Colin Powell has been going around the country talking about the fact that there are still Americans who are not sharing in that dream and ability to succeed in life. One reason they are not is because too many children live in neighborhoods with bad schools and their parents lack the resources to send their children to a private school or to a good public school, a better one in their neighborhood. One way we can help those parents who care deeply about the education of their children is to pass legislation called A-plus Accounts. These are education savings accounts that will make it a little easier for parents who want their children to share in the American dream. A-plus accounts will help those who want to get ahead by making it easier for parents to save money for their children's education, and I think this is important.

□ 1015

PASS H.R. 367 AND PUT SOME CONTROLS ON THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the IRS says, ''Members are picking on us.'' Poor, poor IRS; do I hear violins? How about a pity party? Let us tell it like it is:

When an $80,000 disagreement turns into $330,000 in penalties and fines in 3 short years, when taxpayers commit suicide, when taxpayers are told to their face that they just died, when taxpayers, in fact, are targeted for audits because they politically oppose the IRS, we are not picking on the IRS, we are telling the truth.

Mr. Speaker, the further truth is, when the IRS makes Vito Corleone look like a Boy Scout, something is very wrong.

Shame IRS, shame. They should hide their two faces. It is time for the Congress, like the people, to be taxed off, and pass H.R. 367 and put some controls on the executive branch and the Internal Rectum Service.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES

(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, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the tragic death of the Princess of Wales. Princess Diana in her very short life won the hearts of millions of Americans from all walks of life.

As a mother, she took her children outside of the palace gates, outside of the wealth of the monarchy, to visit homeless shelters so they could better understand life in the real world. As a caring and compassionate leader, she shook hands with AIDS patients when many were still afraid to touch them.

Princess Diana never considered herself a celebrity; instead she thought of herself as a humanitarian, raising millions of dollars for charities both here in America and around the world as well.

Most recently, she displayed passion for victims of land mines. In this area, she worked tirelessly to change the foreign policies of all nations to ban the use of military land mines.

Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that Congress honor the life of Princess Diana today in a resolution praising her numerous achievements and contributions to the world.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TO PUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ON OUR AGENDA

(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 cancer of soft money that is growing on our political system continues, and the cancer of soft money that is corrupting and ruining our ability to govern this Nation is continuing.

Yesterday, the Los Angeles Times pointed out that there has been a 250-percent increase in soft money contributions to the Congress in the first half of this year. They point out in the 1996 election that $260 million was collected in soft money contributions, contributions that go around the limits that are placed on Federal elections, and that is three times the amount that was spent in 1992.

Just recently, the American public witnessed large soft money donors to the parties in this Congress, being rewarded with tax breaks in the tax bill, tax loopholes, and tax preferences that no one else could achieve but those who gave hundreds of thousands of dollars in soft money.

The time has come for the Congress to ban soft money. The time has come for the Republican leadership to put campaign finance reform on the agenda of this House so the people can go back to having their voices heard and not those of the special interests who are giving soft money contributions.

THE SOONER WE GET OUT OF BOSNIA, THE BETTER

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, NATO has announced it will now use lethal force in Bosnia. NATO, of course, means the United States, both our dollars and our troops. Little concern is shown here in Congress as we appropriate billions of dollars more for Bosnia with no end in sight.

Policing this area is an impossible task as NATO interferes with TV broadcasts and arresting and trying so-called war criminals. Current policy is only leading to an escalation of the conflict. Ethnic hatred and border fights have been going on in this region for centuries.

Mr. Speaker, the United States will not solve these problems. It is impossible for us to do so. We are already being blamed by the Bosnians as our troops are being attacked with stones and homemade weapons. Congress must bear some of the responsibility for the coming policy disaster. The President cannot act without funds, funds which only Congress can appropriate. Our efforts in Bosnia have nothing to do with national security. We have a responsibility to our troops and our current policy exposes them to unwarranted danger.

Congress must defund the Bosnian conflict. The sooner we get out of Bosnia, the better.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO USE EXTRAORDINARY TACTICS TO ASSURE DEBATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM THIS MONTH

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this month provides us the last hope to accomplish any meaningful change in the way that the 1998 congressional elections are conducted.

Now Speaker GINGRICH has made clear that he opposes any meaningful change in the way Federal elections operate. Indeed, the only change that the Gingrich Republicans seem to favor is to have not less but more campaign spending, more campaign ads, and more campaign fund-raising. Speaker GINGRICH has set forth a narrow-minded agenda for this month that excludes even the opportunity to debate the many proposals that have been advanced by both Republicans and Democrats to change campaign financing.

I believe we need a strong ban on soft money, but whatever the approach that is taken, we need a debate this month, and we are here today to say specifically to Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican leadership, Whether you schedule a debate on campaign reform this month or not, we are going to have one. We will have vote after vote; we will engage in extraordinary tactics to assure debate on real reform because of your extraordinary refusal to permit that reform.

ATTITUDES AND THE VALUE PLACED ON EDUCATION ARE WHAT MATTER MOST

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, in Life magazine this week there is a fascinating article about Oprah Winfrey and the influence books have had on her