Her husband says it did not happen, or at least not quite the way the other witnesses claimed it happened. He says something like it may have happened, because he says, and I quote, she has never been ''pure on profanity.'' Not much of a defense there.

There are three witnesses who claim she did, and two, she and her husband, who claim she did not.

I just want to ask one question. Can anyone imagine Barbara Bush being accused of this or Nancy Reagan or Rosalyn Carter or Betty Ford or Pat Nixon or Lady Bird Johnson? There is definitely a stature gap here.

PERSECUTION AND HARASSMENT OF FREE PRESS IN RUSSIA MUST END

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as President Clinton makes his way to the G–8 Summit in Japan, there is no more important item on the agenda than to tell Mr. Putin, the President of Russia, that the persecution and the harassment of the free press in Russia must come to an end.

I have called to my colleagues' attention in the last few weeks the systematic harassment and persecution of the one remaining free media network in Russia. Yesterday this persecution was escalated to a new level when the Government authorities took steps to seize the personal property of Vladimir Gusinsky, the head of Media-Most which owns NTV Television Network, Echo of Moscow Radio, and other independent media ventures.

Mr. Putin must understand that there is no room for Russia in the community of free and democratic nations, if he and his thugs are determined to destroy a free press. This harassment must come to an end, or relations between the free democracies of the world and the new totalitarian Russia will take a serious turn for the worse.

WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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, Napoleon Bonaparte once said ''if you wish to be a success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing.'' Promise everything, deliver nothing. That also happens to be the mantra of our Democratic leadership on the other side.

We all know, however, how Napoleon's plans turned out. Thankfully, this Republican-led Congress realized the importance of promises it made to the American people, and this Republican Congress is keeping those promises.

We passed a responsible, affordable, and voluntary Medicare prescription drug plan. We passed a Commerce, Justice, State Department Appropriations Act, which provides the resources necessary to fight crime and enforce our laws.

We passed a Defense appropriations bill which boosts funding for critical military readiness and gives our servicemen and women a much-deserved pay raise. Instead of just touting useless rhetoric and making empty promises, this Republican Congress has and will continue to take action in addressing the problems facing the American people.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the issue of international child abduction is one of the most important to me, and to the parents of the 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries. These children have lost years of time with their parents, and their parents have missed watching them grow up. It is outrageous that American children are being held hostage in other countries by unlawful noncustodial parents and unresponsive foreign justice systems.

In February of 1998, Aryssa Torabi was abducted by her father to Tehran, Iran. Aryssa's father was able to leave the country with fraudulent custody papers. A Federal warrant was issued for his arrest and the FBI has become involved in the case.

In May of this year, Aryssa's mother found her through the work of a private investigator who was able to speak with the family, with the abductor's family, and get some pictures of her. The reports from the family are that Aryssa is extremely unhappy.

Children like Aryssa and her mother should not be kept apart, we must continue to do all that we can to take action on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we must bring our children home.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Food Stamp Program is designed to help indigent families feed their children. This is a noble goal.

Unfortunately, widespread abuses in the food stamp program cost American taxpayers an estimated $1.4 billion in 1998 due to improper payments.

That is money denied to thousands of poor American children throughout the Nation. In fact, food stamp reforms such as the electronic benefits system, the EBT, which has replaced food stamps in 29 States, have actually generated more welfare fraud.

In one instance, two people in Beaumont, Texas, were convicted of trafficking in EBT food stamp benefits in exchange for crack cocaine. And in another, the owner of a meat and seafood market redeemed more than 331,000 in EBT food stamp benefits, even though virtually no food was purchased.

We cannot let this continue. For the sake of our children and for the sake of the taxpayer, we must do a better job of eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse.

DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN ON U.S. BORDERS

(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, a study finally admits, and I quote, ''America's borders are so wide open, terrorists could easily smuggle a nuclear bomb across both our borders.'' Think about it, 3 million illegal immigrants, heroin and cocaine by the tons, and now a report that further says it is so bad in some areas orange cones are used like scarecrows with no border patrol presence at all.

Unbelievable. We have soldiers vaccinating dogs in Haiti, while terrorists can bring nukes across our border. Beam me up here. Who master-minded this policy? The Proctologist Association of North America?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back a disaster waiting to happen on the borders of the United States of America with a Congress sleeping at the switch.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, throughout our summer gas crisis, the Clinton-Gore administration has played possum with the American people. They have claimed that the gas crisis was not caused by a supply issue and blamed oil companies for price gouging. But a recently released internal memorandum obtained from the Department of Energy by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) tells a different story.

The Energy Department memo dated June 5 indicates that ''high consumer demand and low inventories have caused higher prices for all gasoline types.'' The memo also indicates that recently implemented gasoline standards may increase costs. But not 10 days after this memo was drafted, Secretary Browner told more than 30 Midwestern Members of Congress that the gas price hike was inexplicable.

The Clinton-Gore administration has lost e-mails, lost important files and lost nuclear secrets. Now, we can add the true reason for the energy crisis to the lost list.

TRIBUTE TO LUTHER ROSS WILSON

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ross Wilson, former manager of the Southwestern Peanut Growers' Association. Widely regarded as the Nation's most knowledgeable person on the subject of the U.S. peanut industry, Ross has retired after spending the last 44 years of his life working for the betterment of the American farmer.

Ross is a native of Brownwood, Texas and a graduate of Daniel Baker College and Southwest Texas State University. He began his career as a teacher and a coach in Gorman, Texas where he eventually served as principal and superintendent.

In 1956, Ross was hired as the manager of the Southwestern Peanut Growers' Association where he oversaw the administration of the peanut program in the Southwest. In addition to serving on numerous boards and committees, he chaired the National Peanut Council Board of Directors, the Peanut Administrative Committee, and the Southwest Peanut Research and Education Advisory Committee.

In 1973, the Texas Agricultural Agents Association gave him their Man of the Year in Agriculture award, and in 1974, the Progressive Farmer magazine named him Man of the Year in Texas agriculture.

Ross has been active in civic affairs, helping to organize the Gorman Chamber of Commerce and serving as Gorman's mayor.

□ 1015

He also served as chairman of the Upper Leon River Municipal Water District.

GENETIC DISCRIMINATION

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. SLAUGHTER), in support of H.R. 2457, the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would protect the fundamental civil right of all Americans against genetic discrimination. Genetic discrimination is an issue whose time has come. As most of us are aware, on June 26 of this year it was announced that the first draft of the human genomic map has been completed. A decade ago, scanning genes for disease-linked mutations seemed unimaginable. In the past 5 years alone, over 50 new genetic tests have been identified to make detection of genetic conditions, and it is now possible to find the genetic mutations associated with such malignancies as breast cancer, colon cancer, Huntington's disease, heart disease, Alzheimer's disease just to name a few.

Unfortunately, as a consequence, we not only hear stories of successful treatment for some of these diseases, but we are hearing stories of lives being destroyed because of denial of health insurance or loss of jobs.

We must end this terrible practice of genetic discrimination. We should do it now.

MEDICAL RECORDS PRIVACY

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, Americans are growing increasingly aware that the most intimate information they possess about themselves, their health information, is not only unprotected, but freely shared among corporate and other interests.

I am particularly concerned about the security of genetic information. With the recent completion of the rough draft of the human genome, increasing numbers of people will consider taking genetic tests to learn more about their future health. But unless we protect the privacy of this information, people will refuse to take the genetic tests or even to participate in the research. We then risk having billions of dollars spent on genetic research go to waste and the enormous promise of this research to go unfulfilled.

Right now, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee is holding a hearing on genetic discrimination in employment. Shamefully, the House of Representatives has never held a single hearing on genetic discrimination, and we cannot afford to waste any more time.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2457, the Genetic Nondiscrimination in Health Insurance and Employment Act, and please sign discharge petition No. 11 to bring this bill to the House floor for a vote immediately.

REPUBLICAN INITIATIVES BENEFIT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans want to preserve and protect social security and the Medicare trust fund, and we have. We have set aside 100 percent of the trust fund revenues for social security and for Medicare. We have ended the process that existed in the past before the Republicans became the majority of borrowing out of those trust funds.

In addition, we have given workers the right to invest their money in the retirement plan of their choice, because yesterday we passed the IRA and the 401(k) expansion plan, we increased the contribution limits now to IRAs from $2,000 to $5,000 a year, and the 401(k) salary contribution to $15,000.

This is going to help our economy. This is going to help job creation. We have paid down close to $300 billion in public debt, and under our budget, we will pay off the $3.5 trillion public debt even while eliminating penalties on the American people, like the marriage tax, and bringing more dollars to the classroom for our children's education. We increase that education budget by 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has taken the initiative on securing America's future, and should be proud of what it has accomplished.

URGING MEMBERS TO ASK THAT THE PRESIDENT PASS MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF LEGISLATION

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in just a few hours the House and Senate will agree on the marriage tax penalty repeal bill and send it over to the President. He says he will veto it. That would be unfortunate. I just ran into a high school student, Matt Heaton, from New Jersey, who told me he understands this issue.

When the Federal government taxes people for getting married, he says, it is betraying the faith of the American people. We should be rewarding couples who get married, not punishing them. It is insulting to our people to punish them for entering the sacred union of marriage. When young people clearly express American values by expressing their love for one another through marriage, it would be the height of infidelity to punish them for it.

Yet, the President now threatens to veto this pro-family bill. The marriage tax is hurting those who need money the most. It robs middle class families of resources that could be used for such things as child health care or education, maybe even a college education.

I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle to press the President to join us in repealing the marriage tax penalty. It is the sensible thing to do. It is the American thing to do. It is the right thing to do in our efforts to honor American families.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UPLAND PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY AND AN APPEAL TO REDUCE SECTION 8 PROGRAM BUREAUCRACY AND RED TAPE

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give praise to the city of Upland Public Housing Authority, its executive director, Sammie Szabo, and her staff for their hard work and accomplishments administering the Section 8 public housing program.

At this time many authorities are having a very difficult time utilizing