

of power. FBI director Louis Freeh said recently, and I quote: "The prior system of providing files to the White House relied on good faith and honor. Unfortunately, the FBI and I were victimized."

In a recent op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal, a veteran of 26 years with the FBI wrote: "These allegations are more serious than anything we have seen in decades." The Conservative Opportunity Society knows, as every American knows, the FBI cannot investigate itself. It must be an independent investigation. Let us get at it.

#### MEDICAID REFORM

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on Commerce wrote a bill, and with it wrote a sad new chapter against children in our country. The Republicans voted down several key amendments, but I want to highlight one in particular this morning.

The bill does state that Medicaid-insured children receive periodic medical examinations. That is the good news. Today, if any medical condition is discovered during screening, it is covered by that insurance. It makes sense, right? Check kids for medical problems and treat them if they are sick. Not according to the Republicans. Their bill says children are to be examined, but there are no provisions for treatment. Imagine the situation this creates. Children will be diagnosed, but no insurance exists for treatment. Are they to get better on their own? Would any of us as parents accept this for our children?

I offered an amendment, Mr. Speaker, which restored the guarantee of treatment for children. All 23 Republicans voted against it. Those votes may have been louder than words in the committee, but I think the American people are going to screen out this policy. Our Nation's children deserve better.

#### MEDICARE AND TAX BREAKS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to follow my colleague from Arizona because I can tell that they are more interested in election year politics than they are in balancing the budget.

Mr. Speaker, for years the Republicans have complained about Democrats being tax-and-spend liberals for causing the run-up in the budget deficit.

I submit their annual budget. The budget that was passed last week actually raised the deficit.

After 40 years in the political wilderness the Republican Party in consecu-

tive years have shut down the Government and now passed a budget that will increase the deficit. Again I say, increase the deficit.

At the heart of their budget are cuts in Medicare and tax breaks for the wealthy. They want to cut taxes \$122 billion while at the same time increasing the deficit. Maybe they need to worry about the FBI investigation. Maybe they need to worry about something other than what the folks elected us here to do, to balance the budget, provide health care for seniors, provide education for our children and to make sure our country is defended.

#### BLOCKING COMMONSENSE HEALTH CARE REFORMS

(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, one way to improve health care and lower costs is by taking power and influence out of the hands of bureaucrats in Washington and returning it to the American people.

A bipartisan majority in the Congress is poised to give the American people more power and control over their medical care by passing the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act to make health insurance portable and affordable.

This bill will free workers from the worry that if they lose or change their job they will lose their health insurance. It will provide millions of small business employees, many who now have no insurance, the option to choose innovative, affordable medical savings accounts or MSA's. It will allow tax deductions for long-term health care and it will restore dignity to dying by allowing terminally ill patients and their families to receive tax-free accelerated death benefits.

The White House and one legislator should not stand in the way and deny millions of Americans commonsense reforms including MSA's that will make health insurance more portable and affordable.

#### DEMOCRATS TO UNVEIL FAMILIES FIRST AGENDA

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today we saw one more reason why the American people reject Republican tax breaks for the wealthy. The New York Times reports today that the gap between the wealthy and the rest of America is now at its widest point since World War II.

The top 20 percent of Americans now earn more than the 60 percent of middle-class households combined.

People say that the wealthy work hard and deserve to be regarded. And that may be true. But does not the rest of America work hard? Do they not deserve to be rewarded, too?

We can get there. But we are not going to get there with a Republican agenda that cuts Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

It is time we had a families first agenda that gives a \$10,000 tax deduction to pay for college, that protects pensions, that makes health care portable, that raises the minimum wage, that invests in small business, and that helps give working families a raise.

On Sunday, Democrats across this country will unveil our families first agenda. Mr. Speaker, it is time we help families and not hurt them.

#### FILEGATE

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, every American values his or her privacy. The people who work for this Government are no exception—408 individual Americans who worked for previous administrations, Republicans, had their files taken from the FBI, and we believe that many of them were going to be used for dirty political tricks in the future. Some people say, "Well, it was a political mistake. The White House made a mistake."

It was not one mistake. It was 408 individual requests. Four hundred eight. Bernie Nussbaum, the counsel to the President's name, was on each one of those requests. He said he did not know anything about it. If he did not know anything about it, who requested those files? This is not the book 1984 where Big Brother looked into every one of our lives. This is supposed to be a free democratic society. Yet 408 people had their files, which are supposed to be secret, exposed to others at the White House and many of those things were leaked to other people they should not have been leaked to. This is something that needs to be fully investigated and the FBI should not be the only one to do it.

#### TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

(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, today's USA Today reported that the wealthiest 20 percent of U.S. households earned more in the early 1990's than 60 percent of households in the middle class. The New York Times reported that the gap between the most affluent Americans and everyone else was wider than it has been since World War II.

This is frightening news when you consider that the Republican budget passed in the House last week does not just increase the deficit, it also cuts Medicare to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy.

The Republican budget explicitly calls for \$176 billion in tax breaks. The