

What happens to other territories is important to Guam because it may affect us in ways that are not readily apparent. I want Guam to be a Commonwealth. I want to help advance political status discourse on Guam and on other areas. I have cosponsored H.R. 3024 for the resolution of the Puerto Rico political status issue.

I appreciate the problems of the approach outlined in this bill, but I hope to advance the discussion for Puerto Rico in a way that I wish others would also help to advance the discussion for Guam. And there is in this legislation a fundamental admission about the territorial policy of this country. That admission is that the political status issue is never fully resolved until a territory becomes a State or its sovereignty is recognized.

This legislation admits that the United States has colonies which are awaiting the final resolution of their status. The final resolution may be closer for some than for others, but we will all need to cross that bridge in the future. In the meantime, we can make the path to that bridge more beneficial for all concerned, whether we call that path unincorporated territory or Commonwealth.

REVERSE THE PROCESS OF SPENDING MORE AND GETTING LESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I want to refer to articles in today's newspapers, not only here in Washington, but also across the country, in which the President recently traveled to New Jersey. He has continued his campaign, both to scare the American people and seniors, and also those concerned about the environment.

I think it is important that we set the record straight. In fact, the President said, and let me quote, "The GOP-controlled Congress is cutting Federal safeguards to cater to corporate interests. A small army of very powerful lobbyists literally have descended on Capitol Hill, as if they own the place." It makes good campaign rhetoric, but it just "ain't" the truth, Mr. Speaker.

The fact is that the people who represent cities and towns and States have descended on this new Congress. Let me quote the New York Times again, the New York Times of March 24, 1994: "In January, 1994, mayors from 114 cities and 49 States urged the White House to focus on how environmental policy-making had gone awry." That is the true story. "Mississippi and Vermont were among the first to appoint panels of citizens and scientists to examine our environmental policy. In published reports both State panels concluded that the largest sums of monies were being spent on the least threatening environmental problems."

Mr. Speaker, let me tell the Members, the story goes on and on. Let me tell you what the mayor of Columbus said. This is his quote: "What bothers me is that new rules coming out of Washington are taking money from decent programs and making me waste them on less important problems. It kills you as a city official to see this kind of money being spent for nothing."

Let me tell the Members, Mr. Speaker, what this debate is all about. This debate is about command and control in Washington, DC. We would think there are a lot of Federal EPA officials working in the States and trying to improve the environment. Wrong. Let me show the figures of what we have done. First of all, there are nearly 7,850 Federal EPA employees. Of that, there are 5,924 in Washington, DC, within 50 miles of where I am speaking right now. There are almost 6,000, just under 6,000. In fact, a dozen years ago there were not that many in the entire EPA program. In Atlanta, in a regional office, one of 10 regional offices, there are 1,287 bureaucrats.

This whole debate is about this bureaucracy that we have built up. EPA was a Republican idea. The department creating an agency of environmental protection was a Republican idea in 1972, to set some national standards. We should do that. We can do that without this huge bureaucracy. These folks are not in our States. For example, there are only 67 EPA Federal employees in the State of Florida, out of this mass of Federal bureaucrats.

Then the President talked about Superfund. Let me tell you, there is no greater example of a failure of a government program than Superfund. It does not clean up the sites. There are thousands of sites. They have only cleaned up a handful. Over 80 percent of the money goes for attorney's fees and studies. Then what do they do? Does the polluter pay? Here is a headline: "EPA lets polluters off the hook."

Right now they let people off the hook. They do not pay under current law. That is what we think needs to be changed here. So Republicans have a better idea. We think that we are spending more and getting less, and we should reverse that process.

Then, are we cleaning up the riskiest sites to human health, safety, and our children? The fact is, no. I have here a GAO study of 1994. It is absolutely appalling that we are not cleaning up the sites that pose the most risk to human health, safety, and welfare. This report says, in fact, and let me quote: "Although one of EPA's key policy objectives is to address the worst sites first, relative risk plays little role in the agency's determination of priorities."

Do Members know what does determine their priorities? Political pressure. That is what this report says. So a program that was originally, according to this report, going to cost \$1.6 billion has grown to \$75 billion. It is not cleaning up the sites and it is letting

polluters off the hook. We think that is wrong.

SUPPORT HIGHER EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, the proposed 1996 spending package for education is unacceptable. Once again, the country's children and youth will be made to pay.

Under the current budget, education programs have been forced to operate at greatly reduced funding levels, to the detriment of students in school districts all across the country.

The appropriation bill provides for additional funds for certain programs but does so only on a contingency basis. And what is the contingency? Agreement to cut vital entitlement programs. In the name of balancing the budget, children are being pitted against each other. Now, we have seen everything.

Once again, college and college-bound students may lose an opportunity to pursue higher education.

How many talented, intelligent, young men and women will be deprived of the opportunity of a higher education?

Many students who are qualified and prepared to enter college, will simply not be able to go. Low- and middle-income families who have worked hard, saved their earnings for many years, will find it more difficult—if not impossible—to pursue higher education.

It is an uncontroverted fact that American voters strongly support Federal aid to college students. Americans believe that by providing financial aid for people who want to go to college, the Federal Government is investing in America's future.

Despite, this fact, the latest House version of the bill would cut \$756 million for Pell Grants, eliminate funding for capital contributions for Perkins Loans, and eliminate funding for the Student Incentive Grant Program, which provides invaluable support to low-income college students.

Thousands of students in Puerto Rico and all over the country will be affected.

While Congress is slashing the education budget here in Washington, elsewhere legislators are recognizing the importance of supporting higher education, and regretting that they ever tried to balance their budgets at the expense of higher education. In Virginia, legislators reached an agreement on the Virginia budget this weekend in which higher education will get \$400 million more over the next 2 years. The numbers in that budget tell that the No. 1 priority is education.

In Puerto Rico, as well, the State government is honoring its commitment to education. But Puerto Rico's

goals for education cannot be accomplished without Federal assistance in student loans.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to consider carefully the legislation before them and to consider the severe impact education cuts will have on working families and their ability to access higher education for themselves and their children.

Funding to vital education programs must be restored. Mr. Speaker, the only contingency we should be talking about when it comes to education, is that if we provide our schoolchildren with the tools they need and deserve, and support higher education, Americans will win.

PRESCRIPTION FOR A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY: LOWER THE TAX RATE, AND ELIMINATE CLINTON ELITISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, how many of us remember what was going on 4 years ago? Four years ago the American people were told that we were in the worst recession in 50 years. Remember that? The worst recession in 50 years. The news media did not challenge that claim by candidate Clinton, but soon after the election, we found out all the new statistics, economic statistics, that were coming out were exactly the opposite. We were not in the worst recession in 50 years. In fact, the economy was heading up in the last half of that year, of that last election year of 1992.

We are now being told, 4 years later, that things are great. The stock market is booming. Inflation remains low. Things are not that great, Mr. Speaker. The American people know that. They can sense that, no matter how many times the news media is trying to tell them otherwise.

The growth rate actually went down dramatically from the time President Clinton was inaugurated until this year. Now we are told things are really picking up. Things are not picking up. There is an illusion that things are getting better, but the American people know better. The first item on President Clinton's agenda when he was inaugurated was passing the largest tax increase in American history. Candidate Clinton had promised a middle-class tax cut. Today, 3 years later, the American people understand something is wrong. Something is wrong. They are paying more, but they cannot put their finger on it.

That is because every time they go to the gas pump they are paying 5 cents more than they would otherwise. That is because many of our seniors, who are the hardest hit by the Clinton tax cut, know that they are paying more money on their Social Security, more taxes on their Social Security benefits. Our sen-

iors felt that tax increase, and a lot of the rest of us have felt the effects of that tax increase, but a lot of Clinton's rich pals, President Clinton's rich pals, did not feel that.

How many of us remember that some of the top contributors to President Clinton's campaign were tipped off by someone, no one knows who, that the tax increases that he would propose as President would be made retroactive? A few super rich contributors, like Mr. Eisner, who owns Disney Corporation, managed to basically do his selling and make his profits between the time President Clinton was elected and the time he was inaugurated. Apparently somebody had tipped him off that those tax increases would be retroactive. He saved himself a cool \$100 million, but the average American today is paying higher and higher taxes.

We understand that the American people today, as compared to 1992, the average American family actually is earning in take-home pay, take-home pay, over \$700 less than they did in 1992. No, Mr. and Mrs. America, you are not experiencing some kind of delusion. I know you have gone to the movie and you have seen "The American President," this multimillion dollar movie that Hollywood made to glorify the presidency. You have heard the news media telling you over and over and over again that things are getting better. But no, you are not suffering some delusion in thinking that something is wrong, that something has gone wrong with your standard of living and that you are not living as well.

When the Government takes more money from the people in the form of taxation, it puts a clamp on economic growth and it takes decision making away from them, and freedom away from them, and prosperity away from the people. We cannot create something out of nothing. Many liberals believe over the years that if the Government does something, if the Government pays money or if the Government taxes them, this is coming out of thin air. The fact is Government revenue, Federal revenue, unless it results from higher productivity of the American worker, unless it results from actually more investments, unless it results not from higher tax rates, but from more productivity and more production of wealth in our society, means that the American people are worse off. Today every American family faces the choice of either having a lower standard of living or having two people in the family work.

What we have found far too often is that when we examine the statistics, what is happening is that one member of the American family is working full time, and the only thing that happens is that that person's money is paying their Federal taxes. If we are to be a free society, if our people are to be prosperous and to live as they are supposed to, we must lower the tax rate and we must eliminate the Clinton elitists that would like to take more and more money out of our pockets.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION MUST INCLUDE FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the comic Letterman were to name the 10 most unlikely events this year, 1 of them might be that the Presidential primary in any part of the United States would be canceled for lack of funds. I am here to tell you that this morning's Post tells us that, and I am quoting, "Cuts may mean no presidential primary in D.C." The lack, Mr. Speaker, is for money in the form of a payment due the District of Columbia, which the Congress is holding up, in the amount of \$250 million or more. As a result, the District faces the possibility of a payless payday at the end of this month, and the end of its primary for May 7.

As Members may know, this money is being held up not because of matters germane to the District of Columbia, but because of a national fight over whether or not vouchers should be funded for private and religious schools. I am here to say this morning, Mr. Speaker, that if you want to debate vouchers, an important national issue, do it on your own time and on your own bill; do not take the Capitol of the United States down with you.

This body is fiddling while D.C. residents are burning. The body shut down the District of Columbia on one occasion. Now you want to cancel democracy in the Capital of the United States by not bringing forward the payment due the District in lieu of taxes? How low can we go? What will it take to wake us up?

Mr. Speaker, I hasten to add that though I am on the ballot in this primary, I do not mind if this primary is shuttled over, if my own primary is put over to another date, because I am unopposed, so I do not have anything personally to lose, although I must tell the Members that there are minor officials that are on this ballot that do have something to lose. Of course, the President is not opposed in his own party, either. But would not the shame of the country be to have a headline, and we know it would be one, to the effect "Election in Nation's Capitol Canceled Because Congress Holds Up the Appropriation?" Come, now.

The Washington Post this morning tells us that this is happening for good and sufficient reasons, lack of funds. "Although he has accelerated layoffs, canceled the planned purchase of new polling places, eliminated mailings to voters, and reduced the temporary staff hired to run elections, Fremaux * * *," that is the head of the election board, " * * * said he is still far short. The only place to turn," his letter said, "is the elections themselves."