

Many commonsense Democrats do not support this newest outrage. Soccer moms taking their kids to school certainly do not favor this policy. The President's own drug czar does not support this policy. Experts who have studied the problem do not support this policy; experts, that is, who believe that politics should not get in the way of good science.

No, Mr. Speaker, the people who fail to fight the drug war and who make excuses for that failure to protect kids from drugs are the ones behind this disastrous policy.

DISCHARGE PETITION WILL
ALLOW A FULL, FAIR, AND OPEN
DEBATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE
REFORM

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, as a number of individuals have mentioned this morning, today is Earth Day. I have some very important legislation, the leaking underground storage tank bill, that I would like to address. But as I was sitting there waiting for my turn, I could not help but notice that two of our Democratic colleagues got up and signed the discharge petition for campaign finance reform.

The Democratic Party is leading a fight for campaign finance reform, true campaign finance reform. What the discharge petition says, if we can get 218 signatures on it, is to bring forth our petition, which says let us have a full, fair, open debate on campaign finance. It does not endorse any proposal but lets us have a true, fair, open debate on campaign finance.

Unfortunately, the Republican Party leadership will not allow this to happen, so we have to use the discharge petition. So with two more Members signing today, we are now up to 204. We need 14 more Members to come down, have the courage to come down to the well of this floor and sign our discharge petition.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party is leading the fight to have campaign finance reform, without endorsing any proposal. Let us do campaign finance reform. Sign the discharge petition.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO PASS
THE TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution of the United States provides for 10 instances in which a supermajority is required for legislative approval. In other words, there are 10 occasions where legislators are required to have more than a majority of votes for legislative changes to be made. I think we need an 11th. It

is time for Congress to pass the tax limitation amendment to the Constitution.

The reasons why should be obvious to all Americans who pay taxes, but, just in case, let me explain. The main reason is because politicians who run on promises of tax cuts often end up doing exactly the opposite. They pass tax increases.

Just recall for a moment back in 1992 when a certain presidential candidate ran on a middle-class tax cut and, surprise, surprise, what do we get? We got a tax increase, the largest in U.S. history. Middle-class families now fork over between a quarter and a half of their income to the very politicians who have broken middle-class tax cut promises again and again. This amendment will make that a lot more difficult.

FIFTY-FIVE WOMEN IN CONGRESS
SETS NEW RECORD

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the House has just set another record, 55 strong; 55 strong women, that is, two new Democrats, one new Republican, all three gentlewomen from California, Representatives LOIS CAPPS, MARY BONO, and BARBARA LEE. Our thanks to California for sending us all three, for it is California that has made us 55.

The gentlewoman from California (Representative MARY BONO), a Republican, and the gentlewoman from California (Representative BARBARA LEE), a Democrat, were both sworn in yesterday. They embraced warmly on the floor in the spirit of our bipartisan Women's Caucus. Congratulations to the Democrats for the gentlewomen from California, Representative LOIS CAPPS and Representative BARBARA LEE, congratulations to the Republicans for the gentlewoman from California (Representative MARY BONO), and a special message for the Republicans: If they must send us more Republicans, please let them be women!

FREE NEEDLES TO DRUG ADDICTS,
THE LATEST PROGRAM
OF GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, there the liberals go again. I do not get it. I do not get why the President is opposing his own drug czar by announcing that the Federal Government now wants to start another program of government handouts.

Enthusiasm for government handouts is nothing new for this administration, only this time the government wants to start handing out free needles to drug addicts. Instead of trying to get drug addicts off the street and into a

program that will stop their self-destructive behavior, the government will now give a green light to their drug habit and send them on their way with clean needles so that they can, get this, abuse drugs safely.

I have had about enough of the liberal insanity, and I think that most Americans are tired of left-wing experts peddling a policy based on bogus science that runs counter to common sense.

The liberals love to come up with new handouts: money, condoms, free this and free that. Now, just when we think it cannot get any worse, free needles for safe shooting. Safe shooting, America.

ON EARTH DAY, A REMINDER OF
TWO ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS
LOCKED UP IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as has been noted a couple of times here this morning, today is Earth Day. It is the day in which we remind ourselves of the symbiotic relationship that exists between our species and every other species on the planet and how dependent everything else is on Earth upon our actions.

It is also important for us to observe today that there are a number of environmental bills that are pending in this House, or I should say really locked up in this House, that are not making progress. I will mention just two, the Federal Superfund, which needs to be reauthorized, and the Endangered Species Act.

With regard to the Endangered Species Act, a recent poll of more than 400 American biologists indicates that they are deeply concerned about the loss of biological diversity which we are currently experiencing. They estimate that up to one-fifth of all the species on the Earth will be wiped out within the next 30 years, unless we do something to protect the habitat of these species.

We are directly linked to everything else on Earth. We have a responsibility to protect them. We have a responsibility to pass the Endangered Species Act and get other important environmental bills out on this floor.

□ 1030

JUDGE STARR IS MAKING
PROGRESS

(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, we hear quite often these days that Judge Starr is taking too long in his investigation of the White House and their various scandals. I would say one thing to my Democrat colleagues. Number

one, obviously it would not take so long if we would have someone that would cooperate at the White House, but there is a lot of stonewalling and general shenanigans going on when asked even the straightest of questions.

Looking at it historically, James Walsh spent 7 years investigating on Iran-Contra and spent about \$50 million, and I do not believe got any convictions. The Democrats spent 8 years investigating HUD Secretary Samuel Pierce and the Democrats spent 7 years on a special investigation of Ray Donovan, Labor Secretary, and none of these brought convictions.

In contrast, Judge Starr has spent 4 years and gotten 13 convictions, including an ex-Governor coincidentally from the President's home State, an Associate Attorney General, all kinds of high, very close advisors to the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would not suggest that there is guilt by association. Just because all of one's friends are in jail does not mean that they are guilty, and does not mean that they were with them when it happened. But let us not go around saying that Judge Starr is not making progress, because he certainly is.

THE CIRCUS HAS COME TO TOWN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the circus has come to town. On the floor of the House today our Republican friends want to put the super tax bill requiring two-thirds of this entire House to raise revenue. At the same time, however, only 51 percent of those voting are required to spend revenue.

What does this do? Actually, it shuts down the government. Super paralysis. We cannot pay for health and human services, education, veterans benefits, Social Security.

Super deficits. Well, we can spend money but we cannot raise the money to pay for it. What does that mean? Deficit spending.

Super loopholes, so therefore if there is a loophole for the rich guy, we cannot find it.

Super tobacco. We cannot pass the McCain bill that requires children to stop smoking.

And, yes, the super minority holding hostage the majority. It means a recalcitrant few can keep us from funding veterans benefits, defense, health care, Social Security, Medicare.

Yes, the circus has come to town, Mr. Speaker. The circus is good for kids, but it is not good for running the American government.

TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, it is kind of comical to listen to some of our liberal friends debate the tax limitation amendment. They do not like it. They really do not like it. They do not like the idea that Congress must get a supermajority before passing legislation to erode our freedoms.

They do not mind eroding freedoms when it comes to ideology that opposes freedom. Even though our Founders fought a revolution to win our freedom, and even though the overwhelming majority of Americans would vote for freedom when given the chance, the Democratic Party stands opposed to the idea that it should be difficult to erode basic freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that Americans on average have to work until May 11th just to pay the tax man. The average American family spends more for taxes than for food, clothing, and shelter combined.

I think the time is long since past to say enough is enough. May 10th in 1998 is already too much freedom lost. That is why we need to pass the Tax Limitation Amendment tomorrow so that Americans can have more freedom, so that they can keep more of their money to spend on their families and their priorities. I hope the amendment passes.

UNDERAGE SMOKING SHOULD BE CONGRESS' TARGET

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, we see the House Republican leadership and the tobacco industry are united in their message. They are both attacking big taxes, big government, and saying there they go again.

Tobacco companies have full page ads in newspapers all over the country saying, "We want to attack big taxes and big government." Well, so do we. But what I want to be concerned about is the children that they have admitted to addicting for many years to tobacco.

In testimony before our Committee on Commerce they agreed they marketed their industry to children 12 years old, 13 and 14-year-olds. That is why they agreed to a settlement to pay for what they did for the last 30 years to have those children addicted who are now my age. That is why they agreed to pay \$300-plus billion now.

What we want to do is make sure they do not continue to do that to the next generation, to addict more Americans at a young age. It is really sad that more children know Joe Camel than know Mickey Mouse. That is because of the success of their advertising campaign.

Mr. Speaker, instead of attacking big government and big taxes, why not attack the issue of trying to stop children from smoking?

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT IS A FARCE

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, many years ago Charles Kuralt was "On the Road" and he was interviewing a farmer from Georgia and he asked that farmer, he said, "What are the biggest problems in this area today?" And that farmer said, "The two biggest problems are kudzu and Baptist preachers."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I beg to differ with that farmer. The two biggest problems in this country today are trial lawyers and tobacco. They are both bad. They are bad for this country. They are bad for the people's health and they are the ones that are trying to perpetrate this problem, this tobacco settlement, on this country today.

I am a physician. I spent my career taking care of people with health problems, and I promise, tobacco is bad. We have been publicizing it for years. It has been on the tobacco packages since 1962. Mr. Speaker, anybody that smokes cigarettes is crazy.

But this tobacco settlement is a farce that is strictly to transfer money to the trial lawyers and to create a lot of unfounded hope for money to support programs that will never be done.

TOBACCO IS THE GATEWAY DRUG TO MARIJUANA AND CRIME

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, Maine unfortunately leads the Nation in the category of teenage smoking and the increases in teenage smoking. Over 3,000 children every day are getting hooked on cigarettes and a thousand of them are dying because of it.

Today a family came down from Maine and their daughter, Karen, is doing a study on tobacco. She is in the eighth grade and she is interested in history. She is the daughter of Sue and Kenny Cota from Maine.

One of the things that was remarked about was the ability, that if this were a drug cartel from Colombia that wanted to be able to addict 25 percent of our population, this Congress and this leadership would be falling all over themselves to do whatever they could do to make sure they put them out of business. But since it is the tobacco companies and the tobacco contributions and the tobacco influence, it seems that we are at a standstill from addressing the real problems that are confronting the young people of today.

All the studies that are in the newspaper today show that smoking and marijuana are hooked together. Smoking, marijuana, drugs, and crime are hooked together because they commit the crimes to be able to pay for the smoking, marijuana, and drugs.