CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

August 2, 1999

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Richard A. Gephardt, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Hon. J. Dennis Hastert,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to Section 581(a)(3) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999 (112 STAT. 2581–210), I hereby appoint to the National Commission on Terrorism:

Ms. Juliette N. Kayyem of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Yours Very Truly,
RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

THE REAL COST OF TAXING MINING INTERESTS

(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, today I rise to address the claim of some of my colleagues that gold mines get a free ride because they do not pay their fair share of Federal royalties. Well, when considering a Federal tax increase on the mining industry, we must always remind my tax and spend colleagues to take into account the adverse effect of such a tax increase on state and local tax revenues as well.

There is a direct correlation between increasing mining royalties or taxes and the reduction in mining activities. Federal royalties are deductible from the income base on which many of these State taxes are levied. This results in an even less tax dollar amount for State and local governments. Even a 1 percent tax increase on gold would reduce State and local governments hundreds of millions in tax revenues every year.

Mr. Speaker, it becomes very clear that when a Federal royalty is not in the best economic interests of this country or the mining industry, we should avoid it.

Abraham Lincoln had the great foresight when he said, “Tell the miners for me that I shall promote their interests to the utmost of my ability, because their prosperity is the prosperity of the Nation, and we shall prove in a very few short years that we are indeed the treasury of the world.”

NORTH KOREA ACCUSED OF DRUG DEALING

(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, need I remind you that I have had the pleasure of working with the people of North Korea. I have had the pleasure of talking to North Korean agents who have been arrested for drug dealing outside of North Korea.

Your questions to me, Mr. Speaker, are not about the financial worth of methamphetamine that was sponsored for sale officially by their government.

Now, if that is not enough to trigger your interest on or about the same time, the White House announced they are asking Congress for another $55 million in foreign aid for North Korea.

Unbelievable. North Korea is selling dope, and Uncle Sam is fronting the buy money. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. So help me.

I yield back.

DEFINING A TARGETED TAX CUT

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, when I hear some of my liberal friends on the other side of the aisle, not the gentleman who just spoke, I might add, talk about targeted tax cuts, I know exactly what they mean. It means you will not be getting one.

Republicans, I should add, also are putting forth a targeted tax cut, but there is a very big difference. If you are a taxpayer, you get one.

That is right, our targeted tax cuts target all taxpayers, a concept that really sticks in the craw of many of my liberal friends on the other side of the aisle.

Many politicians in Washington have a hard time coming to grips with the fact that the budget surplus, a tax repayment, really, does not belong to them. That money, every penny of it, belongs to the taxpayers.

Washington is taking more than it needs out of the pockets of those who work all over this country and pay their taxes.

The bottom line is the American people are overtaxed, and the real issue is, who should decide how the money gets spent: The bureaucrats up here in Washington, or the taxpayers all over this country.

Mr. Speaker, I will cast my lot with the people of this Nation. Let us cut the taxes on the American people, and let us do it now.

REPORT ON REVISED DEFERRAL OF BUDGET AUTHORITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106–180)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report one revised deferral of budget authority, now totaling $173 million.

The deferral affects programs of the Department of State.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, August 2, 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.