

Finally, Child Care Links, located in the southern part of my district, supports providers through orientation and training programs. They also furnish parents with information on child care options and they act as a consultant to employers to help them plan their child care programs.

Please join me in recognizing these three outstanding programs. They are true leaders in the field of child care and I am honored that they are part of my constituency.

ONGOING WHITE HOUSE INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, is there not a single Democrat in this House that is offended by the fact that the White House has hired private investigators to look into the private lives of Federal investigators and smear their political enemies?

Is there not a single Democrat in this House that is even bothered that the Independent Counsel is being publicly smeared and vilified by the White House attack team in open violation of the law?

Is there not a single Democrat in this House that does not find repugnant the tactics used by the White House spin machine to attack its accusers using tactics that would have made Joe McCarthy proud?

Is there not a single Democrat that has had enough of the lies and stonewalling and routine destruction of lives and reputations of any and all who dare to investigate what Attorney General Reno herself has said requires investigation?

It was discovered that the White House was illegally in possession of 900 FBI files, all just happen to be Republican, and no one knows anything?

Is there not someone on the other side who will speak up about all the abuse by the White House?

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS MUST BE STRENGTHENED

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the families of the Central Coast of California, and I believe the families of this Nation, who send their children to school each day trusting that they will learn and also that they will be safe and healthy. The school day is often a long one with before and after school care, rec programs, tutorials, sports and other activities.

I speak from 20 years of experience as a school nurse in my community. In the health office, we bandage scraped knees, but we do a lot more. We assess and refer child abuse, family violence, drug use, suicide attempts, and, sadly

more and more, violence at school. We teach healthy lifestyles, prevention skills, and the values families care about. Neighborhood schools must be strengthened as safe and healthy centers for learning in each of our communities.

IN OPPOSITION TO NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

(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, the scourge of illegal drug use in this country has reached epidemic proportions. Countless hours and lives have been lost fighting to free our communities from the grasp of these drugs.

Given the severity of the situation, how does the Clinton Administration plan to continue the fight? They want to give out free needles to drug addicts.

Shoot me up, Mr. Speaker. What next? Free drugs?

This cannot be his brilliant battle plan to win the war on drugs. If it is, Mr. Speaker, I shudder to think of the President's plan for the rest of society's ills. Are we going to give out free pornography to sex offenders? Heaven forbid the United States should in any way inconvenience those who are breaking the law.

It is discouraging to see the White House embrace such a defeatist policy. It goes against the values upon which this great country was founded.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this free needle policy.

PUT PRAYER BACK IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL

(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, after the Arkansas tragedy where four students and a teacher were killed by two youngsters, the shooting death of Pennsylvania teacher John Gillette has shocked America. Experts are confused and, they say, searching for answers. The irony is these same experts, with all their degrees, have one thing in common: most of them oppose school prayer. In fact, time and time again, they have employed constitutional mumbo jumbo to kill school prayer.

They just do not get it. A school without God is a school without education. A school without God is a school without discipline. A school without God is a school without values, ladies and gentlemen. Maybe experts will finally get the message that a school without God is a playground for the demon. The Congress should allow school prayer.

I yield back any common sense left in Washington.

ELIMINATION OF ETHANOL PROGRAM A DEVASTATING BODY BLOW TO FARMERS

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, the spring of 1998 finds tens of thousands of American family farmers facing financial crisis. Agriculture is virtually the only sector of the economy to suffer a loss in 1997. The Republican farm bill has exacerbated this financial crisis.

Now the House Republican transportation bill would eliminate our Nation's ethanol program. This is another devastating body blow to farmers. This will depress prices paid for corn and other feed grains and ruin the 20 plus farmer-owned ethanol producing cooperatives. It will also rob our country of the environmental and national security benefits of ethanol.

Who benefits? Railroads get a tax break at the expense of farmers, the very railroads that provided atrocious service in 1997 and caused devastating losses to farmers and many other sectors of the economy. Who else? Big oil. They dispatch competition from a domestically produced renewable fuel. This is an unconscionable program.

IMMUNITY FOR KEY WITNESSES IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERSIGHT INVESTIGATION

(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 run into a wall, a massive stonewall in its attempts to carry out its constitutional oversight responsibility. This stonewall is unprecedented and absolutely breathtaking in its audacity.

The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight has worked closely with the Justice Department on the issue of granting immunity so that key witnesses will testify. I have here in my hand four letters from the Justice Department stating that the Justice Department has no opposition to the committee's granting of immunity to four key witnesses in the campaign finance oversight investigations.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats on the committee have refused to grant immunity to these witnesses. I have heard of stonewalling before. The Democrats on the committee have been stonewalling investigators for over 2 years, but now they are stonewalling their own Justice Department. They got away with it before, so maybe they figure they can stonewall all they want and no one will hold them accountable.

Let us grant these witnesses immunity and get to the truth. I think it is the best way to get to the truth, and I think Americans deserve the truth.