

should try to eliminate the obstacles to civility as much as possible.

One of the things my group recommended, for example, is before we give our speeches ask ourselves these questions: Is the speech fair, is it accurate, is it true? If it was the last speech you were going to give, is this the one you want to be remembered by? If your mama was sitting in the gallery, would you still give this speech?

Mr. Speaker, I think if we go through these batteries of questions and just ask ourselves to reach for a higher level, then I think it might not be necessarily easier for Republicans to kiss a Democrat or for a Democrat to kiss a Republican, but it will be easier for us all to give each other a Hershey's kiss.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today there will be a lot of rhetoric, and I hope civil rhetoric, from the other side of the aisle about the President's budget. My Republican colleagues will go as far as to demand that the President submit another budget.

Mr. Speaker, the American people know that the Constitution says, and I quote, "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives." It is our duty, it has been our obligation, and will continue to be this House's responsibility to approve all appropriation bills, including the budget.

Republicans are now demanding that the President resubmit his budget. This is a complete reversal of their approach of the last Congress. The American people certainly remember how the Republican majority virtually shredded the President's proposals in pursuit of a radical agenda.

I call upon my friends to seize the moment, steer the proper course, and use the President's proposal as an historic opportunity to balance the budget. The President wants this done, Democrats want this done, and the American public wants it done.

I believe that beneath their current political rhetoric the majority wants a balanced budget as well.

LET US FULLY IMPLEMENT THE CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY ACT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act was signed into law with the overwhelming support of this body.

In just 1 year, the Helms-Burton law has successfully served its purpose of protecting the property rights of American citizens as well as reducing the

level of foreign investments that help keep the Castro dictatorship in power.

Despite the Clinton administration's failure to fully implement the law, dozens of companies have stopped their operations in Cuba, while many others have postponed their plans to invest in Castro's slave economy.

The European Union, in a last-ditch attempt to profit from American stolen property and exploit the Cuban worker, has filed an irresponsible challenge before the World Trade Organization against Helms-Burton that threatens to undermine our Nation's ability to dictate our own foreign policy. We call on the President to invoke the national security clause in this battle.

A year after its passage, Mr. Speaker, this body can be proud that it stood firm in support of the Cuban people's struggle for freedom. Now let us fully implement this successful law.

KIDS' HEALTH CARE MUST BE OUR PRIORITY

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, just 2 years ago in my home State of Massachusetts, 23 percent of children under the age of 18, or some 160,000 kids, were without even basic health insurance. The people of the Commonwealth understood that this statistic was not only startling, it was absolutely unacceptable.

So Massachusetts passed the landmark piece of legislation that is on the verge of giving basic coverage to some 125,000 kids, or 80 percent of the uninsured children in my State.

By streamlining the administration of this program and by instituting a 25-cents per pack cigarette tax, Massachusetts has come up with more funds to protect children, and has become eligible for more Federal funding in return. Now Massachusetts is doing what every State in this Nation should be doing: covering children's health.

But the crisis is not over. One child in seven living in the United States today is uninsured. That is absolutely unconscionable.

Massachusetts should serve as an inspiration for the rest of our Nation. We in this Congress have an awesome responsibility before us. We have a responsibility to prepare our children to be the leaders of tomorrow by ensuring that they receive a healthy start today. Let us make health care for our kids a priority.

EPA'S IRRATIONAL POLICIES

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today is the end of the public comment period for the EPA first phase implementation of their irrational policies.

This chart, Mr. Speaker, is not a map that shows all the great bipartisan spirit of Hershey, but this is a bipartisan issue, because where you see red on this map, Mr. Speaker, are areas throughout the United States, Democrat and Republican representation, that are going to be in jeopardy because working families are going to be at a very high risk of losing their very livelihoods and way of life because of irrational policies by the EPA.

Today ends the public commentary period. George Wolfe, an EPA scientist, stated himself before one of our hearings that these proposals are based on a policy decision by the director instead of sound science.

It is time to stop this because, Mr. Speaker, the policies they are going to try to implement are not going to do anything to make a betterment for people, but it is going to do one thing; it is going to take away working Americans' jobs, it is going to hurt the school systems, and the communities. It is time to fight these proposals.

REPUBLICANS SHOULD LEARN TO TREAT LEGAL IMMIGRANTS WITH THE SAME RESPECT LEGAL IMMIGRANTS GIVE TO AMERICA

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have announced that America can expect their budget plan in May.

I hope they mean May 1997. I should be concerned. That is 1 month after the legal deadline for submitting a budget. But I want to be positive so I will assume this delay is caused by tireless Republican efforts to craft a budget that restores programs taken away from law-abiding legal immigrants.

I will assume Republicans are crunching numbers and saying, "How can we restore critical benefits to our needy seniors, our blind and disabled, to mothers and their children? How can we treat our legal immigrant population with decency and fairness?"

That "should" be the reason for the delay, because legal immigrants deserve better than this Congress has given them.

Immigrants work hard. The fact is they pay far more in taxes than they receive in benefits. They play by the rules. They are in our Nation legally, contributing their energy, hopes, and dreams to our Nation.

May is a long time from now. It should be long enough for my Republican friends to learn to treat legal immigrants with the same respect legal immigrants give to America.

THE ELEMENTS OF A CIVIL DEBATE ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

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