

took them to court. They face 6 months in jail and a thousand-dollar fine because they even lost the record of the Salashi family, which included, Mr. Speaker, a \$25 late fee.

Beam me up. Mr. Speaker, it is time to put a dagger in the heart of income taxes. Our Tax Code is so heavy it would give a King Kong gorilla a hernia.

I yield back the anguish of the American taxpayers.

COLOMBIA AID PACKAGE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, in Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, the soothsayer warned Caesar to "beware of the Ides of March." Caesar did not listen and Caesar perished.

Today, on this Ides of March, I bring my colleagues fair warning. If we do not pass the Colombia aid package soon, our friends in Colombia could suffer the same fate as Caesar and our own children could be next.

Mr. Speaker, in fiscal year 1999, Federal agents intercepted nearly 2,800 pounds of heroin and 280,000 pounds of cocaine coming into the United States. And of these amounts, DEA estimates that 80 percent of the coke and 75 percent of the heroin originated in Colombia.

These are staggering figures indeed, but they only represent the seizures. I can assure my colleagues that much more is making it to our streets and to our young people.

Without U.S. help in fighting the drug war, the Colombian Government has little chance of ending the violence and stopping the flow of drugs. With the illegal drug trade providing the insurgents with over \$600 million a year in drug money, it is likely that the duly-elected Government of Colombia will fall without our immediate help. Failing to act will stay with our children forever.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN OUT OF STEP WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it seems that once again the Republican budget would be just another re-run of last year's out-of-step ideas. This is a reckless plan. It fails to extend the life of Medicare by one day. It fails to extend the life of Social Security by one day.

Instead of investing in the future of American families by paying down the national debt, it spends nearly \$150 billion on budget busting tax cuts that benefit mostly the wealthy in this country. The Republican plan is out of step with the American people.

In addition, Republicans think that the cost of prescription drugs is a low-income problem. They are wrong. The increasing cost of prescription drugs is putting a massive financial burden on middle-class seniors.

Democrats want to make sure that all seniors are covered. They should not have to be poor to get Medicare coverage for the overwhelming cost of prescription drugs. Americans want a budget that protects Social Security, Medicare, that allows for prescription drug benefits for all seniors.

It seems that the Republican budget once again fails to connect with the needs of middle-class families.

GAS PRICES TOO HIGH—PEOPLE ARE HURTING

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, the American people are paying almost \$2 a gallon for gas while the Clinton administration is asleep at the wheel. Gas prices are too high, and people are hurting.

Mr. Speaker, why do mothers have to choose between a gallon of gas and a gallon of milk? The American people have to swallow the soaring price of fuel at the pumps, seriously jeopardizing their livelihoods.

Whether it is a tractor-trailer, a delivery van, or a family minivan, gasoline prices are making Californians choke. Still, the Clinton administration has done nothing.

Since 1993, when Al Gore broke the tie in the U.S. Senate to impose this administration's gas tax, U.S. oil production has declined by 17 percent, oil producing jobs have declined by 27 percent, and 36 U.S. refineries have closed their doors.

We need action now, not later, Mr. Speaker. Gas prices need to be lowered now.

STUDENT ATHLETE PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, today one of the great events in sports in America begins, March Madness, the NCAA tournament.

While our student athletes are going to be giving it all on the court, the coaches are going to be trying to out-think and out-strategize one another.

But what do these coaches have in common, coaches like Mike Krzyzewski at Duke, Mike Montgomery at Stanford, Bill Guthridge at North Carolina, Roy Williams at Kansas? They all support a bill that the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and I have introduced called

the Student Athlete Protection Act, a bill that seeks to preserve the integrity of college, amateur, and high school sports by imposing a complete ban on betting on college sports, not de minimus bets on pools and offices, but on betting in Las Vegas.

Let us try to protect the magic and the purity of the competition in these sports and support this bill.

WHITE HOUSE E-MAIL CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

(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, the White House e-mail controversy continues. Five Northrop Grumman employees were so intimidated by the White House threats of jail that one was nearly fired when she refused to tell her own bosses about the administration's failure to turn over thousands of e-mail messages under subpoena.

Newly obtained information shows the White House threatened to have the five employees jailed after they found and reported a glitch in the White House computer system that prevented the discovery of more than 100,000 White House messages involving campaign finance abuses, Monica Lewinsky, Chinagate, and Filegate.

Mr. Speaker, the Justice Department does not even appear to be interested, does not want to check these e-mails for information about the campaign finance scandal.

Why has Janet Reno, the attorney general, been so silent on this matter?

GUN CONTROL IN AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some months ago I indicated that I would be on the floor on a regular basis bringing to the attention of this Congress and to the American people that 13 children die every day at the hands of a gun. Thirteen children die every day.

But yet this Congress, of which I am a Member, and the House Committee on the Judiciary Conference Committee on Gun Safety and Juvenile Justice, refused to meet.

On the other hand, gun-responsible legislation such as trigger locks, smart gun, and the legislation that I intend to offer that will provide educational programs and incentives to schools, hold parents and adults responsible for children that get guns has not been able to see the light of day.

But, on the other side, the National Rifle Association thinks we can save lives by ugly and undermining advertisement.