can deduct it in the year of purchase rather than a depreciation schedule where the deduction is reduced by inflation; ''FARRM'' IRA accounts so, in good years, farmers can put some money aside as a reduction in income and pay taxes on it when they use it in future low-income years; AMT, doing away with it so farmers are not forced to pay taxes when there is no profit. Mr. Speaker, we need the tax relief for farmers. We need to help expand exports. We need to stop other countries from dumping their surplus on our markets. We need a better risk insurance program for crops, and we need an emergency supplemental. We need to help our farmers.

WE NEED TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY WITH FEDERAL BUDGET AND SURPLUS

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1981, then President Reagan pushed through the Congress and then signed a tax cut bill that, in the words of then budget director Dick Stockman, gave us budget deficits as far as the eye could see. Those budget deficits in 1993 approached $300 billion a year and a national debt approaching $5 trillion a year.

The Clinton budget resolution of 1993 corrected all of that. We are now moving into a situation of budget surpluses, and we have begun to pay down the national debt. Now, because of that, the Republicans are again proposing another tax cut similar to the one in 1981 which would duplicate that process all over again. It is a serious error which we need to ensure does not take place.

With this tax cut, if it passes and it were to be signed, there would be no money for education, no money for social security, no money for Medicare. Let us make sure we behave in a responsible way with this Federal budget and ensure the future of our children and the security of our parents and grandparents.

ADMINISTRATION MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR LOSING NUCLEAR SECRETS TO CHINA

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, apparently the other side thinks we need a 25 percent tax increase. I would disagree with that. I think we need a tax reduction.

But yesterday, in Georgia, someone won $116 million for buying a $2 lottery ticket. That seems like a great exchange. It is. But that is not nearly as good as the deal the Communist Chinese received when they obtained billions of dollars of nuclear weapons secrets from our own Department of Energy.

Well, it is not about selling out to the Communist Chinese; it is about the Clinton administration's poor management of our Nation's most important secrets. They knew that the Chinese were obtaining nuclear secrets at the same time they were receiving illegal campaign contributions from the Chinese, and they did nothing.

The administration must be held accountable. We need to eliminate the Department of Energy and transfer all nuclear funds to the Department of Defense where at least they have a culture of keeping secrets.

BRING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION LEGISLATION TO THE FLOOR

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, today millions of Americans will go to work and conduct business on the World Wide Web. Millions of Americans will send e-mail messages to each other. Millions of consumers will buy goods and services over the Internet.

But next month, millions of American children will go back to schools that are out of the 1950s where they get half an hour a week on a computer if they are lucky. What is worse than that, there will be students going to schools that were built during the Civil War. There will be children taking gym class in the hallway, children taking reading classes in broom closets.

America's schools need to be modernized. We certainly can take just a piece of the largess of the Federal surplus and invest it back into a quality public school system.

I stand before my colleagues as one of the proud cosponsors of the Democratic school construction legislation. I just signed a petition which said bring that bill to the floor. Give us a vote so we can modernize and improve America's schools.

IT IS TIME FOR RESPONSIBLE TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, the average middle-class American family earning the median income around $39,000 a year or so pays over 40 percent of its gross income in taxes. Meanwhile, Washington is taking the highest share of our whole economy in taxes in over two centuries of the Nation's peacetime history.

The tax relief bill passed by this House will help working Americans. But it will first lock away 100 percent of Social Security taxes for retirement security and set aside $2 trillion for Social Security and Medicare over the next 10 years. It will pay down the national debt, $227 billion more in debt relief than the Democratic minority proposal.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for responsible tax relief for working Americans.

SUPPORT SCHOOL MODERNIZATION LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, that we even have to debate the need for school modernization defies logic. Some congressional issues are simply nothing more than common sense, and this issue is one.

For years now, Democrats have been trying to enact a meaningful school modernization initiative. When I came to Congress in 1997, I joined these efforts and cosponsored legislation to address this crisis. But we have been consistently blocked by the majority. America's children are ultimately the victims of this disregard.

It boils down to two crucial points, crumbling schools and overcrowding. Quite simply, our schools are run down and out of room. Conditions are so poor that we would have to spend $112 billion to make the basic repairs needed.

The Public School Modernization Act of 1999 would help local communities meet that $122 billion backlog in school modernization needs documented by the nonpartisan General Accounting Office.

Ultimately, it is about ensuring that our children get safe, clean, and modern schools.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any further votes on suspension motions postponed from yesterday.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 366, noes 56, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 367]

YEAS—366

Ackerman	Baker	Barr
Allen	Baldacci	Barrett (NE)
Andrews	Baldwin	Barrett (WI)
Archer	Ballenger	Bartlett
Bachus	Barcia	Barton