

family business can remain in the hands of the people who built it.

I urge my colleagues to support the tax relief bill when it comes before the House. I think that is in the best interests of our Constitution and our people and their posterity.

ILLEGAL STEEL IMPORTS IS NOT FREE TRADE

(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, just knowing that the President would veto any steel quota bill, in 1 month steel imports from Japan rose 40 percent; from South Korea 50 percent; from Brazil 80 percent; from Indonesia 140 percent; and from Russia, our good buddies in Russia, 550 percent increase, in 1 month. Unbelievable. While the administration is getting tennis elbow over there for patting themselves on the back for killing the steel bill, foreign companies are getting hernias all over America unloading steel on American docks.

Beam me up. If this is free trade, I am a fashion leader.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are in a quandary. We face some difficult choices. As the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) works on his tax cut package, Republicans in Congress are engaged in a fierce debate. What taxes should we cut? CBO, or the Congressional Budget Office, projects budget surpluses totaling \$824 billion over the next 10 years. That is real surplus, not counting Social Security surplus.

Some Republicans want to cut taxes on capital gains. That is the best way to keep the economy growing. Other Republicans want to cut or eliminate death taxes as a simple question of fairness. Some Republicans want to eliminate the senior tax. It is unfair to tax seniors who want to continue working at age 65. And some Republicans want to cut the marriage tax penalty, an obvious candidate for elimination because penalizing people because they are married is just plain stupid.

Democrats are arguing about which taxes to raise, but Republicans are considering tax cuts, tax cuts for all Americans.

PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I once again would like to call on the Republican leadership to bring up the Patients' Bill of Rights. I think many know that on Wednesday of this week, the Democrats initiated a discharge petition on the Patients' Bill of Rights, and as of yesterday afternoon, we had over 180 Democratic Members who had signed that petition to bring this HMO reform bill to the floor.

Yesterday also in the Senate, there was major action on the part of the Democrats to try to bring up the Patients' Bill of Rights, and also I should point out that the AMA, the American Medical Association, had a vote the other day which strongly indicated why we need HMO reform. I think it is abundantly clear that the American people, the Democrats and even some of the Republicans other than the Republican leadership are very supportive of HMO reform in a comprehensive way that essentially would be brought about most effectively by the Patients' Bill of Rights.

It is time to bring this up. It is time to stop talking and have some action on this issue which is so critical to the American people. More people contact my office about the problems that they have with managed care and the lack of patient protections than any other issue, and the horror stories continue. We must take action.

REPUBLICANS UNVEIL BEST AGENDA

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I was asked by someone the other day, "What is the Republican agenda?"

Now, of course my first reaction was to think clearly this is someone who has never watched the 1-minute speeches.

But instead I told them about the Republicans' BEST agenda:

B is for best defense, E is for excellence in education, S is for saving Social Security, and T is for tax relief.

Republicans clearly have the BEST agenda.

A stronger military, improved education, a reformed Social Security system that will protect present and future seniors into the 21st century and tax relief for the middle class, investors, job creators and families. That is our agenda.

B for best defense, E for excellence in education, S for saving Social Security, T for tax relief. It is a positive, winning agenda for the Republican Party and for securing our Nation's future.

BUSINESS AS USUAL IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, in Washington, the usual pattern is for the liberals to completely avoid any talk about raising taxes and then lo and behold they end up raising taxes once they get in office. In fact, this is how taxes got to be as high as they are today.

But this year it appears that the liberals are changing their strategy. To the shock of Washington insiders and even to some Members of the Democrat side, the leader of the Democrat Party in the House and the leader of the Democrat Party in the other body have announced in advance their enthusiasm for tax increases.

You heard that right, tax increases. Now, you have to admire their courage and you have to admire their daring. Middle-class families are not going to be so impressed, but lovers of expanded government, they are going to be ecstatic.

The House minority leader wants to expand Washington's control over our local schools and he wants to fund that with a tax increase on Americans. And the minority leader in the other body agrees. He said last weekend that tax increases are on the table.

I guess the Democrats really are serious when they say they are against business as usual in Washington.

FAIR CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning I am introducing the Fair Care for the Uninsured Act. This bill would create a new refundable tax credit for the purchase of private health insurance. The credit would be \$1,000 per adult, \$3,000 per family. No mandates, no bureaucracy. Your choice of plans, your choice of doctors.

Who is this bill for? Mr. Speaker, it is for the 44 million Americans who today lack health insurance. Their ranks are growing by 100,000 people a month. A decade from now, there could be 53 million, or 60 million if the economy softens.

Who are these people without insurance? They are the working poor, low-wage workers, people between jobs, the self-employed, cleaning ladies, African Americans, and Hispanics.

In California, Mr. Speaker, nearly 40 percent of the Hispanics are uninsured. Forty percent. And why is it they cannot afford insurance coverage? Because the tax code punishes you when you buy your own insurance outside the