

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the pollsters and political consultants tell us not to use statistics in our speeches. They tell us that peoples' eyes just glaze over at hearing the numbers. No matter. Honest statistics, facts, do matter.

For instance, when Bill Clinton became president in 1993, the Federal Government took 17.8 percent of our productivity. Today that share is 20.7 percent, nearly 3 percent higher. Let us hear those numbers again, because they are important in discussing whether or not tax cuts are a good idea. They are also numbers that we will never, ever hear the other side refer to, ever.

In 1993 when Bill Clinton became president, Federal taxes were 17.8 percent of our economy. Today Federal taxes are 20.7 percent of the economy. In other words, the Federal tax burden is at a record peacetime level. Taxes are higher than they need to be so that Washington can spend more and more money, creating new programs, expanding old ones, and giving us less power and control over our own lives.

One-fifth of the economy in Federal taxes is just too much.

URGING A NO VOTE ON THE AMERICAN INVENTORS PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would urge Members to vote no this morning on H.R. 1907, the so-called American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. This bill is being brought up under suspension. It should be brought up under regular order. It is a very consequential bill.

Last night the bill was brought on this floor at 9:17 p.m. as the last item of business. Those who had concerns about the bill and did not even have a chance to read it were limited to 10 minutes on a bill with constitutional consequences.

This is not the bill that cleared the Committee on the Judiciary on May 26, 1999. I think our U.S. patent system deserves more than this cursory treatment by the leadership of this institution.

At stake are the constitutional rights of our inventors, intellectual property rights into the next millennium, the rights to sue that are inherent in our legal system, and in fact, the independence of the Patent Office itself.

I would urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 1907 until they have had a chance to read it. Bring it up under regular order.

HANDS OFF THE INTERNET FOR THE U.N.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations is an organization of sovereign states funded with voluntary contributions. It lacks any authority to impose taxes on its member states. Yet, the U.N.'s development program has proposed \$70 billion in taxes on e-mail, 35 times more than it currently receives in contributions. Why has it done this? Because it believes countries are poor because they lack the Internet.

The U.N. should be more concerned about real problems in developing countries, like political mismanagement and repressive economic policies. Giving away computers does nothing for the poor if their countries lack the economic fundamentals to take advantage of the Internet.

The Internet offers tremendous potential to small businesses seeking an efficient way to gain new markets. Internet taxes and the bureaucracy needed to administer them would cripple this commerce. Congress has had a hands off policy when it comes to Internet taxes, and the U.N. should do the same. Hands off the Internet for the U.N.

AMERICAN FAMILIES DESERVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

(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, our families deserve health care that is affordable and accessible. They deserve to have their medical decisions made by their doctors and not by insurance company bureaucrats.

For the past 2 years the American public has consistently asked for reforms that put medical decisions back into the hands of doctors and patients. What do they want? Simply to choose their own doctor, to have access to the nearest emergency room, to be able to see a specialist when necessary, to be free from an HMO gag rule that prevents doctors from discussing their treatment options, and yes, they want to hold HMOs accountable.

The fact is that HMOs are making medical decisions for people today, and when something goes terribly wrong, the American individual has to have the opportunity to seek some redress and to have these HMOs be accountable.

There are Members in this body who are doctors, Democrats and Republicans. They agree that these measures benefit patients, make our health care system stronger. We need to pass a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights

that reflects our values in this country for quality health care. Let us put patients ahead of profits.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). The Chair asks all Members to please abide by the 1-minute rule during 1-minute speeches.

DEMOCRATS ARE WRITING OFF RURAL AMERICA

(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, things are tough in rural America these days. Commodity prices, wheat, corn, soybeans, livestock, including cattle and hogs, are at near Depression level prices.

The head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has said that Democrats are writing off rural America. That is evidenced by their vote this week against tax relief for American farmers and ranchers.

Republicans have not written off rural communities. We are going to fight for them, because we know that these rural communities and the people who live in them represent bedrock American values of traditional family and hard work and individual responsibility.

Our Republican tax bill eliminates the death tax. If we do not act, this could be the last generation of American farms and ranches, and the people that the Democrats say are rich because they may have high development values on their lands would qualify on their income for food stamps.

Listen to the Democrats. They will put welfare over work. They will put government over taxpayers. They will put foreign markets over our domestic producers.

We Republicans are going to fight for rural America, even though the Democrats say, give it up.

LET US PASS H.R. 1660, A SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, several years ago we seemed to realize that classrooms around this country were overcrowded, and we decided that we needed smaller class sizes. The Democrats proposed funding for 100,000 new teachers to go out all across the country to teach our children.

After much wrangling, and in a rare moment of bipartisanship, we finally passed the funding to provide for those

new teachers. Now we have the first wave of them, tens of thousands of new teachers going out across the country. Guess what, there is no place for them to go. There are no classrooms for them to teach in.

Now we have proposed, on the Democratic side, something to correct that situation, a school modernization program, so that the classrooms are available for all these new teachers. Mr. Speaker, I do not want these new teachers to be instructing our children in hallways, broom closets, and trailers. Let us pass H.R. 1660.

IT IS THE SAME OLD NONSENSE, THE LEFT HATES TAX CUTS

(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, how is it that creating new spending programs will not blow a hole in the deficit, but tax cuts will? Liberals accuse Republicans of fiscal irresponsibility for passing tax relief, and yet they call us extremist in every single attempt we make to hold the line on spending.

During the 1980s, in the Reagan years liberals insisted that social spending not be cut. Not only that, they insisted that spending on social programs increase at levels far higher than the rate of inflation. Then they turned around and blamed President Reagan for the deficits.

During the 1980s, tax rates were cut but tax revenues doubled. Members heard that right, tax rates were reduced but the economy boomed so strongly that revenues increased. In fact, they doubled. Yet, liberal Democrats blamed the deficits on the tax cuts.

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It is the same old line. The left just hates tax cuts, plain and simple.

BETTER SCHOOLS NEEDED FOR OUR NATION'S GREATEST ASSET: OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning I proudly join my colleagues in signing the discharge petition H.R. 1660, the School Modernization Construction Act.

As a member of the freshman class, I have organized numerous 1 minutes and Special Orders to allow us to share with our Republican colleagues the stories from our own districts: the overcrowding, the crumbling buildings, the rapid school-age population growth. Whether they are urban, rural, or suburban, schools across our Nation need the help of Congress in addressing the infrastructure problems.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept that the only action taken by Congress this year to help our schools is a small arbitrage provision contained within the recently passed tax bill.

This provision will not provide assistance to our beleaguered school system and could result in delays in school construction and modernization projects for more than 2 years.

We can fix our highways. We can rebuild our bridges. Why do we sit by and do nothing about the infrastructure that houses our Nation's greatest assets, its children.

We need to help our school districts by providing them with interest-free bonds to build new facilities and to improve the existing structures now, not 2 years from now.

Mr. Speaker, before, one of our colleagues said who pays the taxes. I forgot, our children in public schools do not pay taxes. But their families do.

AGRICULTURE CRISIS

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, American agriculture is in a crisis, bad weather, terribly low commodity prices caused from lost markets, markets closed to our farmers, and excessive world production.

This has caused real financial stress, and it is serious. We could lose 10 to 20 percent of our family farms. The ability to produce a safe and sufficient food supply is necessary for a stable society.

What must this Congress do? We must pass the Improved Crop Insurance bill, which allows higher leverage of coverage for our farmers. That is not all. We must open market. We must make available necessary credit resources. We must improve the tax program for our farmers' inheritance tax and capital gains. We must reform our regulatory system which is such a burden to our family farmers.

Let us show our American farmers that we care and that we care about agriculture.

GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT; PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH WELL- EQUIPPED CLASSROOMS

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be among the Members signing a discharge petition to bring school modernization tax credits to the House floor. I come from the Triangle district of North Carolina, where quality education is valued and where a trained work force is a necessity. Yet thousands of our students are going to school in hundreds of trailers.

The school modernization bill of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) would address this need. I am also cosponsoring with 90 other Members the School Construction Act introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), especially targeted to high growth areas like the one I represent.

Our approach is nonintrusive. We are providing tax credits to bondholders. We are not telling local authorities when or how to build. But we are saying to local communities, as they take on these obligations, that the Federal tax code will help them stretch their scarce dollars further.

Let us get our kids out of trailers and into modern, well-equipped classrooms, where teachers can teach and students can learn. Let's get our priorities straight.

HELP OUR FARMERS DURING CRISIS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, agriculture in this country has very serious problems. It is the second year in a row that we had low commodity prices. Profits for farmers are 30 percent below what they were just a couple of years ago. We can lose maybe 10 percent of our family farms this year.

We have got to come up with some Federal help. We have got to come up with an emergency bill this year. It might be as high as \$6 billion or \$7 billion or \$8 billion if we want farmers in this country to continue producing the highest quality, lowest priced food in the world. If we lose our farmers and become dependent on other countries, we will have serious problems. Other countries will be able to dictate price and quality.

A couple things in the tax bill that the conferees approved yesterday that help farmers: estate tax relief so farmers do not have to sell their farms to pay taxes, above-the-line health deductions so farmers and other self-employed can be like everybody else and not have to pay taxes on what they pay for health insurance; an increase in the amount allowed for first-year depreciation so if farmers buy machinery, they can deduct it in the year of purchase rather than a depreciation schedule where the deduction is reduced by inflation; "FARRM" IRA accounts so, in good years, farmers can put some money aside as a reduction in income and pay taxes on it when they use it in future low-income years; AMT, doing away with it so farmers are not forced to pay taxes when there is no profit. Mr. Speaker, we need the tax relief for farmers. We need to help expand exports. We need to stop other countries from dumping their surplus on our