

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. MCINNIS]. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LAHOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REFUSE TO SUPPORT LESS PAY FOR WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1 is a disgrace to American workers. In the last several days workers from all over my district have come to Washington to ask me to vote against this bill. Those working constituents do not want their pay reduced by a Congress out of touch with the American work force.

Let me repeat that. Those working constituents do not want their pay reduced by a Congress out of touch with the American work force.

Mr. Speaker, a vote for this bill is a vote for a pay cut for the workers.

H.R. 1, the Working Family Flexibility Act of 1997, is also known as the pay reduction act. Today millions of workers depend on overtime pay just to feed their families and keep a roof over their heads. How cruel to consider this overtime pay as optional. Today too many people depend on overtime pay to survive. Their survival is not optional.

Mr. Speaker, it is employers, not employees, who get greater flexibility from this bill. This bill does not contain necessary safeguards to ensure that the employee decision to accept comptime is truly voluntary. The overtime provision in the Fair Labor Standards Act protects workers from excess demands, from overtime work, and by requiring a premium pay for overtime provides an incentive for businesses to create additional jobs.

There is no doubt that the American workers prefer pay for their overtime work instead of comptime. A recent poll by Peter Hart found that the American worker prefers pay for their overtime instead of comptime by a margin of 64 to 22 percent. Unfortunately too many workers do not get paid for overtime. The Employment Policy Foundation, a think tank supported by employers, estimates that workers lose \$19 billion a year in overtime pay due to violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Why should we give managers more control and give workers less money? A worker who was forced by management to take comptime instead of overtime pay is being required to take a voluntary pay cut.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse to support less pay for workers.

SUCCESS AT HERSHEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, before I talk I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to state that with regard to the recent retreat at Hershey, two things: First, while my colleagues were enjoying a retreat, I was on a work weekend. That was my district, and my schedule called for me to meet a group of tourists from Washington, DC, and so I did my duty. I wanted you to know that I worked hard that weekend making sure that you were hosted well.

But the second notation I want to make is that universally with every member of the Hershey staff, waitress, busboy, every single person who worked there and who dealt with the Members of Congress and their families, the mood and the comment was absolutely unanimous to the effect that they were met with courtesy on the part of the Members and their spouses and their children, that everybody was well behaved, that the requests were all met handily. In short, they were glad to have the Members of Congress and their families at the retreat at Hershey.

For me it was a good exercise in doing my job, but more than that, it was good to see all of the Members at the resort area in Hershey.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Pennsylvania did his job well, as did Governor Ridge. It was an honor and a pleasure to be with him. Thanks very much. Maybe New York will be the hospitable State the next time we have a meeting.

Mr. Speaker, my friends, I would like to talk just a second about the bipartisan retreat. It was a wonderful experience. I am not going to duplicate the comments that my bosses, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. LAHOOD] and the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. SAWYER] have mentioned, but I would just like to add one or two comments to something which was really I think really a definitive moment in the history of this Congress.

Here we were, 220 of us, approximately 550 people up there, talking as we should talk, talking to citizens, talking as concerned citizens. Maybe one of the most impressive things as far as I am concerned was the inclusion of the spouses. You know, many times life, whether it is in politics or business, whatever it is, it is sort of a solo act; but here we were as families talking and expressing ourselves and sharing ideas. It was enormously healing.

You know bit by bit, whether it is again in a family or a business or something else, we sort of drift apart, and all of a sudden we realize that this thing has been apart and we are looking down into a chasm. We have got to pull it back together, and I think that is what happened: Very, very important.

I got a letter prior to going there from some people out in Washington

near Seattle, St. Stephen the Martyr Roman Catholic Church, and let me just read a little bit about it because this is sort of the genesis of what we were doing out there.

It said: "Dear Congressman, as the new term of office begins it is our desire that all of our elected leaders strive to work together."

Now, this was not prompted at all. "Regardless of political alliance, the potential for stalemate and impotence in leadership decisions exists due to separate party agendas. It is necessary in the best interests of your country, of my country, that there be teamwork and compromise and strength of purpose. You are paid by us. We expect you to behave with dignity and integrity."

Now, I am not going to read the rest of this letter, but you get the gist of it. I mean, these people are involved right here with us every day. They see us, they send us here, they expect us to deal in the same manner that they would deal with their parishioners, or with their family or with their fellow citizens, and that is why this thing was so special.

Let me just say one other thing. I had a wonderful opportunity this morning to go down to the Mall and see the opening of the World War II memorial. Bob Dole was there, the first public appearance I think he has made since the election. He gave an enormously effective and emotional speech, and I hope that other people will be able to read it or listen to it. One of the things he said is that "you know we here represent young people who died for a future they will never realize."

You know, I just thought of that because of the responsibility it puts on all of us. Here were those young people in with World War II, as there have been in other wars, who risked their lives, lost their lives for a future they would never be able to experience themselves.

It gives us a tremendous sense of obligation to do what is right here, and so I was proud to be a part of this experience. I hope it is not a flash in the pan. I hope it will continue. I hope the whole spirit of Hershey will be a spirit that we can look back on and say it was well worth our while.

COMPTIME/CHUMPTIME BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia [Ms. MCKINNEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor this evening because I wanted to talk about the bill that we just passed here, H.R. 1, the comptime bill, flexibility time bill, what the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] called the chumptime bill.

I would first like to commend CBS Evening News for their March 18 Eye on America story reported by Sandra