

some Federal vault; the revenue which runs this government, the money utilized to operate this Federal Government comes from the people, Mr. Speaker. And, by flourishing a veto pen, Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States, in essence, is once again adding to the tax burden of the American people; over the next 10 years, adding almost \$1 trillion in taxes. To be technical about it, in excess of \$790 billion in taxes, taxes that this body and the other body reduced; taxes that would have provided full deductibility of health insurance for small business, that would have put an end over the next 10 years to the death tax, that would have cut taxes across the board some 1 percent, that would have reduced the capital gains rate because Americans should not be punished for investing and succeeding.

We also note, Mr. Speaker, that in the news today, even as we discuss the domestic concerns that we have, there are international concerns as well. News comes from the other body of a General Accounting Office report showing that our President, Mr. Speaker, in three trips alone, has spent in excess of \$70 million. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, one trip to the continent of Africa cost the American people some \$40 million with staff attendance numbering in excess of 1,000, and with the money, Mr. Speaker, coming from accounts belonging to the Defense Department.

Here is the grand paradox: At a time when we are threatened with returning to the days of the hollow force which has haunted the Clinton administration and this Nation some 20 years ago, this administration is using money that could go to help our men and women in uniform for the arrival of Air Force One on another continent and for the ruffles and flourishes, in addition to the customary security, which no one would deny our Commander in Chief. But it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, to be once again a dereliction of duty and indeed, sadly, so often has this been the case, in recent weeks, the clemency granted to over one dozen Puerto Rican terrorists who were luke warm in their denunciation of violence, to the curious conduct in an election year with funds supplied by Communist China, and the curious transfer of technology by American firms to the People's Republic of China, to reports last week of, Mr. Speaker, what can only be called appeasement of the outlaw Nation of North Korea. Indeed, characterized by some in the press, and I hesitate to use the term, for it is strong, but I believe it is accurate, that this great Nation, our great Nation may have succumbed to nuclear blackmail.

Then we go down the list. The pilfering of 900 FBI files of political opponents; the sacking of dedicated civil servants at the White House Travel Office, and the despair and tragedy that met American citizens six years ago in Waco, Texas. It reaches a point, Mr. Speaker, when the American people say, is there no end? Is there no jus-

tice? Is there, in fact, a case to be made for one who would willingly commit perjury and obstruction of justice? For if one is derelict in small things, what happens when the greater questions arise? What happens with the greater questions of national security? What happens with the stewardship of the hard-earned dollars of the American men and women who offer their funds, freely and voluntarily, through taxation?

We believe, Mr. Speaker, in our common sense majority that there are four goals that confront us. One is to bolster and strengthen our national security. We have done so in this chamber by working, at long last, after a six-year absence, to regain the technological edge in terms of a missile defense system for this country, concurrently increasing salaries for our military personnel. We have also moved, Mr. Speaker, even as we try to improve the lot in life for those men and women in uniform, we also recognize that a national priority should be education. But, even as it is a national priority, Mr. Speaker, it remains a local concern. And, we in this common sense conservative majority in this chamber have passed two bills that reflect that. One has been nicknamed Ed Flex, educational flexibility in terms of block granting a piece of legislation endorsed by all 50 of the Nation's governors, whether they were Republican or Democrat, to provide flexibility at the State level and ultimately at the local level, so that we can return power to the people who are duly elected to local school boards, and more importantly, Mr. Speaker, to teachers who seek to educate those young people in their classrooms, in their individual communities day in and day out.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I was honored that our new Education Land Grant Act passed this House by unanimous vote, a procedure calling on the great work done by those who have gone before. Justice Smith Morrell of Vermont, to be specific, with the Morrell Land Grant Act of the 1860s, where we update that to apply that to public and secondary school for a conveyance procedure, a uniform procedure for the conveyance of Federal land, nonenvironmental sensitive Federal land, for the construction of new educational facilities. Again, a tool to empower local communities because we understand ultimately that people on the front lines at home understand how best to educate our children instead of the theories and the spending programs exercised by Washington bureaucrats. So those are two of our priorities.

The third, of course, is to strengthen Social Security and Medicare. I look to the work done by my colleagues on the Committee on Ways and Means, the chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER); the Subcommittee on Social Security chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), trying to work out a plan that will not only save Social Security for today's

retirees, but for baby boomers who will age into that category, and more importantly, for the generations yet to come, generations who grow more skeptical about that program as years pass, and to put the emphasis on personalization of accounts, so that future retirees can have some discretion and some personalization of the way in which they would spend their pension funds.

We also will work on the Committee on Ways and Means of course to strengthen Medicare as we again seek to maximize choice and to offer prescription drugs to the truly needy among the elderly, rather than a government handout, characterized by one of my constituents as an effort to raise her Social Security premiums to pay prescription drug benefits for the likes of Ross Perot.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we return to the topic that I mentioned at the outset and that is tax relief and tax fairness for all Americans. Again, make no mistake. With a veto of the tax bill, the President of the United States has, in essence, increased taxes on the American people in excess of \$700 billion, close to \$800 billion. I think it amounts to a \$1 trillion mistake. But ultimately, Mr. Speaker, the American people will be the judge. We will continue to work in this chamber in a constructive way to defend the rights of Americans and to embrace the notion that the American people work hard for the money they earn, and that they should keep more of it and send less of it here to Washington.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COBLE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of his father.

Mr. DICKEY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mrs. FOWLER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BALDACCIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.