

Mr. Speaker, we need to continue to reduce, not increase, wasteful spending on efficient government programs and bureaucracy.

Let us build upon our past successes and pass the budget that our children can be proud of and can afford when they grow up.

ELIAN GONZALEZ

(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, it was with shock, disgust and outrage that I watched on TV over Easter weekend flack-jacketed government agents, acting like military commandoes armed with high-powered rifles breaking down doors, assaulting reporters, ransacking a private home and seizing an innocent child in the dark of night, while negotiations were ongoing, with something they called a search warrant. But the warrant they had was not based on a proper court order. It was based on an after-hours ex parte application that claimed Elian was being "concealed" and "unlawfully restrained."

The Justice Department should have waited until a judge had a chance to hold a hearing to determine if anyone was in contempt of court. Only then would a court order have been appropriate. Why did they not follow that procedure? Because an earlier application by the Justice Department for such a court order had already been turned down.

So what did they do? They just broke into the home of an American citizen and seized him. For the executive branch to ignore a court ruling is a very dangerous precedent. So much for the rule of law. We have a constitutional system of checks and balances. Checks on the executive branch will only work if they are made to obey the courts. It was a bad day for America and a new low for this administration.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to tell the story of Joseph Howard, whose child was abducted across international borders. His child is just one of 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries.

In 1994, Joseph Howard's wife took his child when he was at work and fled to Germany. Joseph notified the police and the FBI. Two months after the abduction, the German lower court issued an ex parte order granting temporary custody to the mother and informed Joseph 1 month later. The German lower court later confirmed custody to the mother and stated that "the father lives in the United States of America

and is therefore no longer in a position to exercise his custody rights."

Joseph was not given access rights, but received a demand for child support. He appealed to German higher court, but the appeal was rejected. In April of 1998, Joseph was granted access rights to be exercised only in the office of the German Youth Authority and only after he surrendered his passport. Joseph has not seen his child since 1994.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of treatment of American parents and their children must stop. Signatories to the Hague Convention should uphold their agreement, and this House should urge them to do so.

H.R. 4055, IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT OF 2000

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to fulfill Congress' promise to fund special education at the 40 percent level that was promised in 1975.

For the past 25 years, Congress has consistently ignored its responsibility to special education students. The result has impacted all students in public schools throughout our Nation.

In Orange County, California, the special education funding shortfall now exceeds \$70 million annually. Each year, local school boards face the inevitable question: What programs will be cut to meet our responsibility to educate students with special needs? The paradox is unfair. We have required these school districts to provide high quality services to a population with significant needs with only a fraction of the funds we promised.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the school districts which have struggled to balance the needs of all their students, I implore my colleagues to support H.R. 4055. This bill sets out a plan that will allow Congress to meet the 40 percent funding promise it made to all by 2010. If we fail to fulfill this commitment, we will continue to fail not only children with special needs, but all students in public schools.

TRIGGER LOCKS ARE NOT THE ANSWER

(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, on March 23 in my district a 12-year-old boy took a loaded gun to school. Thank God, no one was hurt. But guess what, Mr. Speaker. The gun had a trigger lock. The boy simply searched for and found the key and, bingo, the gun was at school.

So I checked out this trigger lock business and uncovered a General Ac-

counting Office report that says trigger locks are only effective for children under 6 years of age.

Six-year-old criminals? Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

I assure my colleagues, no 6-year-old will mug them at 3 o'clock in the morning. It is not about trigger locks. It is about enforcing the gun laws we already have.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back what is left of our decimated second amendment rights.

TAX FREEDOM DAY COMES WAY TOO LATE FOR WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today is Tax Freedom Day. Today is the day that working Americans for the first time this year can stop working for the government and begin working for themselves and for their own families. May 3, 5 months into the year, 124 days working for the government. Incredible.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to those working American families to trim the size of big government and trim the size of their tax bills. Rather than picking up the tab for a host of government programs that simply refuse to die because the President and the Congress refuse to kill them, taxpayers should be able to spend their hard-earned money on their own needs. Rather than supporting billion-dollar corporate welfare programs, taxpayers should be allowed to provide for the welfare of their own families.

Mr. Speaker, we can help. We can move Tax Freedom Day to an earlier slot on the calendar by cutting big government down to size and providing American people with the healthy tax cut that they richly deserve. And next year, we can celebrate Tax Freedom Day a little earlier.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, this morning I am talking about trailers. Temporary school buildings. I have visited over 80 schools in my district and everywhere I go, parents, teachers, and students all talk to me about the problem of overcrowding and the expense of construction.

Just last week, Secretary of Education Riley and I visited Crossroads School in a school district where the total student population has doubled in the past 11 years from 3,500 students to 7,000 now.

Mr. Speaker, study after study shows that smaller class sizes produce better students. With the median school construction cost for an elementary school