

It is kind of puzzling, is it not?

NEBRASKA NEEDS FAST TRACK

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, Nebraska needs more export opportunities abroad in order to attract and retain businesses and jobs. Nebraska needs fast track.

From 1987 to 1996, Nebraska's exports increased almost 646 percent. Our top exports in 1996 were food products at \$1.4 billion, followed by agriculture and livestock at \$229 million, industrial machinery and computers, \$193 million, electronic equipment at \$131 million, and so on and so forth.

Last year our top exporting partners were Japan, Canada, Korea, and Mexico. Without fast track, any of the export gains that we have made could be wiped away as our trade competitors negotiate anti-U.S. trade deals. It simply makes no sense to me why some want the United States to unilaterally disarm itself at the trade bargaining table.

I encourage my colleagues to examine their own States' trade history to see how exports have helped create jobs at home. If your State's history is anything like mine, the answer will be pretty obvious. The United States needs fast track.

AMERICAN PEOPLE SAY TIME FOR TAX CUTS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton traveled to Virginia yesterday and told voters who favored a tax cut that they were selfish. I am not kidding, he really said that.

In Virginia, like most places, working families pay Federal taxes and State taxes, excise taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, and on and on, but Virginia, many folks pay a particularly odious tax, a car tax, a tax on their own personal vehicle which they must pay to the government year after year again and again. The Republican candidate for Governor of Virginia pledged to eliminate that tax, and that has made the President very angry.

President Clinton is showing us the fundamental difference between conservatives and liberals once again, between those of us who think working Americans pay too much tax and those that believe that the government can always bleed those so-called selfish taxpayers a little bit more.

Mr. Speaker, today the so-called selfish taxpayers and voters of Virginia get to respond to the President. I wonder what they will have to say to him.

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THE TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, a copy of an internal IRS document sent to my office clearly shows that the IRS is using a quota system in evaluating employee performance, despite the fact that using quotas was made illegal 9 years ago. This memo clearly shows the handwritten comments of an IRS supervisor stating that the monthly total collected by this employee is only 13 percent of the expected or required total. When confronted with this evidence, the IRS took a play right out of the plausible denial handbook of the White House; oh, yes, they said, we are not using quotas, these are just goals.

Plausible denial or goals, whatever the name is or that the IRS assigns to this practice, it must be stopped. I have introduced the Taxpayer Protection Act of 1997, which will once and for all end quotas for the IRS. IRS agents should be determining the correct amount of tax dollars owed, not trying to inflate their numbers so that they may be considered for a promotion.

I urge my colleagues to join me in a fight to once and for all end the use of quotas.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CARTER, FIREFIGHTER

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John M. Carter, a firefighter in the District of Columbia who died last month in the line of duty. John Carter was a hometown hero, one of a special breed of men who put his life on the line on a constant basis to protect his community. He was the son of a retired Montgomery County, MD, fire chief, and the brother and brother-in-law of two D.C. firefighters. The Washington Post called him "one of a special breed of heroes that the District of Columbia is fortunate to have on its side."

John Carter routinely faced the searing heat, choking smoke, clouds of toxic chemicals, and hazardous traffic conditions. He was a First Battalion sergeant who was the first to go into the burning building at Fourth and Kennedy Streets, Northwest. This was typical for John Carter, who is a 15-year veteran firefighter. When the roof collapsed, John Carter was trapped inside, and it was impossible to escape to safety. John Carter's death at age 38 in the line of duty was a tragedy. He is one of those unsung heroes who provides the highest quality of service to our citizens.

I rise to pay tribute to him, his brave family, his wife Deborah, and his son

Brian. They deserve the highest recognition for their courage, commitment, and the sacrifices they have made on behalf of all of us.

AN APOLOGY TO VIRGINIANS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I got up early this morning and went jogging down Independence Avenue. As I did, a lot of hard-working men and women were coming in from Virginia to work. It was early in the morning for these two-income families. They work hard, and they raise kids. Statistically, many of them have two kids. They help them with their homework, try to teach them responsibility. These parents volunteer at the school and the church and the United Way. They often have to sacrifice. They cannot go on vacation because they have to buy a new dryer or a new set of tires. They might have to buy braces for the 14-year-old.

But yesterday, the President of the United States told these hard-working men and women that if you vote Republican today in Virginia, you are selfish. Paying 38 percent total household taxes is not enough. You have to pay more, the President of the United States told these hard-working men and women.

I would say to them that they are doing their best, they are paying taxes, they are not taking things out of society, they are earning their way, they are teaching their children to earn their way, and they are going to become future taxpayers. They are doing more. I wish we had more of these selfish people, Mr. President. I think you owe the people of Virginia an apology.

"SELFISH" AMERICANS WANT MORE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year a Treasury Department official described Americans who wanted further tax relief as "selfish." Two weeks ago the minority leader in the other body said, and I quote, that he did not think most Americans were overtaxed. So perhaps it should not come as any surprise when I picked up the paper this morning to learn that the President described the people of Virginia as selfish for supporting a tax cut. According to the Washington Times this morning, the President is miffed that voters still want tax cuts, even though the economy has improved.

I have news for the President, the economy has improved because of the hard work and ingenuity of the American people. They work hard to feed their children's appetites, not Washington's appetite to spend money.