

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONTINUES ATTACK ON PUBLIC EDUCATION

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, education has always been the great equalizer in this Nation. It opens the doors of opportunity and provides every American child with the opportunity to live up to his or her potential. It is the public schools in this Nation where students of all economic levels, races, and creeds come together in one classroom to develop the skills that they are going to need for a successful future.

The right wing of the Republican Party has never believed in American public schools. Former Republican Presidential candidate Pat Robertson said straight out in 1994, and I quote, "abolish the public schools."

Today, the Republican leadership is continuing their attack on public education by advocating a radical experiment that would take precious taxpayer dollars out of our public schools and into private schools.

I have a message for the Republican leadership: Our children are not your guinea pigs. We need to support and strengthen our public schools, not siphon off precious funds. Stand up for public education. Reject the Gingrich voucher plan.

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HONEST, CLEAN ELECTIONS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, what does the other side have to hide? Why will the Immigration and Naturalization Service not comply with the law? Why will groups which have been ordered by the court to produce documents not produce those documents as required by law? Why do the Democrats refuse to come forward and demand that the LORETTA SANCHEZ election be investigated in the open for all to see to prove that only those legally able to vote did so? Why do the media refuse to get behind the calls of honest, clean elections in California?

Mr. Speaker, regardless of what the other side says, nothing can change the fact that this issue is about honest elections and the rule of law. It is not about overturning the election and declaring Bob Dornan the winner. That is simply not going to happen. It is about fair, honest, clean elections all across this country.

Mr. Speaker, again I ask the question, what does the other side have to hide?

CHINA AND FAST TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Today, coveted nuclear technology for China. But do not worry. They signed a secret non-proliferation agreement. Of course I cannot read it, my colleagues cannot read it, but they will abide by it. Ha. You bet.

Next week fast track trade authority. Make no mistake. These policies are inextricably linked by the one overarching principle of U.S. foreign policy, money, corporate profits. That is all it is about. Human rights? The United States does not care. We do not stand for that anymore. U.S. economic interests in the long term, U.S. workers? The United States does not care anymore. And even now national security is subsumed to the profits of a few huge multinational U.S.-based corporations who want to export nuclear technology. It was all last night down at the White House right here: "Forget diplomacy. Money makes the world go round."

If you like our policy toward China, you will love fast track. It promises more of the same.

TAX REFORM

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that death and taxes are the only sure things in life. The difference between the two is at least the IRS cannot make death any worse. The instruction book for the original income tax form was just 15 pages long and the highest tax rate was 6 percent. When Congress debated this issue in this Chamber in 1913, some Members worried that the rate would someday reach the unthinkable level of 10 percent. Today the lowest Federal income tax rate is 15 percent and that 15-page booklet has swelled to more than 9,000 pages. The average American family pays more in total taxes than they do for food, clothing, and shelter combined. It is time for a complete overhaul of the Tax Code and the IRS, which have become overly burdensome and unfair.

A lot of so-called experts told us we could not reform welfare, we could not slow the rate of Washington spending, we could not balance the budget and provide tax relief for American families. Today we are told that we cannot replace the existing Tax Code with one that is simpler, fairer, and less burdensome. I say it is simply amazing what can be accomplished when we do not know what we cannot do.

VOUCHERS

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today unfortunately the radical Republicans in Congress are continuing their all-

out attack on the public school system. They want it to wither on the vine because, just like with Medicare, extremists in the Republican Party in Congress do not believe in public school education. Public school education is the key that unlocks the door to the American dream for more than 90 percent of America's children, including my own 2 kids. We cannot allow the radical Republicans in Congress to destroy America's public school system. Besides, what would be next? Are we going to give people vouchers to buy books if they do not believe in the public library? Are we going to give people vouchers to buy their own swing set if they find the local town park inconvenient?

No, because America is still a country that believes in the common good and the American dream. Let us fix our public schools, let us encourage charter public schools to create competition in our public schools, but let us not pilage the public school system in America. That will not be good for America.

H.R. 2748, AIR SERVICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced H.R. 2748, the Air Service Improvement Act. This is a bill which could help bring down the cost of air travel for small- or medium-sized airports. Today it costs people in cities like Knoxville, Syracuse, and many other places much more to fly a couple of hundred miles than it does for people in many large cities to fly to Europe or across the entire country. This bill would open up new slots for airlines to serve underserved cities. It would provide a special grant program to help airports attract low-cost airlines to help bring down ticket costs. It would set up new, faster procedures for handling anticompetitive predatory pricing complaints against some airlines. The bill would set up a loan guarantee program to help airlines purchase commuter planes if they agree to serve underserved airports for at least 1 year.

The Air Service Improvement Act, if passed, could be a major step in helping to end the great unfairness that exists today in the price of airline tickets. I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing this much needed relief for air travelers in our small- and medium-sized cities.

SAY "NO" TO VOUCHER EXPERIMENT

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the House is scheduled to vote today on a radical experiment with our Nation's schools. The Republican leadership wants to use school vouchers to take