

couples relief from the marriage tax penalty. But just as it is unfair for couples to be penalized simply for being married, it is equally unfair for senior citizens to be penalized simply because they have jobs. Yet the Social Security earning limits is doing just that.

Because of these earnings limits, senior citizens risk losing a large portion of their Social Security benefits if they decide to keep working past the age of 65 and they make more than the law allows. In essence, our government is telling senior citizens that they should not work. Instead, our government should encourage not discourage.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to eliminate the Social Security earnings limit.

#### GUN SAFETY

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, another tragedy has struck. Yesterday, a little girl in Michigan was shot and killed by one of her classmates, a 6-year-old boy. A 6 year old, Mr. Speaker. And the question we are all asking ourselves today is, "How in the heck did a little 6-year-old boy get a gun?"

If anybody watched the footage of this on the news last night, they saw a scene that has become all too familiar in this country: A school being evacuated, teachers leading frightened children to safety, sobbing parents frantically looking for their children and, at the end of the day, another dead child, another victim of gun violence.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, another tragedy has struck, but still Congress does nothing to keep guns out of the hands of kids and out of the hands of criminals. This is not the year 1900, this is the year 2000. We have a crisis in this country and Congress is going to go home again today, not to come back until next week, still having done nothing to pass common sense child gun safety.

#### REPEAL 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, if a senior citizen wishes to be a part of the work force, there is a lot to consider: The work environment, the hours, the wages. There are a lot of things for a working senior to look at. But one that should not have to occupy a senior citizen's mind is the potential impact that their new job could have on their Social Security benefits.

Yet working seniors across the country have to do that because of the Social Security earnings limit. Because

of the earnings limit, senior citizens between the ages of 65 and 70 who join the work force risk losing part or all of their Social Security benefits. This is simply not fair.

Senior citizens have spent their entire lives earning these benefits and our government should not be punishing them simply because they choose to keep on working.

Today, House Republicans bring up a bill that will repeal the earnings limit. Many senior groups, including the AARP, support this bill because they recognize that it is unfair to punish working seniors. I hope that my colleagues will agree.

Let us repeal the Social Security earning limits and give our working seniors a break. They have earned it.

#### WHITE HOUSE IS WRONG ON CHINA AND WTO MEMBERSHIP

(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, the White House wants China in the World Trade Organization. Unbelievable. China sells nuclear weapons to our enemies. China threatened to nuke Taiwan. Once, China even threatened the city of Los Angeles.

Beam me up. If the White House succeeds in getting China admitted to the World Trade Organization, I say the White House needs a lobotomy performed by a proctologist.

I yield back a \$350 billion trade deficit, much of it going to China to finance an army that someday may come after us.

#### SANCTIONS ON IRAQ: A REGRETTABLE NECESSITY

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks a number of well-meaning but misguided voices have been raised to urge the lifting of economic sanctions against Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq. It has been suggested that lifting the sanctions will alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iraq does face a humanitarian disaster, but it is a disaster that has been created and perpetuated by Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi leader bemoans the lack of food and medicine, but Saddam has amassed a personal fortune of over \$6 billion, much of it the result of pilfering the donations the international community has provided. While his people have gone wanting, he has built scores of palatial mansions at an estimated cost of \$2 billion.

Recent studies from the Food and Agriculture Organization indicate that more than enough food is available to

satisfy the minimal caloric requirements to sustain health. The problem is that Saddam is preventing adequate food and medicine from reaching those groups and regions that most actively oppose him.

Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein remains a lethal adversary who has repeatedly sought to circumvent international sanctions and has tried to divert humanitarian aid into military strategic programs. While it is entirely appropriate for the American people to care about the pain inflicted upon the people of Iraq, lifting the sanctions will not alleviate the suffering. We must not be naive, sanctions must remain in force.

#### DENIAL OF JUSTICE

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the denial of justice is one of the most egregious fronts to all of democracy, and I can tell all my colleagues that the verdict in the Amadou Diallo police case puts justice on trial.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my voice with that of countless others who are crying out for justice not just for Amadou Diallo but for justice to roll throughout America like a mighty stream. For as long as there is no justice, there can be no peace. The denial of justice for one is a threat to justice for all. No justice, no peace.

This case is troublesome, Mr. Speaker, because it reinforces for many people in this country the feeling that there is a dual system of justice which further divides the Nation. And we know that a Nation, like a house, divided cannot stand.

So I say let us stand together for justice. No justice, no peace.

#### ANOTHER CHILD LOST TO GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise with a heavy heart. Yesterday, another child, another baby, lost her life to gun violence. This sad day, this great tragedy is made worse by the fact that this little girl was killed by another child.

How long will we tolerate gun violence? How long will we tolerate children killing children? Mr. Speaker, how long will it take for this House to demonstrate raw courage and pass real gun control legislation.

This morning, as we take a moment to consider our failure and to grieve this family's loss, we must not forget to take the time out to teach our children the way of peace, the way of non-violence, to teach them the way of love.