

pension protection, they have been in recess.

The first 100 days of this Republican Congress: a do-nothing Congress in recess, in recess from reality.

AMERICANS SHOULD OBSERVE APRIL FOOL'S DAY ON APRIL 15

(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, we are roughly 13 hours away from the first day of April, also known as April Fool's Day. This year, Mr. Speaker, I think America should observe April Fool's day on April 15. Why? Well, April 15 is the day when the IRS plays the biggest prank of all, trying to convince the Americans that it has turned over a new leaf as a kinder, gentler agency.

Mr. Speaker, the Americans are no fools. They see the IRS for exactly what it is, out of control. April 1 has been dedicated to fools, and April 15 has been dedicated to the IRS, just 14 days between losing one's mind and losing one's money.

Working men and women in this country are sick and tired of having the joke played on them. Our families deserve a government that is dedicated to reform and accountability, not abusive power and status quo.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of real and practical IRS reform, tax reform now, not tomorrow. We must end the practical joke on the taxpayers of this country.

FLORIDA FIXES THEIR ELECTRIC CHAIR

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Daniel Remeya said he killed people for the fun of it. In 1985 he killed a clerk for \$50. Two days later he killed a grocery clerk. Two days after that he killed a restaurant manager. That same day he killed two repair men, my colleagues. Now, after all that his attorneys said Florida's electric chair does not work properly, constituting cruel and unusual punishment, therefore Remeya should be spared.

Beam me up.

I want to commend Florida for, No. 1, fixing their electric chair; and, No. 2, for using the electric chair on this creep who killed innocent victims for the fun of it.

Good night, sweet prince.

I say one last thing, Congress. An America that gives murderers three square meals, a roof and a law library is an America that will continue to have mass murderers. I yield back all the carnage in our cities.

BESTEVA WILL BENEFIT ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST DANGEROUS HIGHWAYS

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support BESTEA when it comes to the House floor this week. BESTEA focuses on safety and keeping our nation's highways safe like never before.

An example of this commitment is the High Risk Roads Interstate Program. This program, Mr. Speaker, allocates \$5.75 billion to fund safety improvements to high risk roads with high accident rates. Funding of this program requires that safety must be the primary purpose of any project.

Mr. Speaker, this program will directly benefit my home State of Washington, which has the dubious distinction of having one of America's most dangerous highways. Highway 522 is a 10.5 mile road where 42 people have lost their lives in the past 20 years. Without this new program, the estimated \$180 million price tag would remain out of reach, leading to more and more senseless deaths.

I urge my colleagues to support BESTEA.

CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Congress yesterday missed a great opportunity to reform the finance campaigning that we do in our country. I am happy to report that on a vote of 337 to 74 this House turned down some atrocious campaign finance reform legislation that was a total sham, and we did it in a bipartisan way. Americans have said we want campaign finance reform, we want to take the money out, we want to participate in the process, and we want an open debate on it.

I applaud my colleagues. Democrats have been strong in it. All 196 of us said "no" to the sham campaign finance reform legislation that was on the House floor last night, and I am happy that 74 of Republicans stood up to that challenge as well.

Let us reform the laws. Let Americans participate in campaign finance reform.

I commend my Democratic Caucus, Mr. GEPHARDT for his leadership. Let us continue the fight.

NO APOLOGIES NEEDED

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is time for our President to come home. We owe no more apologies to the world. I

am tired of hearing people go out and apologize for the United States of America.

Take a look at the United States of America's history. Look how many millions and millions and millions of people that we have helped. Look how many of our soldiers have given the ultimate sacrifice to defend freedom in this world.

Take a look at what our country offers the world today. We do more for the environment than any other country in the world. We have the best health care system of any country in the world. We have the strongest military of any country in the world which helps our friends at our expense.

Take a look at what we do for education for our own citizens. Take a look at what we do through the United Nations for other countries. Take a look at our foreign aid.

Mr. Speaker, we have got nothing to apologize about. The President needs to come home. If apologies are due, maybe they are due over at the White House, but they are not due for being citizens of the United States.

I am a citizen of the United States of America, and let me tell every one of my colleagues I have no apologies.

THE CONGRESS HAS GONE WILDLY ASTRAY

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to get to work on the people's agenda, the people's business, and to quit playing partisan games. Last year after passing a successful budget resolution the Congress today has gone wildly astray. The Republican Congress today cannot get along with the Clinton administration, it cannot get along with the Democrats and the Republicans in Congress, cannot get along with themselves.

Look what has been going on the last 2 weeks in the House: Making a mockery out of campaign finance legislation yesterday, partisan bills considered under suspension where there was certainty such bills would fail. Secondly, last week giving short shrift to the environment and fortunately the so called Forest Health measure was defeated. The bills are failing; we cannot agree on subjects we should agree on and find a sound common ground upon.

And today we have got a bill scheduled on financial modernization, the bill that we have been working on for a decade, and what is happening is that the Republican leadership is hijacking the credit union bill to put it onto this badly flawed bill, H.R. 10. It is like giving a ticket to somebody on the *Titanic*. This bill makes a mockery out of the due process and deliberate consideration. Substantive amendments will not be considered, we are going to have a total of about four or five hours to debate it, and it is all but immunized