

sponsors say it will fix environmental problems in the forest. But, in fact, it will harm our public forests. And because it is such a bad bill, we have a lot of people who are opposing it.

The League of Conservation Voters have said they will score this as a key no vote. Who else is opposing the bill? Quite a lot of people: the Methodist Church, Taxpayers for Common Sense, the Presbyterian Church, Religious Center for Reformed Judaism, The National Audubon Society, and the US PIRGs.

Sure, we do have environmental problems. But we are trying to fix those problems at a local level. We have hundreds of private-public partnerships working to fix those environmental approximate.

What this bill is is a fix from Washington, D.C. We do not need a fix from Washington, D.C. We need to fix our environmental problems on the ground, people who understand, people who know the problems.

So I say, vote no on H.R. 2515.

IRS IS OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the individual who made the following statement: "It is time to change IRS to RIP, rest in peace." They hit the nail on the head. The Internal Revenue Service is truly out of control, just like the tax system it oversees.

This Congress approved important Internal Revenue Service reforms last year which provide critical new protections for the American taxpayer. I hope those reforms will be enacted because they will certainly be an improvement. However, I fear these reforms will not be enough for the American people.

The American people need more tax relief, both from the size of the checks they write to the Internal Revenue Service and from the lengthy and burdensome process they must struggle through each year simply to determine how much they owe. In fact, Americans spend \$200 billion a year and 5.4 billion hours annually merely complying with the Tax Code.

I believe that a fairer, simpler tax system is the answer. It is the best way to truly change IRS to RIP.

REPUBLICANS' CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BILL IS EMBARRASSMENT TO COUNTRY

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, why would the Republican leaders of this House send to the floor a campaign finance reform bill that is not campaign finance reform, a bill that Common Cause calls a "hoax," the League of Women Voters calls a "travesty," The New York Times calls a "charade," and

the Washington Post calls a "mockery"?

Has the Republican leadership become like a fish that no longer feels the water, that no longer feels wet in the water?

What do I mean by that? Have they become like a fish that is swimming in money all the time in Washington, D.C., no longer aware of how inappropriate these huge, unregulated several hundred thousand dollar donations are?

This campaign finance reform bill they are presenting to this House floor, the only one they are letting come to this floor, is not campaign finance reform. It is not leadership; it is an embarrassment to this country.

FOR A BETTER AMERICA, WE MUST BE BETTER AMERICANS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Congress has worked very hard to rebuild a strong economy and bring hope to our children. It took a great deal of discipline and dedication and it was not without sacrifice. But the results are record-setting days on the New York Stock Exchange, dwindling unemployment and welfare lines, and expanding consumer confidence.

But what good will come from the strong economy if we have an empty soul? This week we were all stunned and saddened by the two boys who ambushed a school and killed four young girls with promising lives, and a young teacher with a promising career in Jonesboro, Arkansas. But that was not the only indication that our culture is in a moral free-for-all.

The day after this tragedy, in Dale City, California, a boy shot at a principal; in Coldwater, Michigan, another student committed suicide outside his school; and in Princeton, Texas, a student slashed three teachers with a razor blade.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to rebuild our moral culture like we rebuilt our economy. It is time to overcome the culture of violence that permeates on our TVs and from our movies. Each of us must participate. It is up to us. We must talk to our children, honor our commitments. If we want a better America, we must be better Americans.

WORKERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of working people to urge Congress to reject H.R. 3246, a bill to restrict workers from organizing.

H.R. 3246 will make it much more difficult for workers to organize other workers for better pay and benefits. It would allow employers to refuse em-

ployment to workers on the basis of their outside group affiliations. It would do this by overruling a Supreme Court decision which held that employees who took jobs at nonunion employers to assist other workers to form a union, that those employees could not be fired for disloyalty.

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H.R. 3246 turns the clock back to the 19th century when workers had few rights. I urge my colleagues to defend the rights of workers. Let us unite to declare, people have a right to a job, a right to decent wages and benefits, a right to safe working places, a right to compensation if they are injured on the job, a right to decent health care, a right to organize, a right to join a union, a right to grieve about working, and a right to participate in the political process. We in Congress have an obligation to protect the rights of working people.

TAX CODE MUST GO

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, here is a quiz. What has over 3,500 pages, is practically impossible to understand and is so complicated that rich people, poor people, middle class people all think it is an unfair monstrosity? Of course it is the Federal Tax Code, all 3,500 pages of it.

The Tax Code is a monument to the power of special interests, a symbol of big government and liberalism run amok, a scourge to all who believe in fairness, openness and common sense. I am convinced that just reforming the Tax Code is not going to work. No, Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code will have to go because the Tax Code is fundamentally corrupt. It is not an honest system when people trying to do the best they possibly can to figure out how much they owe make innocent mistakes and then get hammered by the IRS. A simple tax, maybe a sales tax, maybe a flat tax, with a low interest rate is the only way to have fairness, transparency and honesty in the way the Federal Government collects revenue.

Let us get serious. Let us replace, not just reform, the 3,500 pages of the Tax Code.

MEXICO'S PLAN TO REDUCE THEIR OIL PRODUCTION

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express strong outrage concerning recent reports about Mexico's plans to reduce the production of crude oil, which will result in higher gasoline prices at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, it was not too long ago, the same Mexican government officials who today seek to increase the price of crude oil came to the United States