

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, let us face it. If we were to start from scratch, no one in his right mind would ever come up with the current Tax Code, not in 1 million years. It is incredibly complicated, it has countless loopholes, special cases, exemptions, and arcane provisions.

Average Americans sit down with their 1040s and soon they are frustrated, flustered, and often angry. Then they start on the schedules and all the special forms, and then they cannot figure out if the special cases applies to the special cases and all the instructions, and then it gets worse from there. Heaven help you if the IRS disagrees with your interpretation of one of the IRS regulations.

It is time to start over and come up with a simple, fair, honest tax system. It is time to start a national debate on what the new Tax Code should look like. It is long overdue, and the American people deserve action on this important issue.

CONGRESS HAS BETTER THINGS TO DO

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to discuss very briefly the controversy that has arisen about the Independent Counsel's office and the recent magazine article which asserts that he has leaked consistently to the press.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, the people in my district, the 28th District of New York, tell me on a consistent basis that they have simply had enough. And if there are requests now for money to investigate Mr. Starr, who is investigating everybody else, I say that on behalf of the people of the 28th Congressional District that we have had enough and this would be good money after bad, coming to absolutely nothing.

The 5-year investigation by this independent counsel's office which started with Whitewater and ends with heaven knows what has gotten us nothing but the concern of the people in the United States that we do not have anything more important to do in Washington, and a concern, I think, throughout the world that we also are not doing anything very important here.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is much to do. I have a bill, H.R. 306, which would protect every person in the United States from discrimination in their health insurance because of their genetic makeup. We have 200 bipartisan sponsors and over 125 outside groups that probably collectively include almost half the population of the United States. But we have been totally unable to get a hearing on this bill.

It is absolutely critical that we do protect the genetic privacy and infor-

mation of Americans because we are on the cusp, at the beginning of this new century, of having an entirely new way of providing health care and learning more about ourselves than we were ever able to know before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in this House to demand that we have a hearing on this bill. We have filed a discharge petition that we are hoping that all Members, on a bipartisan basis, will sign so that before the end of this session we will have an opportunity to discuss and to pass this bill to protect all of us because, believe me, all of us have genes, to protect all of us against the loss or the change in rates in terms of our health insurance.

SUPERFUND REFORM IS OVERDUE

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, it is time and long past due to reform the Superfund program. The Superfund program is designed to clean up our Nation's toxic waste sites. The administration is prone to repeating over and over and over again that more than 10 million Americans live within 4 miles of a toxic waste site. That is a serious concern to the administration. It is a serious concern to the Congress of the United States.

Yet, what do we get from the administration when we call on them to support much-needed Superfund reform? We get the Vice President of the United States reading a script prepared by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Vice President to quit the partisanship and get on with the serious business of reforming Superfund. We have a bill, H.R. 2727, which is endorsed by the National Governors' Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Federation of Independent Business, the National Association of Manufacturers, the list goes on and on. They support meaningful reform of Superfund because they know how important it is to America. I call upon the administration to join us in this task.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2646, EDUCATION SAVINGS AND SCHOOL EXCELLENCE ACT OF 1998

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 471 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 471

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2646) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement ac-

counts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OXLEY). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Rules met and granted a rule to provide for the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2646, the Education Savings and School Excellence Act of 1998.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. In addition, the rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, every child in this country deserves the best education possible and every parent knows what school will best suit their children. Here in Congress, it is our duty to get out of the way and empower all Americans to follow through on their educational choices. We will do just that tomorrow when we approve the conference report to the Education Savings Act of 1998.

Simply put, the Education Savings Act will allow caring fathers and mothers, as well as concerned charities, corporations, friends or grandparents, to save more for their children's education. By permitting parents to deposit up to \$2,000 per year in a tax-free education savings account from 1999 through 2002, the bill will help parents pay for elementary school, secondary school, and college tuition.

Not all parents need to save for private school tuition though. Often the local public school is clearly the best option. H.R. 2646 recognizes that, even before they send their children to college, the parents and friends and relatives of public schoolchildren deserve tax-free education savings too. The bill permits all young families to save tax-free for tutoring expenses, computers, books, special needs services, and extended day program fees.

Mr. Speaker, all too often young parents are unable to give their children the very best. Every year rent, mortgage payments, grocery bills and, yes, taxes limit the educational choices of American families. A select few wealthy parents have no problem paying for tuition, if necessary, as well as for tutors and computer equipment. But the rest of us, we could use real help. Americans should be able to keep a little more of what they earn to pay for education.

In addition to tax-free education savings accounts, H.R. 2646 expands government efforts to teach our children