

The National Weather Service informed the Park Service hours before a controlled burn was to begin that weather conditions were actually a blueprint for spreading a fire. But in spite of this warning, the fire was started, anyway.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to all those families who have lost everything as a result of this man-made disaster and our deepest appreciation goes out to the firefighters now risking their lives battling a wildfire which should never have occurred.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the negligence and incompetence of the National Park Service, an agency supposed to be responsible for protecting our national land.

FEDERAL RESERVE RATE INCREASE TARGETS WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The economic pundits only question how much of an interest rate increase the Fed will do today. They miss the basic question. Why? Core inflation is about 2 percent, less than it was a year ago.

Federal Chief Greenspan spent another sleepless night last night, not because he is worried about the damage the rate increase is going to do to working families, everyone who has to borrow money to buy a house, buy a car and finance major purchases. They will pay billions to finance his crusade. No, he had a sleepless night because he kept looking under the bed and in the closet for the chimera of inflation that does not exist.

What is the real agenda? If it is irrational exuberance, raise the margin rates on Wall Street. But maybe the real agenda is that he wants to drive up unemployment and drive down wages. God forbid American workers should get a wage increase. That is the real agenda of the Federal Reserve. It is targeted at the working families of America.

OBSCENITY LAW ENFORCEMENT

(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, 80 percent of the American people say they want obscenity laws vigorously enforced. That same 80 percent do not believe the Government is doing its job, and they are right. Between 1992 and 1998, prosecutions for violations of Federal obscenity laws dropped 86 percent. A leading distributor of pornographic videos told TV Guide that the President was, and I quote, on our team. He said, "It's not that Clinton has been outwardly supportive of the adult industry

but rather that he hasn't tried to quash it the way Republicans did back in the 1980s."

Even the public airwaves are not safe anymore. Sexual material on TV was more than three times as frequent in 1999 as it was in 1989. Foul language was more than five times as high. But the FCC has not collected a single fine or forfeiture or refused to renew a license due to broadcast indecency in 15 years.

Our children deserve better protection. The Justice Department and the President need to start enforcing the law on obscenity.

MILLION MOM MARCH

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I spent last Sunday with hundreds of thousands of American moms on the Mall who had come to ask Congress to help protect their families from gun violence. And it was hard. It was hard to listen to mom after mom tell their stories of the loss of their children. But the reason it was hard was not just the heartache. The really hard part for me was to realize that 300 feet away from these hundreds of thousands of moms was the U.S. Capitol building, the place where we are charged to help American families, where this year the U.S. Congress has done nothing, nothing, nothing to help these families be protected from gun violence.

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There is no protection with trigger locks, no closing of the gun show loophole. While this torrent of gun violence sweeps across us, the U.S. Congress does nothing. If this Congress refuses to act, may the heavens have mercy on us, because this November these mothers will not.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT OF GUN PROPOSALS NEEDED

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to listen to the 1 minutes today, and I was wondering if the previous speaker happened to mention how his vote was on the bill that we had on the floor that actually did require trigger locks, that did close the loopholes at gun shows, and did put a ban on certain kinds of assault weapon clips?

We had that vote. Interestingly, the Democrats voted against it. Why did they vote against it? Because the loophole that was being closed in the gun show was not great enough for them, and it is odd, because it was actually offered by a fellow Democrat.

Now, that motion was something that I think a lot of Members of Congress would support. But, unfortunately, and it pains me, and I hope some of this was conveyed to some of these mothers, that the Democrats fought it. They had a shot at trigger locks, they had it in their hand to ban certain clips, and, of course, to close the loopholes on gun shows, but they voted no.

We might get another chance. I hope this time the Democrats put their rhetoric in front of their politics and put philosophy in front of politics and try to do the right thing.

SENIORS DESERVE CHOICE ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEEDS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, anyone developing a health plan these days would not think of omitting prescription drugs as a benefit, yet Medicare does. However, despite this lack of coverage in Medicare, fully two-thirds of America's 39 million seniors currently have prescription drug coverage, so any new plan must be voluntary and not force seniors out of their current plans.

Seniors deserve the flexibility to determine what type of drug coverage they want and need. A one-size-fits-all program will not work.

One thing that is crystal clear to me is that seniors should not have to choose between putting food on the table and buying their medicine. A senior's choice should be the plan that best meets their prescription drug needs.

FIXING THE JUNK E-MAIL PROBLEM

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on this House to pass legislation to fix the unsolicited commercial e-mail problem, referred to as "spam," that is harming the Internet.

Millions of unsolicited commercial e-mails, which contain advertisements for pornography, dubious products or get-rich-quick schemes are clogging up the computers of individuals, business systems and the entire information superhighway.

The receiver pays for e-mail advertisements. Junk e-mail is like postage-due marketing, or a telemarketer calling your cell phone, or receiving a bill at the end of the month for all the junk mail you have received.

The spam problem is increasing because there is an incentive for shady