This bill before us carries out the promise we made to the American people to reform our international affairs bureaucracies designed to fight the cold war. The bill will consolidate two Federal agencies, USIA and ACDA, into the State Department.

The bill also contains other important features, including provisions to tighten the economic squeeze on Cuba's Castro, provisions to nail deadbeat diplomats, provisions to apply the MacBride employment principles in Northern Ireland, and provisions to implement the construction of our United States Embassy in Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge our colleagues to support this State Department authorization bill that will be before the House later on this morning.

GIVE PRESIDENT A CLEAN DISASTER BILL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the Republicans are at it again. Our President has requested emergency funds to help flood victims in the Midwest. One more time the Republicans have put partisan politics above the needs of the American people. Republicans insist on trying to put their pet political projects into the emergency relief bill.

We are trying to help those who have lost their homes, their businesses and their possessions acquired through a lifetime of hard work. If there is a role for the Federal Government, this is it. We are a caring and compassionate nation. We must help those in trouble and stricken with misfortune.

It is a shame and a disgrace that once again the Republicans are holding flood victims hostage. Putting politics above the needs of the people is wrong, just plain wrong. Stop playing political games with people's lives, Mr. Speaker. Give this President a clean disaster bill.

SUPPORT ROHRABACHER AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION BILL

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, in a few moments we will be discussing on the floor the foreign relations authorization bill. The first vote today will come in a few moments after that, when this body will vote on an amendment that I have proposed.

The Rohrabacher amendment is very simple. Russia, who is the recipient of $95 million of foreign aid from the United States, has developed a deadly new missile whose purpose is to kill American sailors. It is a supersonic cruise missile that is almost impossible to defend against, which skims along the ocean at supersonic speeds and is designed to attack Aegis cruisers and American aircraft carriers. It will cause havoc in the Straits of Hormuz, in the Straits of Taiwan. It will lead to situations where our sailors in great numbers, tens of thousands of them, will be vulnerable to be killed by this weapon.

The Russians now are proposing to transfer this weapons system to China. My amendment says if they do that, we should cut off the aid that we are giving to Russia. It is that simple.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support for the Rohrabacher amendment.

RESERVATIONS ABOUT OZONE AND PARTICULATE MATTER REGULATIONS

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

Mr. WISE. Interesting note, Mr. Speaker. Does anybody think it a little strange that some of my colleagues from the other side, in protesting the President's veto of the disaster assistance bill, go through long explanations of the census and Government shutdowns? That is the problem. They are not supposed to be on a disaster assistance bill, but that is not why I rise today.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to talk about the Environmental Protection Agency and to express my concerns about the ozone and particulate matter regulations that are being proposed. My concern, Mr. Speaker, is not that I am opposed to clean air, and indeed I put my support for clean air legislation up there with just about anybody else's. My concern is that in this major legislation that will designate many of our areas as nonattainment that have previously been attainment areas, that in this important area of discussion there has been no discussion, or relatively little discussion, about the impact.

I do not remember in my career in Congress such a change of great magnitude with so little public discussion. It certainly ought to be discussed more in the public, it ought to be discussed more in the Congress. That is why I have joined others in urging Administrator Browner not to proceed with these regulations as written, but to take the advice of many others, including, I might add, some of their own advisory bodies to the EPA that have expressed reservations about them.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 663

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 663.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). Is there objection to the re-