

Echo of Moscow Radio, and other independent media ventures.

Mr. Putin must understand that there is no room for Russia in the community of free and democratic nations, if he and his thugs are determined to destroy a free press. This harassment must come to an end, or relations between the free democracies of the world and the new totalitarian Russia will take a serious turn for the worse.

#### WORKING ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(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, Napoleon Bonaparte once said "if you wish to be a success in the world, promise everything, deliver nothing." Promise everything, deliver nothing. That also happens to be the mantra of our Democratic leadership on the other side.

We all know, however, how Napoleon's plans turned out. Thankfully, this Republican-led Congress realized the importance of promises it made to the American people, and this Republican Congress is keeping those promises.

We passed a responsible, affordable, and voluntary Medicare prescription drug plan. We passed a Commerce, Justice, State Department Appropriations Act, which provides the resources necessary to fight crime and enforce our laws.

We passed a Defense appropriations bill which boosts funding for critical military readiness and gives our servicemen and women a much-deserved pay raise. Instead of just touting useless rhetoric and making empty promises, this Republican Congress has and will continue to take action in addressing the problems facing the American people.

#### INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the issue of international child abduction is one of the most important to me, and to the parents of the 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries. These children have lost years of time with their parents, and their parents have missed watching them grow up. It is outrageous that American children are being held hostage in other countries by unlawful noncustodial parents and unresponsive foreign justice systems.

In February of 1998, Aryssa Torabi was abducted by her father to Tehran, Iran. Aryssa's father was able to leave the country with fraudulent custody papers. A Federal warrant was issued for his arrest and the FBI has become involved in the case.

In May of this year, Aryssa's mother found her through the work of a private investigator who was able to speak with the family, with the abductor's family, and get some pictures of her. The reports from the family are that Aryssa is extremely unhappy.

Children like Aryssa and her mother should not be kept apart, we must continue to do all that we can to take action on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we must bring our children home.

#### FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Food Stamp Program is designed to help indigent families feed their children. This is a noble goal.

Unfortunately, widespread abuses in the food stamp program cost American taxpayers an estimated \$1.4 billion in 1998 due to improper payments.

That is money denied to thousands of poor American children throughout the Nation. In fact, food stamp reforms such as the electronic benefits system, the EBT, which has replaced food stamps in 29 States, have actually generated more welfare fraud.

In one instance, two people in Beaumont, Texas, were convicted of trafficking in EBT food stamp benefits in exchange for crack cocaine. And in another, the owner of a meat and seafood market redeemed more than 331,000 in EBT food stamp benefits, even though virtually no food was purchased.

We cannot let this continue. For the sake of our children and for the sake of the taxpayer, we must do a better job of eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse.

#### DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN ON U.S. BORDERS

(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, a study finally admits, and I quote, "America's borders are so wide open, terrorists could easily smuggle a nuclear bomb across both our borders." Think about it, 3 million illegal immigrants, heroin and cocaine by the tons, and now a report that further says it is so bad in some areas orange cones are used like scarecrows with no border patrol presence at all.

Unbelievable. We have soldiers vaccinating dogs in Haiti, while terrorists can bring nukes across our border. Beam me up here. Who master-minded this policy? The Proctologist Association of North America?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back a disaster waiting to happen on the borders of the United States of America with a Congress sleeping at the switch.

#### GAS PRICES

(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, throughout our summer gas crisis, the Clinton-Gore administration has played possum with the American people. They have claimed that the gas crisis was not caused by a supply issue and blamed oil companies for price gouging. But a recently released internal memorandum obtained from the Department of Energy by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) tells a different story.

The Energy Department memo dated June 5 indicates that "high consumer demand and low inventories have caused higher prices for all gasoline types." The memo also indicates that recently implemented gasoline standards may increase costs. But not 10 days after this memo was drafted, Secretary Browner told more than 30 Midwestern Members of Congress that the gas price hike was inexplicable.

The Clinton-Gore administration has lost e-mails, lost important files and lost nuclear secrets. Now, we can add the true reason for the energy crisis to the lost list.

#### TRIBUTE TO LUTHER ROSS WILSON

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ross Wilson, former manager of the Southwestern Peanut Growers' Association. Widely regarded as the Nation's most knowledgeable person on the subject of the U.S. peanut industry, Ross has retired after spending the last 44 years of his life working for the betterment of the American farmer.

Ross is a native of Brownwood, Texas and a graduate of Daniel Baker College and Southwest Texas State University. He began his career as a teacher and a coach in Gorman, Texas where he eventually served as principal and superintendent.

In 1956, Ross was hired as the manager of the Southwestern Peanut Growers' Association where he oversaw the administration of the peanut program in the Southwest. In addition to serving on numerous boards and committees, he chaired the National Peanut Council Board of Directors, the Peanut Administrative Committee, and the Southwest Peanut Research and Education Advisory Committee.

In 1973, the Texas Agricultural Agents Association gave him their Man of the Year in Agriculture award, and in 1974, the Progressive Farmer magazine named him Man of the Year in Texas agriculture.