

fellow students from around the globe to compete for international prestige in a contest of ingenuity.

In exercising their talents, these Virginia students not only captured a first place world ranking, but also set a world record through their success at the Odyssey of the Mind's World Competition.

In their rise to confront challenge, Mr. Speaker, these students demonstrated their ability to think critically, to work cooperatively, and to overcome obstacles. Their vigor and success distinguishes our education system in its ability to cultivate the talents of our youth.

In this, it is my desire that these accomplishments of these students be recognized and thus be a testament to the positive role of education in preparing students as emerging leaders.

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS

(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, today, along with 34 cosponsors, I am reintroducing the bill to establish Individual Development Accounts on a national level. They already exist in several States, including Pennsylvania.

IDAs allow working poor families to save and invest and receive matching contributions from their financial institutions. They can be withdrawn and used only to buy a home, start a small business, or get higher education. Finally, after decades of government-funded poverty, we are encouraging poor and working poor Americans to provide for themselves and plan for their futures.

Just like welfare reform, this program will help those who need help, but IDAs will help people help themselves. Imagine the pride of a new investor who has saved enough to go into business for himself or the joy of putting a down payment on a house one thought one would never be able to afford or opportunities made possible by a college diploma.

IDAs are a good idea for this country. They are part of the President's community renewal plan. I encourage my colleagues to join me in making them a reality.

ENCOURAGING LTV STEEL AND THE UNION TO GO BACK TO THE TABLE

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Monday in the City of Youngstown, LTV Steel filed in the bankruptcy court a request to be relieved from its union contract in order to continue its process of reorganization.

Over the past 6 months in conjunction with Federal officials, including

yourself, local officials, counties, State, we have been trying to work with LTV to help them through this bankruptcy. I would encourage LTV corporate officials and the unions to go back to the table.

We know that we are in a difficult time right now, but it is very important that we do not lose 5,000 jobs in the City of Cleveland that would impact 40,000 jobs throughout our area.

LTV, back to the table. The union is ready to work. Let us resolve this issue for the people of the City of Cleveland.

LA LIGA CONTRA EL CANCER PROUDLY SERVES FLORIDA COMMUNITIES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the League Against Cancer or La Liga Contra el Cancer, as it is more commonly known in my congressional district, recently raised over \$3 million for cancer patients during its 25th annual telethon.

Florida ranks second in the incidence of cancer, as one in every two men and one of every two women are diagnosed over a life-span.

La Liga never turns away cancer patients, and I wish to commend its president, Dr. George Suarez and its VP, Brenda Moreira, and the hundreds of volunteers and sponsors who give hope to thousands of Florida's victims of cancer.

Low-income and uninsured cancer patients come to the League for life-saving treatment. Over 300 Miami-Dade board-certified doctors and hundreds of community members volunteer their time and skills and work tirelessly to help cancer victims.

Last year, with the budget deficit, La Liga provided life-saving services to almost 4,000 patients, all of whom were legal residents of Florida. We thank La Liga Contra el Cancer for its proud record of service to our community.

STOP GOUGING PEOPLE IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is not bad enough that the energy wholesalers selling energy into California have been able to continue to gouge the California consumer, California families and small businesses, but now we see that the energy companies have joined with the White House, joined with the Republicans in Congress to launch a campaign that, according to CNN, may spend upwards to \$50 million by the energy companies to convince Californians that price caps on wholesale energy costs would be bad for them.

The suggestion is that somehow the price gouging that is going on now in

California and in the western United States is good for consumers. Yet, we see that, in California, more and more households are unable to pay their energy bills. More and more small businesses are at risk or have already gone out of business because of energy costs. We are starting to see individuals make decisions about locating businesses in California.

The White House and its buddies in the energy business ought to stay out of this. What they ought to do is stop gouging the people in California.

THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL

(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, there is a couple of old sayings around. One is that the check is in the mail and, two, I am from the Federal Government and help is on the way.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to announce to my fellow hard-working Nevadans that their check, their rebate check is truly in the mail. Nevadans can expect to see over \$292 million in tax relief arriving in their mailboxes this summer. Now, that is real help. This equates to an average tax rebate check of over \$420 for every hard-working taxpayer in the silver State.

It is about time. The people of Nevada and our great country have been paying far too much in taxes for far too long. Thanks to this bipartisan tax relief bill passed by this Congress and signed into law by President Bush, single taxpayers can expect tax rebates of up to \$300 and married tax filers can expect up to \$600 in tax relief.

This money can go toward paying the mortgage, a car loan, or a new washing machine or even gasoline for one's car. These tax rebate checks are just the beginning. Americans can expect additional tax relief over the next 10 years. Mr. Speaker, this time Nevadans can be assured that their check their overpayment in taxes is in the mail.

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THANKS TO PRESIDENT BUSH FOR TAX REBATES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad he talked about tax relief, because that is what I want to emphasize, too.

Thanks to President George W. Bush, for those who paid taxes for the year 2000, the check is in the mail. Taxpayers are likely to receive a \$300 check in the mail if they are single, a \$500 check if they are a single parent, and a \$600 check if they are married. No one has to even fill out forms, or file anything. They just have to check their mailbox this summer.

Depending on the last two digits of an individual's Social Security number, they could have that money in their pocket as early as July 23. Anyone wishing to find out should check www.samjohnson.house.gov, to learn when they will receive their rebate.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are over-taxed. They are overtaxed, and they deserve a rebate.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, California's Governor has decided to hire high-priced Democrat spin-meisters instead of addressing the emergency crisis in his State. Taxpayers will subsidize Mark Fabiani and Chris Lehane at \$30,000 per month to boost Governor Gray Davis in the media as California's energy crisis further drops his poll numbers.

Instead of repairing California's energy crisis, the Governor is using taxpayer dollars to repair his image. This \$30,000 in consultant fees that will be charged to the taxpayers is more than the Governor earns monthly himself. The Governor has had plenty of time to implement a solution. He knew over a year ago he had a problem; yet Gray Davis has refused to address that problem. He kept putting it off and putting it off and putting it off. It becomes blatantly obvious that the Governor is more concerned about repairing his image than helping the people of his State. Rather than working with the President and the White House to help California, the Governor is trying to find ways that high-priced PR men can exploit the energy crunch to his advantage.

ENERGY AND IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, many pundits, and many of my colleagues, will undoubtedly continue to discuss the energy crisis that the Nation faces, and specifically in California they will be proposing solutions that will range from increased supply to reduced demand and price caps. Mr. Speaker, when will we get the courage to attack the root of this problem or even discuss the root of this problem? The problem in California and many places around this Nation is a massive population increase caused by massive immigration, both legal and illegal.

It is the numbers, Mr. Speaker. That is what drives everything. That is what drives the demand for all the resources we are now running out of, and it is something we must come to grips with as a Nation. The numbers, Mr. Speaker, more than anything else, that is the reason we are going to be facing these

kinds of dilemmas over and over and over again, starting in California; but believe me, that is just the beginning.

It is the numbers. We have to do something about reducing massive immigration into this country.

THE ENERGY CRISIS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about the energy crisis. Let us talk about electricity costs in California. Let us talk about what the White House is going to do.

Take a look at what CNN said the other day in an article by Major Garrett: "Power of advertising fights electricity rate gaps. Worried GOP White House give blessing to utilities California campaign. The major United States utility companies, at the behest of senior congressional Republicans and with White House approval, are going to launch a multimillion dollar advertising campaign to fight the Federal caps on electricity prices in California."

That is how they are going to handle the energy crisis in California, is by getting their friends in the special interests to launch a media campaign against doing something about energy prices in this country, and particularly in the State of California where it has been an overwhelming burden on families with what their electricity costs have been.

This is the way this administration handles the crisis, not by giving any help to Californians. They have walked away and said, "California, drop dead."

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND MODERNIZATION

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we had a major education bill on the floor for consideration, and we did not permit a single amendment to deal with school construction, renovation, or school modernization. We were afraid to have the issue presented on the floor.

I think we were afraid that we might get a majority vote on it. For some reason, the leadership is afraid of school construction, school modernization, and school repairs. We are pushed into the vehicle of a motion to discharge today; and I urge all of the Members, regardless of their party, to sign the motion to discharge on the Rangel-Johnson bill.

This is a bipartisan bill. It is a bill which impacts on all America, rural as well as urban. It is a bill which almost every school district in America can benefit from. Even charter schools can benefit from a bill which calls for more funding for construction, for modernization, and for repairs.

It is impossible to go forward and really claim we want to reform education unless we are willing to provide the physical facilities that are necessary to educate our children. I urge my colleagues to sign the motion to discharge.

CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we all just heard a very interesting discussion, and I am being very generous with that word, on the energy crisis. It seems that there are those who are just content in trying to make political hay out of a problem in California during a period of time when demand for energy went up 25 percent; yet the supply that was allowed through government permit was only allowed to increase 6 percent.

Now, who was at the wheel during that period of time? It was generally liberal Democratic Governors and legislators who did not want nuclear power, even though France has nuclear power and has used it safely and efficiently, and about 25 percent of the power in California is nuclear. They do not want to use coal, because, well, you know, we just cannot use coal, so we do not want that. We do not want to use waterpower, because that would keep salmon from swimming upstream and spawning, even though there are ladders that would allow them to do that.

Sometimes we have to say yes to something. Energy means hospital beds, energy means schools and senior citizens homes. Helping people stay warm and stay protected, that is what energy is all about. I wish that it would be time for the folks from California to start working with the rest of the Nation for a common-sense middle road.

CALIFORNIANS LOOKING TO FERC AND WHITE HOUSE FOR LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY CRISIS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am representing a district in Los Angeles County, California; and a week and a half ago I had my first experience going through a blackout. One would think that in a community like mine, in the city of El Monte, that our readiness would be there; that we would have substantial support to be able to help our community out. What I found going through 30 minutes of this blackout was that I was unable to use my cell phone because there was no capacity to make calls. All the electricity went out. All our lights went out on our streets. And no one was notified in advance.

This is a serious problem that we are going through, and it was not even 80