

**PUT FAMILIES FIRST RATHER  
THAN SPECIAL INTERESTS**

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

Ms. DELAURO Mr. Speaker, House Republicans continue to work overtime on behalf of the special interests rather than the hard-working families who need our help.

Look at health care reform. House Republicans are insisting on a bad idea rejected by the Senate: Tax shelters to help the rich pay their medical bills. Giving tax breaks to the healthy and the wealthy could doom the type of health reform that working families need.

These health care tax breaks hurt working families. They will expose millions of families to increased health care costs. Estimates say that health care premiums will rise as much as 60 percent.

Once again, I urge the House Republican leadership to reject these tax breaks for the wealthy. Simply adopt the Senate bill which President Clinton has said he will sign and which puts families first, rather than special interests. That is what we need, health care relief for working families in this Nation.

**MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS A  
GOOD IDEA**

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM Mr. Speaker, I must respond to the gentlewoman's comments about the medical savings accounts. I happen to think they are a terrific idea for families in America. They are the one way in the future, with all of the costs we have associated with health care, that a moderate income family in the United States can save money. If we adopt it, they will be able to still choose their own doctor and not be forced into an HMO or another organized plan.

I have very, very strong convictions about that. I think this is the most innovative and creative thing to help health care in the United States that is under consideration today at all. I really feel that that is a very important thing.

I want to consider one other point during this 1-minute, though. When we are talking about these gas prices going up right now, I am told by those involved that one of the primary reasons that the gas prices in this country are going up is because there is uncertainty about whether the U.N. sanctions against Iraq will be lifted or not. We should be opposed to that.

This administration, the Clinton administration, should make it unequivocally clear that we will veto in the United Nations any effort to lift the oil embargo and allow people to purchase

Iraqi oil. I think once that is done, stability will return to the oil prices in the world market and we will see the gas prices go back to their normal way again.

This President needs to make that statement now. He has not made it.

**IMPROPER USE OF COMMITTEE  
STAFF**

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

Mr. WARD Mr. Speaker, today I want to alert the House to a call I have made, along with eight of my fellow freshmen Democrats this morning, to ask the Speaker, we have asked Speaker GINGRICH to rescind and repudiate a request that was made in the name of the office of the House majority leader to all the subcommittees in this House. That request was a partisan effort to use House staff improperly.

The request, very simply, was sent to all House committee staffs asking them to look for specific material that could be used to attack organized labor or the Clinton administration. In an unprecedented institutionalized effort to use House staff to do the bidding of the leader's office, the Republican leadership has shown again that they are not about putting the House in order, they are not about using the House for what it is intended, the furtherance of the people's business. It was, in fact, waste, fraud, and abuse on the highest level.

**RAISING MINIMUM WAGE WILL  
DESTROY SMALL BUSINESS**

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

Mr. WALKER Mr. Speaker, I have been very interested over the last several days to listen to Members of the Democratic Party telling us how committed they are to raising the minimum wage, and it is very interesting because one would wonder why, when the President of the United States himself has said this is a bad idea, and when Members of his administration have said this is a terrible way to treat poor people, why the Democrats in the House of Representatives are so insistent upon it.

Now we find out why. It is because they are doing the bidding of the union bosses who are making absolutely certain that they get this kind of debate going, because the union bosses have contract negotiations coming up this fall, and they would like to see the Federal Government raise wages by 20 percent so that they can use that as the base of what they do in their negotiations.

And guess what? Every American will suffer as a result of that because that will set off an inflationary spiral that will be a tax on every American

family, but particularly low income families. If my colleagues think that kind of callous disregard of the American family is a good idea, then listen intently to the Democrats, who claim they want to raise the minimum wage.

The fact is in raising the minimum wage what they are doing is undermining small business in the country, and they are undermining the basic income of the American family. It is a shame and they should be called for what they are doing.

**MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE MORE  
IMPORTANT THAN REPEALING  
GAS TAX OF 1993**

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

Mr. VOLKMER Mr. Speaker, I stand here today requesting the Republican leadership, NEWT GINGRICH, to schedule the minimum wage bill for the House to vote on. I am not here on behalf of any union, I am here on behalf of a lot of people in my district and all over this Nation that work every day at \$4.25 an hour. What do I ask for them? I ask we raise that minimum wage in a 2-year cycle for 90 cents. That means \$1,800 a year more for those people.

Now, their answer, the Republicans' answer, is no, we are going to cut the gas tax 4.5 cents. We will repeal the part of the gas tax that was in the 1993 deficit reduction package. Well, how much will that give to my people? To most of my people that is \$45 year. They want to give \$45 a year to help my people get through the hard times, buy a pair of shoes for the kids.

I say let us give them the minimum wage. Let us give them really something that will benefit them. \$1,800 a year is a lot better than \$45 a year.

**ASSAULT ON WORKING FAMILIES  
AND GAS TAX CUT ARE SEPA-  
RATE ISSUES**

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

Mr. HILLIARD Mr. Speaker, every American has the right to a livable wage. The Republicans have offered what they say is an alternative to increasing the minimum wage. They want to talk about cutting the gas tax and they claim that this will benefit the working poor.

This is a sham. The 4-cent gas tax is not designated to help working folks; it is calculated to bail out the oil and gas industry. The industry increased gas prices. If the prices are too high, the industry should reduce them.

Rising prices at the gas pump should not be offset with a tax cut that will cost the U.S. Treasury more than \$4 billion this year. Republicans claim that they want to balance the budget, but then they go out and cut programs that the working poor depend on. The