

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our children, let us hope the Democrats end this partisan charade and tell the truth about the Republican school lunch proposal—increased funding, more meals for the children who need them, and fewer Federal bureaucrats micromanaging our lives.

MEXICO DOES NOT DESERVE COMMENDATION FOR THEIR WAR AGAINST DRUGS

(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, 2 out of every 3 tons of cocaine that comes into America comes from Mexico and through Mexico. Brown Mexico heroin is as plentiful in American cities at times as jelly beans. Three assassinations in Mexico were recently now attributed to the drug cartel down there in Mexico.

It has gotten so bad Mexicans are running across the border with backpacks full of cocaine and heroin, and guess what, the administration commended Mexico for their war against drugs.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Commending Mexico for their war against drugs is like commending Iran for their record on terrorism. I think NAFTA has taken on a whole new meaning. It now should be known as the "Narcotics Anonymous Federal Treatment Administration," and believe me, we need it.

I think the truth is, I remember when the administration gave a pat on the back to Gen. Manuel Noriega for his efforts on drugs. Think about that one a while.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to discuss an interesting story about the Endangered Species Act. As the Resources Committee begins to hold hearings on this issue, it is imperative that important facts about endangered species and biodiversity be known. The ESA is vital to maintaining our natural resources and to maintaining our quality of life.

I would like to illustrate this by discussing an endangered plant called the Lake Placid scrub mint which is found in only 300 acres in Central Florida. Scientists discovered that insects were not eating this rare plant. With further analysis, scientists found the plant contained a strong natural insect repellent called trans-pulegol, as powerful as any known insect repellent. The possibilities for agriculture are enormous.

Scientists also discovered a symbiotic fungus growing on the plant

which had evolved only in association with this plant and therefore, was an extremely rare fungus. More analysis found this fungus produced an agent which had strong antifungal properties, with potential for pharmaceutical uses.

What are the real-life implications of discovering such agents in rare plants? Curing an array of diseases.

The \$79 billion pharmaceutical industry relies on natural resources for 40 percent of its prescriptions. Rare plants and animals may very well hold the key to curing the common cold, AIDS, and cancer.

URGING MEMBERS TO COSPONSOR LEGISLATION TO OPEN FEDERAL HEALTH CARE CHOICES TO SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYEES AND TO SELF-EMPLOYED AMERICANS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, to revise and extend her remarks, and to include extraneous matter.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I am wearing this blue ribbon because the Girl Scouts today are asking everyone to be the best that they can be, and to take some kind of a pledge to try and make our communities better.

One of the things I would hope Members would do would be to seriously consider cosponsoring the bill I have, because I think it would make Americans' lives better. What would it do? I have a bill that would allow anyone who works for a small employer or who is self-employed to be able to bid off the same Federal menu of health care choices we as Members of Congress get to, the President gets to, and Federal employees get to.

Boy, would that give people some choices and put them in a large pool where their premiums would be much more reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD this editorial in Roll Call this week talking about how the Speaker of the House has put on the payroll once a year for \$100 his fundraiser, so she could have access to that health care.

Let us avoid this. Let us let everyone have it, and let us move on.

The editorial referred to is as follows:

THE \$100 A YEAR CLUB

Her fundraising services were worth \$16,000 to Rep. Newt Gingrich's (R-Ga) campaign between 1990 and 1993; helping Gingrich's Congressional staff learn how to answer constituent mail brought Nancy Bocskor a measly \$100 a year. So, why did she bother? The hundred bucks Bocskor earned on Gingrich's payroll enabled her to maintain her participation in the federal employees' health care plan—a far cheaper and better alternative than buying private insurance (Roll Call, March 9). Nothing wrong with that, says Gingrich spokesman Tony Blankley. It's all legitimate under the rules. The question, Blankley says, "is whether the procedures should be changed, if somebody thinks they are not correct." Well, we do. Bocskor is a political fundraising consultant, not a real Hill employee. She shouldn't gain access to official benefits just because she performed a

minor—though politically valuable—service to Gingrich. Neither should anybody else in the \$100 a year club.

ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN SPECIAL ORDER ON TIMBER SALVAGE

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, time permitting, I will be giving a very important special order on timber salvage, an issue that is vital to my district and the West.

I will explain at length the necessity of salvage and the benefits to the environment, economy, and Federal budget.

I invite everyone to watch in preparation for tomorrow's debate. We will be embarking on a course that brings our timber policy back to sanity.

For too long we have fought battles against those whose idea of preservation is pickling our national forests and putting them on a shelf with a do not disturb sign. It is time to wake up and change this destructive mentality.

Tonight, I, along with several of my colleagues, will try to dispel some of these myths. I am looking forward to this opportunity and encourage as many as can to join me.

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REPUBLICAN BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one more plea for reason and justice in the fiscal decisionmaking process of the 104th Congress. Mr. Speaker, through the rescission process, to immediately cut the Summer Youth Employment Program is a reckless and barbaric act. First, planned school lunch cuts and now the overnight zero in the budget for summer teenage employment. This savage cut again dramatically demonstrates the Republican contempt for the work ethic. We say we want the poor to work and then we wipe out the Jobs Program for teenagers. Instead of saving money by compounding the sense of hopelessness among our youth, let's save money by cutting the *Sea Wolf* submarine; let us cut the CIA and the intelligence budget from \$28 to \$14 billion.

If we cut farm price supports in half we could save \$8 billion. If we discontinue the unnecessary manufacture of the F-22 fighter plane we could save \$17 billion over the next 6 years. Using reason and a sense of justice there are effective cuts that can be made to reduce the Federal budget. But the hi-tech barbarian approach is a dishonest approach, an overwhelming bully power approach. Fiscal decisionmaking