

United States companies doing business in China.

We pressure China to stop selling nuclear-related technology to countries such as Pakistan that are trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The House will increase funding for the National Endowment for Democracy to promote democracy in China, and we will express our disgust at the Chinese practice of harvesting and transplanting human organs from prisoners, and we will deny U.S. visas to those Chinese officials.

MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS UNIFIED IN OPPOSITION TO FAST TRACK

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the major environmental organizations, some of which were strong supporters of NAFTA in 1993, have expressed their opposition to the current fast track proposals moving through the House and Senate. The National Wildlife Federation, the National Audubon Society, and Defenders of Wildlife have joined with the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and dozens of other grassroots environmental organizations around the country who oppose this legislation.

The debate currently raging over fast track is not a question of whether the United States enters into a global economy, it is a question of how we participate in that economy, and whether we should sacrifice the rights of workers in this country and around the world in the name of free trade. It is a question of whether we should capitulate to multinational corporations which would bargain down the environmental protection standards of nations around the world in the name of competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, the United States cannot afford to encourage a race to the bottom when it comes to preserving the global environmental or the rights of workers to a safe workplace and a fair wage. We should vote down this fast track legislation when it comes up at the end of this week.

SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN EDUCATION REFORM AGENDA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher in Edwardsville, IL, I often use my 1-minutes to praise teachers and students who have touched so many lives in central and southern Illinois. My past in education also makes me very aware of the need for reforms in our local schools.

That is why I rise today to urge parents, teachers, and students to embrace the bold education reform agenda that

was proposed by my fellow Republicans. This education agenda includes six measures which provide every child in America with first-class learning opportunities in safe, secure schools where children can focus on learning and teachers can focus on teaching.

Sending more money to Washington bureaucrats is a policy of the past, and we must begin to give control of our schools back to the States, local schools, teachers, and our parents, where it belongs.

PROTECT AMERICA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND SLOW DOWN FAST TRACK

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

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks I have grown increasingly concerned about the World Trade Organization's impact on our sovereignty. The WTO allows a panel of trade experts to rule that Federal and State laws are barriers to trade. If we do not take action to comply with the WTO's ruling, other nations then can level punitive tariffs against us.

While many have glossed this over, Congress has already changed one law to avoid these sanctions. The WTO has cases pending against several State and Federal laws. In Florida, we require foreign agricultural producers who ship crops into our State to pay for inspections when their produce enters our ports. These inspections protect locally grown crops from exposure to foreign-based infestations, which could devastate a multibillion-dollar agricultural industry.

While the State law does not violate any Federal statute, it is currently being challenged in the WTO. I would urge my colleagues to take a close look at the WTO before voting on fast track. Protect our sovereignty and slow down fast track.

IRS REFORM

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder that the vast majority of Americans feel that nobody in Washington is on their side. Consider the IRS, as some speakers have already. For too long and for too many times, this agency has acted in an arrogant, heavy-handed fashion, running roughshod over hard-working taxpayers.

Fortunately, I believe Congress has listened to the American people and is now on the verge of passing a bill that will provide taxpayers with some much needed protections against the abuses of the IRS. This bill makes it easier for taxpayers to recover legal fees when the IRS is wrong. It allows taxpayers to sue the IRS for up to \$100,000 for negligent collection practices, and

most important, it shifts the burden of proof in court cases from a taxpayer to the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to stick up for the American people by standing up to the IRS. I urge my colleagues to support this important IRS reform.

INCONSISTENCY IN AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has never earned high marks for consistency. We do spend many hours debating the minor differences in the management of many centralized programs that are generally unwarranted. But when it comes to foreign policy, I see both sides of the aisle are eagerly agreeing with the President that we must threaten force and use of force in Iraq.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, there is no indication that this is a proper position. We have been told by the Ambassador to the United Nations that the reason we must threaten force in this area is that it is a direct threat to the security of the United Nations. Here all along I thought I was here in the Congress to protect the security of the United States.

We are inconsistent because the majority of Americans want us out of Bosnia. Most Members of Congress argue and vote to get us out of Bosnia. There is no indication that we are going to get out of Bosnia. Yet, here we are, chanting away that we should use force and threaten force in Bosnia. We do not have that same policy with China.

THE PRESIDENT JOINS REPUBLICANS IN ESSENTIAL IRS REFORM

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in response to the last speaker, I would point out that Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that, "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines."

I think President Clinton must have meditated on Emerson when he recently flip-flopped on reforming the Internal Revenue Service. Although the Clinton administration originally opposed IRS restructuring, the President wisely sacrificed consistency and jumped on the bandwagon of the IRS reform bill developed by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Building on the recommendation of the bipartisan Kerry-Portman Commission, this reform legislation would overhaul IRS management by placing the agency under an independent oversight board. It would expand taxpayer

protections by enacting 28 new taxpayer rights, including the right to sue for negligence, to collect legal fees, to be notified of the reasons for an audit.

For the first time, taxpayers in advanced IRS proceedings will be considered innocent until proven guilty. This IRS reform bill is essential.

WOULD MEMBERS GIVE FAST TRACK AUTHORITY TO A PRESIDENT THEY SAY CANNOT BE TRUSTED?

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, my two previous colleagues stressed the importance of consistency in statesmanship. I am going to agree. For the past 6 years folks on this side of the aisle in particular have been saying that Bill Clinton could not be trusted, on a daily and almost hourly basis.

Well, if they really feel that way, I hope they will stick to their guns, because within the next week we will be called upon as Congressmen to give away our constitutionally mandated duty, given to us in article 1, section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution, to regulate commerce with foreign nations. Fast track will take that authority from Congress and give it to a President that they say cannot be trusted.

If Members really think he cannot be trusted, then do not give him our responsibilities. Under no circumstances should Congress be giving away our constitutionally-mandated duties. This is the highest law of the land. I would encourage all of us to live by it.

DO AMERICANS WANT MORE BUREAUCRACY OR MORE FREEDOM FOR EDUCATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL?

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we have been having an ongoing educational debate here in Congress, in the 105th Congress. There are several issues that have come out that I want to share today.

Seven percent of the money for education comes from the Federal Government, yet 70 percent of the paperwork and red tape come from the Federal Government. We have discussed special education, vocational education, choice, charter schools, literacy.

The Democrats have worked for more money, more Federal control, more bureaucracy, which equals more taxes. The Republicans have fought for 90 percent to go to the classroom, which has normally been about 70 percent; for local control, allowing the community and parents to choose. Federal control means Federal bureaucracy and will not be in the best interests of our students.

Today I ask the American public, which do they want, more bureaucracy, or more freedom for education at the local level?

PRESIDENT CALLS VIRGINIANS SELFISH FOR SEEKING LOWER TAXES

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I noted with interest and I must admit, Mr. Speaker, a trace of disbelief the headline in yesterday's Washington Times: Clinton Labels Tax Cut Selfish.

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Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the President that it is not the American people who are selfish. Instead, it is a government that takes more and more and more of what people earn and then unfairly takes it away from them.

I would point out the experience of a 93-year-old American who suffered from Alzheimer's disease who sent a check to the Internal Revenue Service for \$7,000. Even the IRS admitted that was a mistake. But when it came time to give that money back, the Internal Revenue Service said, no, the statute of limitations had run out. So the IRS was protected with its own selfishness.

Today, Mr. Speaker, in our bill to reform the Internal Revenue Service, we take away that statute of limitations. For that senior citizen's family, including an Arizona couple, we will try to make it right. No, it is not the people who are selfish; it is a brutal, repressive tax regime.

SELFISH TO VOTE TO SLOW THE SIZE AND GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, the President says it is selfish to vote to slow the size and wasteful growth of government.

Consider this: Have you looked at your phone bill lately with all the government fees? Have you looked at your cable bill and all of its government taxes and fees, your gas taxes when you fill up your car, your sales taxes on purchases, your property taxes on real estate, your State income taxes, your payroll taxes on earning, your excise taxes on beverages, your IRS taxes on income?

Only in Washington can one say the Lord giveth and the Government taketh away. When Washington takes it from you, it is called compassionate. When you want your money back from Washington because it is wasting it, you are called selfish.

Mr. Speaker, it is the American taxpayers' money, not ours, not Congress', not the White House's, the taxpayers'. It is not selfish to ask for fiscal dis-

cipline. It is not selfish to save for the future. It is not selfish to give more money to your children so that they can invest for their education. It is not selfish to ask government to restrain its wasteful spending patterns. It is time government recognizes that it is for the people, by the people, of the people, not for the President.

POLICY AGAINST CHINESE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues a question. What exactly are we waiting for? What trade practice? What military threat? What human rights atrocity will finally move us to take a stand against the policies of the Chinese Government?

America fought a war to end slavery, yet we wink at the sale of human body parts. We stand in line at the Holocaust Museum, yet we also line up to make deals with a government that murders Christians and Buddhists. We had sanctions against South Africa, yet we extend MFN to China. Why?

No one has a stronger desire to see U.S. businesses flourish, but profit comes at a price. If it costs a little more to make a product in the United States, I will gladly pay the difference.

History will judge us harshly if we fail to take a stand. I urge Members to vote for the Cox package and to support H.R. 1865, the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question de novo of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 353, nays 48, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 575]

YEAS—353

Ackerman	Baessler	Bartlett
Aderholt	Baker	Barton
Allen	Baldacci	Bass
Andrews	Ballenger	Bateman
Archer	Barcia	Bentsen
Armey	Barrett (NE)	Bereuter
Bachus	Barrett (WI)	Berman