

several pieces of legislation, proudly so, that raise up the question fairly of real campaign finance reform. This is a difficult question. It is a question that many Americans, it falls on deaf ears, it is confusing. It is inside the beltway. It is a bunch of politicians fighting each other.

I do believe it is important for us, this body, with its integrity and hard working Members who do believe in what the real responsibility of this Congress is, is to provide for the leadership and guidance of this great government and for this country and for its citizens, many of whom are vulnerable, like children and senior citizens, our veterans. These are the responsibilities that we have, among many others.

So false accusations and getting in the spotlight and making statements that the President is a criminal and the Attorney General should be impeached, false accusations I think need to come to an absolute halt. We need to let the proceedings proceed. We need to understand that the independent or special prosecutor is not in and of itself a saviour. The Whitewater prosecution, some \$35 million later, with Ken Starr as the leader, has found nothing of substance and yet it proceeds to take taxpayers' dollars. All of the special prosecutors have not been what they have led to believe.

I think that we need to get on the right track, Mr. Speaker. As I close, the right track is real campaign finance reform, is ridding ourselves of the false accusations, the misleading comments and the unfortunate calling for the impeachment of the Attorney General of the United States of America.

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

[Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

#### HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO LEROY AND JEANETTE LINCK

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

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I have seldom taken the floor of the House here in the 9 years which I have served to present congratulatory remarks, but this is an occasion which gives me great pleasure to do so. Mr. Speaker, in an era when many are concerned with the demise of the institution of marriage and family here in the United States, I rise today to honor Leroy and Jeanette Linck. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Leroy and Jeanette on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Leroy and Jeanette were married on September 5, 1947 at the Methodist church in Bartonville. The Lincks joy-

ously celebrated their 50th anniversary with close friends and family on September 6 at an intimate reception in the Spillertown Baptist Church educational building for all to share in this wonderful occasion.

I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that Leroy and Jeanette have been great and dear friends of mine for many years and I have had the opportunity to watch firsthand the tremendous service that they have given their family, their friends, their community and also their party.

Leroy has been an active volunteer in the political arena and through his work experience he is a jack-of-all-trades. He has been a Democrat precinct committeeman for 32 productive years, working hand in hand with members of both political parties to show people in our area in southern Illinois what it means to participate in the democratic process.

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His fervor for community involvement was intoxicating. He is permanently responsible for letting people in the surrounding area become aware of and getting them to participate in the political process.

Jeanette dedicated many years of her career as a nurse at a local doctor's office until she decided to retire when the practice closed.

Mr. Speaker, in a day where marriages are too often short lived, it is a real treasure to be a witness to a couple that has endured the daily trials and tribulations that cause many couples to fail. The Lincks have proven that they can work things out and get through their struggles. Their family is no stranger to life's hardships. They have had many along the way, but for 50 solid years they have shown us how to overcome those problems, keep the family together and they have been a great testimony to young people in our area. Leroy and Jeanette have been blessed with a large loving family and a strong marriage.

Mr. Speaker, what a monumental achievement to be married for 50 years. It is an honor to represent a couple like the Lincks. They are an inspiration to us all in southern Illinois, and I am very proud to represent them in the United States House of Representatives.

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

[Mr. SMITH 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 Ohio [Mr. STRICKLAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### CONGRESS MUST CONTINUE THE PATH TOWARD TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has made tax relief, middle class tax relief, a high priority, and we have passed tax relief, but it is not enough. The average American this year will spend more time working to pay taxes than he or she will to work to pay for housing, food and clothing combined. On average, Americans will spend 2 hours and 49 minutes each day laboring to pay taxes.

Tax Freedom Day for 1997 was May 9. That is the latest Tax Freedom Day in history. We are still paying too much taxes. Let me give my colleagues some examples, because people do not realize the hidden taxes. They often focus on income taxes, but the pass-through taxes we in Congress are always dumping on corporations also get picked up by our constituents and taxpayers.

A bottle of beer is 43 percent taxes; an airplane ticket, 40 percent taxes; a bottle of liquor, 72 percent taxes; the electric bill, 25 percent taxes; a loaf of bread, 31 percent taxes; a car, 45 percent taxes; a hotel bill, 43 percent taxes; restaurant meal, 27 percent taxes; a package of cigarettes, 75 percent taxes; the telephone bill, 50 percent taxes; a pizza, 38 percent taxes; a can of Coca Cola, 35 percent taxes; and a gallon of gas, approximately 54 percent taxes.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are still being overtaxed. We have got to continue the path for tax relief. I think it is extremely important when we consider that the budget increases spending by over \$50 billion, but the tax relief was less than \$18 billion. It is not even a first step. It is a half step. We have to continue this.

Now, in addition to reducing taxes, Mr. Speaker, we have also got to simplify our taxes. Today, in terms of regulations, there are more than 7,500 pages in the Internal Revenue Code. It has tripled in the last decade. There are over 1 million words in it. Now, that is just the regulation. If we put in the laws, there is 17,000 pages in the IRS Code. There are 480 IRS tax forms. The IRS sends out 10 million corrections, tax correction notices, each year. And in 1990 alone, there were 190,000 disputes between the IRS and the taxpayers that required legal action.

Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayers do not wake up in the morning and try to figure out new ways to cheat the IRS. Most of the problems are just genuine misunderstandings in not being able to figure out this very complicated tax system that we have.

One taxpayer was fined \$10,000 for using type 12 pitch on a typewriter instead of using type 10 pitch on his typewriter. A \$10,000 fine. In 1993, a taxpayer was fined \$46,806 for an alleged underpayment of 10 cents. How is that for one thin dime?