

than 24 hours in this session, at least as we know it, whether or not this Congress is going to be known as having done good or having harmed the American people.

The question is, are we going to pass what the American people have asked us to, which is a patients' bill of rights, so that we can stop once and for all drive-by emergency rooms, so that we can give women the right to have their OB-GYN as their primary provider, so that we can have second opinions, so that we can reestablish the patient-physician relationship. While all of our loved ones are under the care of a physician, how tragic it is for them to have to call for a procedure and someone at a phone who does not even know who they are says no, you cannot have it.

We need a patients' bill of rights.

I did a study in my district, and how unfortunate it is that my seniors are having to pay light bills and having to pay rent, but cannot buy their prescriptions, or having to cut their prescriptions in half. What a tragedy. Yes, Mr. Speaker, is it not unfortunate that we do not have real gun safety in America when 80 percent of the American people say we want reasonable gun safety and we want our children to be safe in schools.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am really stunned to listen to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the fact that the 106 Congress has not accomplished much of anything. I guess that is sort of their message today. So it is incumbent upon us to point out, once again, the great accomplishments that we have made in this Congress.

At the beginning, Speaker HASTERT stood right here on the opening day and talked about the need to improve public education. We have done that by passing the Education Flexibility Act so that local school districts can make decisions as to how to best educate their children. We passed the Teacher Empowerment Act, which also moves further in that direction.

Tax relief for working families. We did it; we did it. People are taxed more than they ever have been since the Second World War, and the President unfortunately vetoed that measure and the Democrats on the other side of the aisle voted against it. We said that we wanted to save Social Security and Medicare, and we all know that we have locked up the Social Security Trust Fund for the future, going well beyond the 62 percent that the President advocated when he stood here in his State of the Union message.

And rebuilding our Nation's defense capability. We passed the National Missile Defense bill, which is very, very important to our national security, and the Defense appropriations bill. We have accomplished a lot in this 106th Congress, and do not forget it.

GOP BUDGET GIMMICKS

(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, as the GOP leadership in Congress struggles to complete its appropriations work, now a full 40 days past the end of the fiscal year, I thought it fitting to examine their record of Social Security budget gimmicks this year. There simply are not enough apples in this city to demonstrate adequately what the Republican Party is doing here. They simply take apples from one basket and, before they put it in the other, they take a couple of bites out of it and then they turn the apple around so Americans cannot see what they have done to that apple.

Recently the Republican majority in this chamber has gone around stating they are the only ones able to protect and strengthen Social Security. How come they elected their leader, a person who pledged, and I quote, "to bite the bullet and phase Social Security out over a period of time." The fact is, Republicans have a history of voting against Social Security. In 1935, only one Republican, Frank Crowther of my own State of New York, had the courage to buck his party and vote against a Republican motion to recommit Title II to strike out old age and unemployment insurance provisions. It would have effectively killed Social Security as we know it today. Only one out of 96 Republicans had the courage to vote in favor of Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to continue to support the Social Security system as we know it today.

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I was at home at the Verboort Sausage Festival this past weekend. It is a wonderful community event. I had the privilege of sitting next to Don and Lois Tayler. Lois Tayler's grandfather owned 100 acres on part of which Findley Elementary School now sits. As Oregon pioneers, the Findleys understood the value of education. And Don and Lois, who are schoolteachers now, know that that school has 900 kids in it, but it was built for 700.

This Congress has the ability to help with that situation, with school mod-

ernization and class size reduction, and we should not go home until we get those jobs done to keep faith with people like the Findleys, like the Taylers, and other Oregonians who made investments in their day for their children. We should be making similar investments in our day for our children.

□ 1030

IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL, AND QUALITY MATTERS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, not everyone likes pickles on their hamburgers. For many years that preference meant a longer wait at McDonald's, because if you did not want what was already under the heat lamp, they had to do a specialty order. All those burgers under the heat lamp had pickles on them. But you did get a fresher burger.

People who like pickles on their hamburgers, on the other hand, usually did not have to wait. In fact the burgers were already waiting for them, so they were less fresh and lower quality.

All that has been changing. McDonald's restaurants now prepare your meals when you order them. This means you get exactly what you want. It is a fresher, higher quality product.

There are two simple truths inspiring the McDonald's reform: First, one size does not fit all. Second, quality matters.

Let us apply these simple truths to education reform. Instead of mandating new teachers, let us give the States and local communities the opportunity to ensure higher teacher quality and to spend that money on what they know will work in their schools, because one size does not fit all, and quality does matter.

PAYMENT OF U.N. ARREARS

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the United States has earned the reputation as the United Nations' number one deadbeat. If my colleagues want to help restore our good name and regain our influence in the U.N., they need to join me today in supporting immediate and full repayment of our U.N. arrears.

This funding is critical to United States' foreign policy. It shows the international community that a commitment made by the United States means something. It gives the U.N. the resources it needs to carry on the important work it is doing around the globe.