

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you a lot. This means a lot to us this morning. This is a memory that the Condit family will cherish for a long time. I want to thank you for allowing us this opportunity this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid references to the gallery.

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT
WORKS

(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, I rise today to tell my colleagues, and as well, the American people, that the tax limitation amendment works. Fourteen States have now adopted language that includes tax limitations, including my home State of Nevada.

In tax limitation States, taxes grow more slowly and government spending grows more slowly. On the other hand, the economies expand faster and the job base grows more quickly. Today, we have an opportunity to allow the Federal Government and the national economy to get the same benefits.

It is helpful for us to remember that after taking control in 1994, the Republican Congress balanced the Federal budget for the first time in a generation. It was done by reducing wasteful government spending, not by raising taxes.

Now that we have reached a balanced budget, the tax limitation constitutional amendment will ensure that future Congresses do not resort to the old "tax and spend" ways of the past. This legislation makes raising taxes on the American people exactly what it should be, a last resort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important and much-needed legislation.

SCHEDULE VOTE ON TOBACCO
LEGISLATION TODAY

(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, for years tobacco companies have set their sights on America's young people, pinpointing the most appealing way to market their product to them, and deliberately hooking our kids on cigarettes.

A 1984 R.J. Reynolds marketing report says it all: Young people are the "only source of replacement smokers," and that if kids "turn away from smoking, the industry must decline, just as the population which does not give birth will eventually dwindle."

Yet the Republican leadership has refused to act to protect our kids from

this deadly habit, perhaps because the tobacco companies are the largest corporate contributors to the Republican Party.

Every day the Republican leadership fails to schedule debate on comprehensive tobacco legislation, 3,000 more kids in America will pick up this deadly habit, and 1,000 of them will eventually die of a tobacco-related illness.

Mr. Speaker, do the right thing. Schedule a vote on tobacco legislation today.

TIME TO HEAL WOUNDS IN
SOCIETY

(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, once again the New York Stock Exchange has set a new record as it presses on to the 10,000 mark. Our economy is strong nationwide, consumer confidence is very high, and unemployment is at its lowest point, with 2,200,000 people working today that were on welfare in 1994.

With all the good things that are happening today, with all the benefits from being the strongest market in the world, we have overlooked this emptiness in our Nation's soul. The symptoms are everywhere. They are in the paper, on the radio, on prime time television. People no longer honor their commitments, driving divorces up in America. Spousal abuse is up as people deal with life's frustrations without consideration for each other. Children are abused and forgotten in the whole process as people try to put their lives back together again.

Let us heal these wounds in our society by returning to faith in God and the values and virtues that built this great Nation.

BEST FOREIGN POLICY IN CHINA'S
HISTORY

(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, with \$60 billion, China buys California naval bases, missiles, attack aircraft, nuclear submarines. If that is not enough to tax your limitation, China then sells missiles to Iran and Pakistan to get more money, and then they use that money to control the Panama Canal.

Now, if that is not enough, folks, check this out: An American company recently gave missile secrets to China that the Pentagon admits these secrets can help China hit every American city right between the eyes with one of their nuclear missiles. Beam me up.

When is the White House going to realize that America has crafted the best foreign policy in China's history?

I yield back the balance of any common sense left in our Capitol.

PAY DOWN THE DEBT

(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, welcome back to all my colleagues from the Easter break work period. I am interested in hearing the collective view of our Nation's citizens from my colleagues. I will share mine.

From the 20th District of Illinois comes one consistent message on the budget surplus: Pay down the debt. Pay down the debt. Pay down the debt. It is the best way to ensure economic growth and opportunity for all, and the most important method of ensuring Social Security.

Let us work toward that end.

BEGIN WITH CONSERVING THE
HEALTH OF AMERICA'S YOUNG
PEOPLE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is alarming, but hardly surprising, to find the House Republican leadership continuing to do the bidding of the tobacco lobby. Within the last few days, the Speaker has declared that Joe Camel had nothing to do with youth smoking, and today the House Republican whip has opposed efforts in an article in the Wall Street Journal, of course, to reduce youth smoking by raising the price of tobacco.

This is the same House Republican leadership that last year thought the way to a tobacco settlement was to approve a \$50 billion tax break for the tobacco lobby. The only thing I can find to agree on this subject with Speaker GINGRICH on is we need a conservative approach, a very conservative approach that begins with conserving the health of America's young people; not protecting the nicotine peddlers who have exploited them at the same time they have funded the Republican Party.

FREE NEEDLE POLICY WRONG

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what can we say about the Enabler in Chief, who has just announced a policy that will actually put the Federal Government in the business of handing out needles to illegal drug users?

The government often does stupid things. The American people know that, and they despair at many of the dumb things the government tries to do. But the government should not be doing dangerous things, especially when people are at their most vulnerable, and they are the ones who will suffer the consequences.