

American families by keeping Washington in check, balancing the budget, paying off the national debt, protecting Social Security, strengthening Medicare, and reducing taxes on every hard-working American. Thank you and I yield back.

PALESTINIANS NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS AN OPPORTUNITY

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as has happened so often before, the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

The President and the Secretary of State may be constrained by diplomatic protocol, but those of us in this House who follow these events are not. This summit collapsed because Yasir Arafat refused to budge. I pay high tribute to the President and his team. I pay high tribute to Prime Minister Barak, who has gone way beyond anything that anybody could rationally expect in terms of compromise and giving.

I deplore that Egypt and Saudi Arabia again encourage the most intransigent position possible on Arafat.

Today, I am introducing legislation that would terminate all aid to the Palestinian Authority if a unilateral declaration of independence should be forthcoming. Such a declaration would mean new violence, and we cannot be party to it. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me.

BORN ALIVE INFANTS PROTECTION ACT

(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, ever since *Roe v. Wade*, Americans have debated the question, When does life begin? Some of us believe it starts at conception, others at viability, and others, amazingly, not until birth.

But once a baby has been born, everyone agrees life has begun, and this baby is a new human being with all his or her God-given rights.

Well, what was once obvious seems to have been called into question lately. The Supreme Court shocked America recently by ruling that States may not ban partial birth abortions. Now we are hearing stories of children being born alive in abortion clinics and then left to die.

H.R. 4292, the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, codifies in law that, once a baby is born, it is legally alive. Unbelievably, the National Abortion Rights Action League and their allies call this a renewed assault on *Roe*. What they

really mean to say is that, when a doctor botches an abortion and the child is born alive, the doctor should still have the right to kill it. How far we have fallen, Mr. Speaker?

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I brought together international leaders at a luncheon in London to discuss the problem of international parental child abduction. This is an issue that touches families everywhere and an issue, to be solved, needs to be addressed everywhere. The luncheon was very productive, and I hope that it will lead to action by my foreign counterparts. National boundaries are no barrier to the transportation and victimization of children.

Today, there is no enforceable global system to attack and address this problem. Despite legal, law enforcement, and diplomatic mechanisms, many cases are not identified. Many children are not recovered. Many children who are located are not returned to their country of origin due to legal and procedural problems. This situation causes anger, outrage, and pain for searching parents around the world.

Unless urgent and rapid action is taken, more and more children will be denied their most basic right, that of having access to both parents. The challenge is now to find commitment at both national and international levels to implement these actions. Family disputes and divorce will never go away. Parental child abduction, however, must be eradicated.

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 4892, SCOUTING FOR ALL ACT

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America, as a private organization, has the right to set its own standards for membership and leadership. This allows the Scouts to continue developing young men of strong moral character without imposing the mores on them that they find abhorrent.

Would my colleagues like a view of extremist liberal Democrats who seek to control this House? They have filed a bill to revoke the Boy Scouts Federal charter, a blatant attempt to undermine the Supreme Court's ruling and punish the Boy Scouts for their belief.

This bill promotes intolerance. The Boy Scouts respect other people's right to hold differing opinions than their own and ask others to respect their be-

liefs. Extremist Democrats believe just the opposite. They believe that if one does not subscribe to their beliefs and their view of the world, then one is intolerant and must be chastised.

These liberal Democrats are in error. Tolerance does not require a moral equivalency. Rather, it implies a willingness to recognize and respect the beliefs of others.

The Boy Scouts are a model of inclusiveness. Today, boys of every ethnic, religious, and economic background, including those with disabilities and special needs, participate in Scouting programs across America.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this extremist measure promoted by liberal Democrats.

ACCIDENTAL HOSPITAL DEATHS ARE HIGHER THAN ACCIDENTAL GUN DEATHS

(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, accidental deaths caused by doctors and hospitals in America reached 120,000 per year. Meanwhile, gun deaths have dropped 35 percent. In fact, accidental gun deaths dropped to 1,500 last year.

Think about it. We have got hospitals slicing and dicing American people like Freddie Kruger, and Congress is passing more gun laws. Beam me up. There is something wrong in America when one is 80 times more likely to be killed by a doctor than Smith & Wesson. Think about it, 80 to 1. Maybe we need a gun in surgery.

I yield back the fact that the second amendment was not written to cover just duck hunters.

GORE SENIOR TAX POLICY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the Austrian philosopher Karl Krauss once wrote, "When the end comes, I want to be living in retirement."

Many Americans in this country feel that way. They put in countless hours anticipating the day when they will retire. Unfortunately, the Clinton-Gore administration sees these benefits as a prime opportunity to grab more money for the Federal Government.

In 1993, the Clinton-Gore administration decided to tax up to 85 percent of the Social Security benefits received by single seniors whose incomes were \$34,000, and married taxpayers, seniors, with incomes exceeding \$44,000.

Worse yet, Mr. Speaker, because these incomes were not indexed for inflation, the tax effects were more dramatic every year for our seniors.

This week the House will vote to end this burdensome tax and give seniors a