

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.