

to see the Speaker actually say face to face to the Chinese what is frequently discussed in the United States: Human rights do matter, and the truth needs to be told.

#### JOBS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES; ROTTEN ILLEGAL BERRIES FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, schoolchildren in Michigan got sick eating strawberries that were tainted with the hepatitis A virus. Now if that is not enough to sour your shortcake, check this out.

The strawberries were illegally imported from Mexico and sold to the school lunch program in violation of buy America laws. Unbelievable, huh? It never stops, and no one seems to care. Military boots from China, cars from Japan, beef from Australia, telephones from Singapore.

Mr. Speaker, it is all called the New World order, and here is how it works: Jobs for China, jobs for Australia, jobs for Japan, jobs for Mexico, and berries for America, rotten, illegal berries for America.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It is time to put a few straw bosses in jail and mandate country of origin labels on all food products.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of any further disease.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would admonish the members of the gallery to please refrain from any showing of spontaneous response to any of the speeches.

#### COMPROMISING NATIONAL SECURITY FOR POLITICAL GAIN

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the audience. I am outraged though.

Today, every day, it is a new story about this President using taxpayer dollars, using the White House and now using classified national security information to raise money for his own reelection campaign. Today's Washington Post reveals that the White House actually gave top secret information to the Democrat National Committee.

When I was in the military, if someone failed to safeguard classified information, they were relieved from duty and court-martialed. Maybe it is time to relieve this President from his duties and court-martial him.

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The White House has put the lives of CIA officers in jeopardy and endan-

gered every American by compromising our national security for Clinton's own political gain. America wants, needs, and deserves to have a leader who protects this Nation instead of exploiting it.

#### POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ACT AS RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF COM- MUNITY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for many the Postal Service indeed represents the Federal Government. Post offices are the heart and soul of many small towns across America, and they are part of the heritage of every community. Yet, in many instances, people feel victimized by the Postal Service because the post office sometimes ignores local zoning laws and building codes in making decisions about their facilities.

Additionally, citizens often feel shut out of the decision-making process, despite the massive impacts that post office closings and relocations have on our communities.

Today I am introducing legislation to change this. My bill would outline minimum citizen involvement requirements that would apply to the renovation, relocation, closing, or consolidation of post offices and require the post office to comply with any local zoning or building codes which the State and local governments themselves must comply with.

My bill is fair and does not place unnecessary burdens on the Postal Service. Instead, for the first time, the Postal Service would be treated as a responsible member of the community and not be above the local laws.

#### TAX RELIEF FOR AVERAGE CITIZENS

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, while I was home in Arkansas I often asked my constituents, "Any message for Washington?" One of the most common responses I received is "Yes, cut my taxes." I have heard this response so many times that I can assure my colleagues this: I got the message.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that the special interests and the powerful lobbying groups have their tax loopholes. We all know that upper income people have the means to employ tax attorneys and accountants at tax time. But what about the forgotten little guy, the ordinary taxpayer who works for a living? What about giving the little guy a break for a change?

Mr. Speaker, it is the little guy who is at the mercy of a Federal tax system that somehow manages to increase the tax burden year after year after year.

The liberal press is always asking, "Can we afford a tax cut?" I want to know the last time anyone asked, "Can the little guy afford a tax increase?"

Mr. Speaker, the truth is, he cannot. I think it is high time somebody in Washington started looking after the little guy. We need tax relief now.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO BOLSTER OUR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as a Vietnam veteran and a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I rise today to talk about veterans along the border and opportunities that we have to bolster our commitment to our veterans.

This is the 105th Congress's first piece of veterans' legislation, and I am here to rise in support of this bill, because in this era of downsizing, it provides increased job opportunities and security. Let us send a strong message to our veterans by overwhelmingly passing this bill.

Furthermore, while back in the district, I invited local veterans to participate in my veterans' advisory panel, a panel that will meet regularly to advise me on ways to improve the lives of our veterans. I am proud to say that we have an overwhelming response. Already, they have expressed their concerns about our Persian Gulf war veterans and the need for continued research.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to seek similar ways to stay informed, and with tomorrow's vote, take a first step in this Congress for our veterans.

#### INCREASING TAXES WILL NOT HELP OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years tax-and-spend liberals have come to Washington, DC and run up a \$5.6 trillion debt that is going to be passed on to our children. For 40 years, tax-and-spend liberals have increased taxes to a point that the average American is now paying 50.2 percent of every dollar they make to Washington and State levels, and yet these same tax-and-spend liberals come up talking about how they want to help children. But guess what? The way they want to help children is to increase taxes. The way they say we help children is increase spending through another Federal bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, if we are going to help children, we have got to make sure that taxes are reduced and Federal spending is reduced, because a bipartisan commission headed by Senator KERREY projected a few years ago that my boys are going to be paying 89 percent of every dollar they make in 30

years to the Federal Government in Washington. It is wrong, and it is immoral, and it is demagogic to suggest that we can help the children of America by raising their taxes and increasing a new layer of bureaucracy in Washington.

#### AMERICA NEEDS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, a few minutes ago I objected to agreeing to taking up the Suspension Calendar for tomorrow. The reason I did so is not because I object to the bills that were on the Suspension Calendar; I did so because I object to business as usual in this House, especially when business as usual means that week after week this House comes back to little or no business that is important to the American public.

We come back not for the budget, we come back not for children's health care, and most importantly, we come back not to deal with campaign finance reform. Yet every day the American public have new revelations given to them about the White House, about Congress, about the Senate, about the House of Representatives, about people with enough money getting access that no other American can possibly conceive of having, with powerful Members of the House and powerful Members of the Senate offering access for money, offering the ability to sit on inside councils for money, offering the ability to talk to Cabinet officials for money. It has got to stop.

Today we see in The New York Times an overwhelming majority of Americans want the corrosive, corrupting campaign finance system changed, but they do not believe that Congress is serious about it. We are going to continue to object to this kind of do-nothing agenda and an agenda that fails to respond to the needs of the public on campaign finance reform.

#### PASS "SAFE" FOR A SAFER AMERICA

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it seems inconceivable that convicted felons, including those who have committed violent crimes using guns, could get out of prison and could, under the law, buy guns yet again. I raise the question, who is being protected by this law, convicted felons, or law abiding citizens?

Each year since fiscal year 1993 we in Congress have stopped funding this guns for convicted felons program. However, this is insufficient, because as the law is still on the books, even

unfunded, felons can go to court and regain their firearm privileges.

To stop this from happening, we should eliminate the guns for convicted felons program outright.

Today, along with the gentlewoman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA] and the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MCCARTHY], I am introducing the Stop Arming Felons Act, or the SAFE Act. The Ackerman-Morella-McCarthy legislation will eliminate guns for convicted felons altogether. It sends a clear message that we should make it harder, not easier, for criminals to have access to weapons.

The Stop Arming Felons Act is bipartisan and has 32 original cosponsors, and I urge all of my colleagues to act in the interest of this country and let us stop arming convicted felons.

#### CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

#### CORRECTION TO NURSE AIDE TRAINING

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 968) to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to permit a waiver of the prohibition of offering nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs in certain nursing facilities.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 968

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. PERMITTING WAIVER OF PROHIBITION OF OFFERING NURSE AIDE TRAINING AND COMPETENCY EVALUATION PROGRAMS IN CERTAIN FACILITIES

Section 1819(f)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-3(f)(2)) and section 1919(f)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r(f)(2)) are each amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by inserting "subject to subparagraph (C)," after "(iii)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) WAIVER AUTHORIZED.—Clause (iii) of subparagraph (B) shall not apply to a program offered in (but not by) a nursing facility in a State if the State—

"(i) determines that there is no other such program offered within a reasonable distance of the facility,

"(ii) assures, through an oversight effort, that an adequate environment exists for operating the program in the facility, and

"(iii) provides notice of such determination and assurances to the State long-term care ombudsman."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read for amendment.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendments recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Clerk read as follows:

Committee amendments, page 2, line 12, strike "(iii)" and insert "(iii)(I)."

Page 2, line 14, insert "(or skilled nursing facility for purposes of title XVIII)" after "nursing facility."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CAMP] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLECZKA] will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CAMP].

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 968, a bill introduced by the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH]. The gentleman's legislation would amend the Social Security Act to permit a waiver of the prohibition of offering nurse aide training and competency evaluation programs in certain facilities.

As chairman of the Speaker's Advisory Group, it was my pleasure to work with Congressman EHRLICH and the minority ranking member, the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, and the rest of the minority members and majority members of the committee to expedite consideration of this Corrections Day legislation.

This bill was favorably reviewed by the Speaker's Advisory Group and is fully supported by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The advisory group was able to work with the Speaker and the committees of jurisdiction to bring this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is particularly well suited to be considered here under the Corrections Day procedure as we are doing today. Despite the good intentions of the nurse aide training legislation of the 1980's, certain aspects have created significant problems with its implementation.

The 1987 reconciliation bill instituted training standards for nurse aids working in long-term care facilities. Under existing law, nursing facilities which are subject to an extended survey are prohibited from offering facility-based nurse aide training and competency evaluation for a period of up to 2 years.

As an unintended consequence, a nursing home that is subject to a review is not allowed to have a nurse aide training program at their facility, even if the care provided by the nurse aide is unrelated to the review itself.

This bill would waive the prohibition on nurse aide training programs if the State determines there is no other training program within a reasonable distance of the facility. The State must also assure that an adequate environment exists for operating a program.

Nurse aide training programs are vital to health care delivery. Our current law, however, is particularly burdensome in rural areas which face difficulties recruiting nurse aids. It does not make sense that these very nurse aide training programs are improving patient care as rural providers find it increasingly difficult to recruit nurse aids.