

many Americans feel that there is a moral crisis in our Nation.

Today is the National Day of Prayer, a time when all Americans can come together and reflect on our Creator and the blessings He has bestowed on this Nation. I think it is altogether fitting and appropriate that we continue the traditions of Abraham Lincoln and join together in this National Day of Prayer.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight apologized to his Republican colleagues for the uproar over his release of the Hubbell tapes.

The gentleman from Indiana also announced the removal of his chief investigator. However, it is not enough for the gentleman from Indiana to fire his chief staff person. He should have removed himself from any further role in this investigation. The staff person did not release the tapes; the gentleman from Indiana did. The staff person did not change and edit the tapes, the gentleman from Indiana did.

The gentleman from Indiana claims immunity from prosecution because he is a Congressman. If an ordinary person had released or changed the tapes, it would be a crime, obstruction of justice, and they would go to jail. The gentleman from Indiana uses his position as a Congressman to assert immunity, claiming, in effect, that he is above the law.

At a minimum, the gentleman from Indiana should be removed from any further role in this investigation. He clearly cannot operate as chairman in a fair manner. Neither he nor any other Member of this House is above the law.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this week-end, Americans will celebrate Mother's Day and pay tribute to mothers all across our Nation for the care, love, and strength that they provide for their families and children.

How distressing it is that this day should fall on the same date that hard-working Americans celebrate another day, Tax Freedom Day, the day we finally quit working to pay the burden of government and start working for the benefit of our own families.

National Tax Freedom Day is, in fact, May 10 this year, the latest date it has ever been. Every year, Tax Freedom Day moves later and later. Soon we are going to be celebrating Tax

Freedom Day on Father's Day at the rate we are going.

Most Americans want us to move Tax Freedom Day back to the tax payment day, which is April 15, as we well know. Those two dates have not coincided for over 30 years.

Despite last year's tax relief provided by this Republican-led Congress, the average family still pays 38 percent of their income to taxes, and that is way too high, as we all know. So let us make last year's tax cut the first step, but not the last step, toward giving Americans control over their own incomes, and commit to stopping the Tax Freedom Day creep.

Meanwhile, happy Mother's Day.

MODIFIED ASSAULT WEAPONS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I am releasing a bipartisan letter to the President in support of his recent ban on the import of modified assault weapons and pledging to oppose any legislative efforts to overturn it. This is a commonsense, moderate approach to fighting gun-related crime.

I fully support the rights of hunters, but these modified assault weapons are not for sport or hunting. They are manufactured for killing people. They are used on our streets for committing crimes. These firearms put our children and the public at great risk.

James Guelff, the brother of my constituent Lee Guelff, was killed by an assault weapon while serving on the San Francisco Police Department. These modified weapons are really just assault weapons that have been cosmetically altered when they are imported. The result is violence in our communities, on our streets. We must not allow the ban on assault weapons to be overturned.

PROHIBIT TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE CHINA'S MISSILE 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, has the White House gone fishing, or are they just somewhere out there, lost in space?

I know I should not be surprised, but quite frankly, I am shocked that the Clinton administration is giving classified American missile technology to China. While this administration publicly pats itself on the back for nurturing relations with China, China is spreading this missile technology around the world, including rogue and terrorist nations.

The space cadets in this administration are trying so hard to push a bad policy that they just approved the transfer of classified missile technology to China's Great Wall Industries.

In case you did not know, Great Wall Industries supplies and builds components for China's nuclear missiles. Americans are asking: Is this administration trying to inhale in the vacuum of space, or is this just plain ignorance on their part?

It is time we sent a clear message to these space balls that Congress will not reward bad behavior or bad policy. It is time for us to prohibit the transfer of nuclear technology that can be used to enhance China's missile program.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(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, today is the National Day of Prayer. There will be prayer in hospitals, prisons, State legislatures, the House of Representatives, United States Senate, the White House, and even prayer to open the Supreme Court, but there will be no prayer in our schools.

Think about it. A Supreme Court that opens each session with "God, save the United States and this honorable court" on one hand forbids prayer in our schools on the other hand. This is a Supreme Court that must be challenged by the Congress of these United States.

A school without prayer is a school without God. Members know it. I know it. The American people know it. Deep down, even the Supreme Court knows it. We do not just need a National Day of Prayer for political purposes. We should overrule the Supreme Court and pass a law to allow prayer in our schools. In America, the people govern, not the courts.

MARRIAGE PENALTY RELIEF

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

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, the Declaration of Independence asserts that "all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness."

Governments are then instituted to preserve these rights for mankind. But today, our American Government is in grave violation of that principle to treat each man and woman equally. Married men and women bow under a heavier tax burden than singles, a tax burden on average as great as \$1,400.

Why does your Nation's tax law discriminate against those who participate in the institution of marriage and even discourage their participation through an annual charge of \$1,400?

The Tax Foundation has reported that 60 tax provisions handle married couples differently than singles. A married couple's income is taxed under the higher 28 percent bracket at a lower