

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I bring this House and the American people good news this morning, because I have just come from a hearing conducted by our Committee on Ways and Means, on which I am honored to serve.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, for all Americans, but especially for senior Americans, is that this House is preparing to get rid of the unfair penalty on earnings for senior citizens. It is unfair; it is work that is long overdue, and by listening not only to the people of Arizona, but to the people of America, this House stands ready to end the unfair earnings limit on seniors who are Social Security recipients.

We are also pleased, Mr. Speaker, that the President yesterday in an interview joins with us on this. I only hope that the President will also join and work, as this House has done, to sign legislation that ends the unfair marriage penalty on so many Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, the record is clear: this Congress is working to end tax unfairness and restore tax fairness and equity for the American people.

EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am from Florida, and I rise in support of the Everglades Restoration Plan and funding to make it a reality.

The State of Florida has lost 46 percent of its wetlands and 50 percent of its historic Everglades ecosystem. Fifty years ago, the Federal Government established the Everglades National Park, but simultaneously a series of canals, levees and other flood-control structures constructed by the Southern and Central Florida Project disrupted the life blood flow of water to the Everglades. Clean fresh water was cut off from the Everglades. In addition, 68 plant and animal species have become threatened or endangered with extinction.

The Everglades Restudy we are looking at now, Mr. Speaker, presents us with a very bold road map to undo the damage that has occurred during the last 50 years. It sets forth an extremely challenging agenda to restore the hydrology of the Everglades. It is a beautiful river of grass, and I am sure everyone in this country wants to see it restored.

We want to meet the needs of both urban and the farming industry, as well as the needs of the natural ecosystem. Restoration of the Everglades ecosystem will yield long-lasting human and environmental benefits to us all. By funding this plan, Mr. Speaker, we can restore this Everglades ecosystem.

SUSAN B. ANTHONY—A GREAT AMERICAN CHAMPION

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony is well remembered as one of our Nation's greatest champions, not just of the rights of women, but the rights of all Americans. In addition to her work for women's rights, she was also a leading voice speaking out against the evils of slavery.

She considered her work in turning women away from abortion as one of the most important in her life. She declared that amongst her greatest joys was to have helped "bring about a better state of things for mothers generally, so that their unborn little ones could not be willed away from them."

Today, on the 180th birthday of her death, I rise in honor of this great human rights crusader and to bring her wisdom to bear on one of the great human rights issues of our day, the right of preborn children to live.

Susan B. Anthony was clear: abortion for her was nothing less than, quote-unquote, "child murder," and she devoted much of her energies toward making women independent of what she termed the "burden" of abortion.

As we celebrate this day, let us also recommit ourselves to her goal of relieving women of the burden of abortion.

SENIORS DESERVE RELIEF FROM SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS LIMIT

(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, it has been said that all work is noble. As much as I believe that, it is a shame that our government does not, because even though we might think all work is noble, our government, unfortunately, views work performed by senior citizens as apparently something less than noble. How else can one explain the Social Security earning limit, which actually penalizes senior citizens who have jobs?

Our seniors have worked hard their whole lives and have paid a lot of money into the Social Security system. They do so with the expectation that they will receive Social Security benefits when they turn 65. But the truth of the matter is that millions of seniors who choose to work after the age of 65 are stripped of their Social Security benefits. This is wrong.

The time has come to stand up for working seniors, just as we stood up for married couples last week. Because just as it is wrong for the government to penalize people for getting married, it is wrong for the government to pen-

alize senior citizens for working. Let us give seniors relief from the Social Security earnings limit.

COLOMBIAN DRUG POLICY TOWARDS AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, while American politicians just say no, reports say that the Colombian drug cartel has placed a \$200,000 bounty on our border patrol. No limits. Kill five agents, you get \$1 million.

Now, if that is not enough to tarnish our slogan, Colombia also plans to increase production of cocaine by 20 percent; and Colombia will expand their coca bush planting to 465 square miles, 465 square miles, and most of it targeted for the United States of America.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. While American troops are guarding borders overseas, vaccinating dogs in Haiti, the drug lords of Colombia are shooting our border patrol.

A Nation without secure borders is a Nation without security.

I yield back the crime, death, addiction, and stupidity in America.

THE KEEP OUR PROMISES ACT

(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, in my heart few things are more sacred than the solemn promises that we have made to our veterans, because all of us today would not be able to enjoy the peace and prosperity we have without the sacrifices of our veterans.

Unfortunately, the President's budget proposal completely fails our veterans yet again by breaking the health care promises made to them years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that legislation has been introduced which corrects the administration's appalling oversight and restores adequate health care benefits that were promised to and earned by our veterans.

The Keep Our Promises Act is a bipartisan bill which will finally fulfill the commitment we made to our military retirees. We need to protect the future of veterans' health care. We need to protect those who have paid the ultimate sacrifices for this country.

I encourage our colleagues to support our Nation's veterans by supporting the Keep Our Promises Act. It is the least we can do, for all that they have done for us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair