wreck and receive half of the value of the recovered treasures. Sea Search Armada discovered the *San Jose* wreck in 1983.

Unfortunately, the past 14 years have witnessed an extraordinary effort by the Government of Colombia to claim exclusive ownership of the treasure of the sunken galleon. In clear disregard of accepted law, the government enacted retroactive changes in its salvage law that would have reduced the share of the treasure payable to the American company from the accepted 50 percent to a taxable 5 percent. Thankfully, the Colombian Constitutional Court declared the order unconstitutional.

In an August 1996 letter to International Relations Committee Chairman Ben Gilman, the Columbia government stated that a ruled had not yet been uttered by the Superior Court of Barranquilla and that the Government "will not make any decisions until after a verdict" is made by this judicial court. The decision of the Magistrates of the Superior of Barranquilla—like all previous court decisions—was in Sea Search Armada's favor and recognized its claim to 50 percent of the treasure of the *San Jose*. Regrettably, the Colombian government's attorney general will now be appealing the decision once again.

This case has gone on too long. It is high time that the Government of Colombia end its decade-long litigation against the Sea Search Armada company and resolve this matter.

We are faced with a situation in which the legitimate property rights of an American company have been expropriated in disregard to the recognized rights of ownership under Colombian and international law. When deprived of property in defiance of international law, American citizens should expect their government to ensure that preferential treatment is not given to the delinquent party, as this body has done in the past.

Mr. Speaker, the rulings from every Colombian court and from experts panels have defined the rights of the discovering party. Following the decision by the Superior Court, the Colombian government has been provided with an important opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to abide by the rule of law. I believe that Colombia's recognition of the judicial ruling will send a reassuring message to potential American investors and will assure that the cooperation between our nation and Colombia improves in the future.

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

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

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

[Ms. BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.

DEMOCRATS GETTING READY TO STAND UP AND FIGHT AGAIN

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues what we can accomplish when we stand up together and fight for what we believe in.

Last year the congressional majority attempted to cut the school lunch program, and we stood up and said that it is wrong, simply wrong to take food out of the mouths of our children, and we stood up for our nation's kids, and we won that fight.

Then the congressional majority attempted to cut billions of dollars out of the Medicare program, and once again Democrats stood up and said it is wrong, simply wrong, to take health care away from our nation's seniors. We stood up for our nation's seniors, and we won that fight.

Last month the congressional majority showed that they have not learned from their mistakes. Republicans on the House Committee on Appropriations led the charge and voted overwhelming to underfund the Women, Infants and Children program by $38 million. Their actions would have forced 180,000 pregnant women, infants and children off of the WIC program. Once again we stood up and said it is wrong, simply wrong, to take milk, to take cereal, to take formula off of the breakfast tables. We stood up for women, for infants and for children, and we won that fight.

And as we head into this budget process, we should not be afraid to continue to stand up and fight for what we believe in because every time we have, we have won the fight.

We all agreed, Democrats and Republicans, about the need to balance the federal budget. But we need to stand up and make sure that any budget agreement includes a budget that is balanced in a way that is consistent with our priorities and our values as a Nation. We do not have a lot of details yet about the specifics of this budget agreement, but looking at the GOP tax cut plan makes me think: Get ready, guys, we are going to be forced to stand up and to fight once again, for the GOP tax cut plan mostly helps the wealthy. In fact, over 50 percent of the benefits go to the top 5 percent of wage earners.

This is not the kind of a tax cut that the working families of America are looking for. Democrats are going to stand up and fight for the folks who are not making the 6 figure salaries and incomes, the families who could really use some tax relief.

We will fight, fight to make sure that the tax cuts in this budget deal go to the families that need it the most, to working middle class families, to small businesses, to small farmers. We will fight to make sure this budget protects and preserves the Medicare program, and we will fight to make sure that this budget provides for education and for health care for our kids.

We have stood up and we have fought before for our children, for our seniors and for the working families of America, and we will stand up and fight once again.

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

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

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

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

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

[Mr. UPTON addressed the House. Hers remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WHAT ARE THEY HIDING?

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I discussed 6 individuals that were involved in the activities of the 1996 campaign in raising money for the Democratic National Committee. As a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, we have been looking at the activities of Webster Hubbell, John Huang, Charlie Trie, James Riady, and Mark Middleton, as well as Pauline Kachanalak.

The White House has stated on a number of occasions that it is fully cooperating with our committee subpoenas, but that is simply not true. The White House has given us some documents, but they consist mostly of highly censored items; the fancy word is redacted. It means they have blackened out everything on the page but perhaps one word, and we have dozens of copies of that, maybe hundreds. We asked for copies of correspondence involving