

parents become obsessed with pushing their children up the ladder of success or notoriety at too early an age, and often common sense is displaced by greed and recklessness.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will impose an age limit on any person attempting to set a record with an aircraft. This legislation will stop the type of ridiculous publicity stunts that needlessly killed Jessica last week. Had she been successful, next year we would have seen a 6-year-old or a 5-year-old trying to break this record. Twenty-three similar accidents have happened in the last few years involving child pilots.

This legislation will not result in any cumbersome regulations, and I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE NOW

(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, the Speaker of the House has reportedly said that the House can "no longer duck" a vote on the minimum wage. It's about time, Mr. Speaker. Why have you been ducking for so long.

The minimum wage is at a near 40-year low in real terms. People earning the minimum wage deserve the right to a livable wage. No one can live on \$4.25 an hour, much less support a family.

Republican Majority Leader DICK ARMEY has said he will fight an increase in the minimum wage with "every fiber in his being." While corporate CEO's earn 212 times the wage of the average worker, Republicans would deny the poorest workers in America a modest increase in the minimum wage. This is not right, it is not fair, and it is not just.

Stop the stonewalling, Mr. Speaker. Let's raise the minimum wage now. People deserve the right to earn a livable wage.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUT?

(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, millions of Americans are asking this week, Mr. President, what happened to our middle-class tax cut? Twenty-nine million American families could have enjoyed a \$500 per child tax credit. Three and a half million lower-income American families could have had their Federal income tax burden completely eliminated because of the \$500 per child tax credit. Twenty-three million American couples could have received relief from the marriage tax penalty through a higher standard deduction. One hundred thousand American families could have benefited from a \$5,000 credit to assist with adoption

expenses. Americans that care for an elderly relative in their home could have benefited from a \$1,000 elder care deduction. If Americans paid a tax on capital gains from selling their house or other asset, they paid twice as much as you should have.

Under the Balanced Budget Act, millions of middle-class American families could have benefited from these tax cuts, except for one man. Mr. Speaker, taxpayers need to remember that President Clinton vetoed all of these middle-class tax cuts and a 7-year balanced budget.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE IS THE DECENT THING TO DO

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, indeed it is time to raise the minimum wage. What is the argument that we hear the Republicans saying as to why we should not raise the minimum wage? They say when we do that we will reduce the opportunity for jobs; that, in fact, there are not a lot of people who are working at minimum wage, only teenagers.

Mr. Speaker, that is a false premise. In fact, two-thirds of the minimum wage earners are families with adults who are trying to support a livable income providing decent food, shelter, clothing. That is the basis for the minimum wage, a living wage.

Also, Mr. Speaker, it was said that if we do that, the economy will suffer. Why would it suffer? Where will that money go? As soon as the money comes in, it will go for food and shelter. It goes right back into there. What happened when the minimum wage was raised the last time? We did not have great inflation. That did not happen.

Who are we protecting? We are protecting the rich. That is the issue here. Are we equally concerned for those at the bottom of the scale as we are concerned about the 5 percent we are willing to give big tax breaks?

The minimum wage is the decent thing to do. It is also the economical thing to do. It is the fair thing to do. The American people want a minimum wage. We should do that.

PRESIDENT CLINTON VETOED MEASURES THAT WOULD HAVE HELPED MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS

(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, we are talking about raising the minimum wage because it is at a 40-year low? Well, we have raised the minimum wage several times, and yet it is still at a 40-year low. I do not think it is working.

Common sense is not working, because historically it does push infla-

tion. Unions tell me that purchasing power is at an all-time low because of inflation, and yet that is what the problem is and we want to raise the minimum wage.

Well, 75 percent of the people on minimum wage are students. Most of them in minority communities. That is the area that is hit the worst when we increase the minimum wage, the minority communities—6.5 percent of the people on minimum wage are heads of households.

Now, we have tried to help the working poor, the heads of households on minimum wage, with an earned income tax credit, actually putting more money into their pocket, and it is not inflationary. That was vetoed by Mr. Clinton. We also had a \$500 per child tax credit, which would have put more money in the pockets of the working poor. Mr. Clinton vetoed it. Neither of them inflationary, neither of them eating into the wages of working Americans and the working poor.

It is time for Congress to do the right thing for the working poor and the working families. Oppose the minimum wage.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE WILL NOT CAUSE INFLATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. FLAKE. I find it the height of hypocrisy when Members of this body making \$113,000 a year stand before the United States of America and proclaim that persons who are making \$4.25 an hour, if we move it beyond \$5, that will cause inflation in America.

Let me tell my colleagues what causes inflation in America. The hundreds of people who are CEO's of major corporations collecting millions of dollars, getting their golden parachutes and moving out to their various places, moving jobs outside this country so that they can benefit by low wages from persons who are not Americans and yet shipping back to America the products they produce and selling them at the highest possible price.

If we want to talk about who deserves it, it is not the persons who are at the top but the persons at the bottom, many of them working every day still impoverished. How can we justify this in a Nation where we dare to export our democracy?

We should be ashamed of ourselves. We should talk more fairly about all of our citizens and how we can bring them up. We cannot do it by giving to those at the top and taking from those at the bottom. I hope that our Congress will realize this and the American citizens will realize the game that is being played.

LEGISLATION CREATING THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL

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

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, this Member introduced legislation to designate the American Discovery Trail as a component of the National Trails System. The bill, H.R. 3250, also creates a new category in the system—National Discovery Trails. The bill is already supported by a bipartisanly balanced 44 cosponsors.

This legislation represents an exciting step forward in the development and connection of trails in the United States. The multiuse ADT provides the connections which are needed to link existing trails and create a backbone for the National Trails System. While stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, it connects large cities and small communities with forests and remote areas.

The American Discovery Trail will provide outstanding, family oriented recreation for all Americans. It will also offer important economic development opportunities to the communities along its route.

The ADT also takes into account private property concerns since almost all of the trail is on public lands. The few exceptions are in locations where there are existing rights-of-way or agreements with existing trails or by invitation. The bill also mandates that no lands or interests outside the exterior boundaries of federally administered areas may be acquired by the United States solely for the American Discovery Trail.

The American Discovery Trail is national in scope, but it is made possible by the grassroots efforts on the State and local level. This Member urges his colleagues to support these local efforts by cosponsoring the American Discovery Trail bill.

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD BE TOUGH AND CONFRONTATIONAL WITH MR. YELTSIN

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, today the President of the United States travels to Russia. I would hope that the President would not pose for photo opportunities with Mr. Yeltsin but would instead be very tough and very confrontational on three important issues to America:

First, the ongoing war in Chechnya that is killing thousands and thousands of people each month. We need to bring an end to that war immediately.

Second, the New York Times recently reported a secret project going on in the Ural mountains in Russia. We need to find out more about that.

Third, renegotiating the space station on the part of the Russians could cost the American taxpayers several hundreds of millions of dollars. I would hope the President, in a policy of engagement, would be tough and

confrontational and not coddle the Russians on these very important issues.

TRIBUTE TO SECRETARY RONALD H. BROWN AND AMERICANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON MISSION TO BOSNIA

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 406) in tribute to Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and other Americans who lost their lives on April 3, 1996, while in service to their country on a mission to Bosnia.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 406

Whereas Ronald H. Brown served the United States of America with patriotism and skill as a soldier, a civil rights leader, and attorney;

Whereas Ronald H. Brown devoted his life to opening doors, building bridges, and helping those in need;

Whereas Ronald H. Brown lost his life in a tragic airplane accident on April 3, 1996, while in service to his country on a mission in Bosnia; and

Whereas thirty-two other Americans from government and industry who served the Nation with great courage, achievement, and dedication also lost their lives in the accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives pays tribute to the remarkable life and career of Ronald H. Brown, and it extends condolences to his family.

Be it further resolved, That the House of Representatives also pays tribute to the contributions of all those who perished, and that we extend our condolences to the families of: Staff Sergeant Gerald Aldrich, Duane Christian, Barry Conrad, Paul Cushman III, Adam Darling, Captain Ashley James Davis, Gail Dobert, Robert Donovan, Claudio Elia, Staff Sergeant Robert Farrington, Jr., David Ford, Carol Hamilton, Kathryn Hoffman, Lee Jackson, Steven Kaminiski, Kathryn Kellogg, Technical Sergeant Shelley Kelly, James Lewek, Frank Maier, Charles Meissner, William Morton, Walter Murphy, Mathanial Nash, Lawrence Payne, Leonard Pieroni, Captain Timothy Shafer, John Scoville, I. Donald Terner, P. Stuart Tholan, Technical Sergeant Cheryl Ann Turnage, Naomi Warbasse, and Robert Whittaker.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House shall transmit a copy of the resolution to each of the families.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. In a moment, I will yield to the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning with great sadness to offer a resolution in

tribute to Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and all of the Americans who lost their lives in that awful tragedy on April 3 while they were all serving their country on a mission to Bosnia. I am pleased that we are able to make this a bipartisan resolution, in fact, a resolution of all the Members of the House. For when a highly and distinguished member of the U.S. Cabinet is killed overseas for the first time in American history, when we lose an individual, and individuals of such extraordinary ability and achievement, when we lose so many other dedicated business leaders and public servants, members of the Commerce Department, members of the U.S. Air Force, it is not a partisan tragedy, it is truly a tragedy for all of our citizens and all of our country.

In the week since Ron Brown's death, it has already become a cliché to speak of his brilliant political and public service career. Of his pioneering role as chairman of the Democratic Party and his efforts to almost single-handedly redefine the Commerce Department and its mandate. For those of us who considered Ron a friend, as I did, it is reassuring to know that the country remembers him as fondly as we do. But when there are so many tangible achievements to celebrate in a man's life, it becomes harder to recognize what is less tangible but perhaps as more important.

To me, there is a simple reason why Ron Brown broke down so many barriers in so many areas and shattered so many preconceptions, about politics, race, and America's place in the world. For all of his practical and political talents, Ron Brown was an idealist, pure and simple. His goals for himself, his party and his country were always based on what should be and not on what others thought could be. This is a rare quality in any of us, in a politician, a rate quality in a human being. But it is why so many people loved and respected Ron Brown and were so often willing to abandon their own goals and egos to work with him for a higher purpose.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said in recent days about Ron Brown's ability to heal divisions, to reconcile views, to focus on what unite people rather than on what divide them. He truly believed that you could always accomplish more by working together, by bringing others along with you. That is one reason why he nurtured so much talent in so many other people throughout his career. As party chairman, he really did bring the Democratic Party together, something that is hard to do, sometimes almost one person at a time.

To see the depth of his empathy and understanding, to see how far he would go to understand people who disagreed with him and opinions and then to find the common ground between them was to see the very essence of leadership. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown dramatically expanded his mandate, reinventing the foreign commercial