

the way it was, so they are not going to have it.

That is what happens when you have a dictator as a Speaker. NEWT GINGRICH is not going to permit the minimum wage bill to ever come up for a vote in the House and Senate again. Why? The National Restaurant Association is opposed to it, and they have given NEWT GINGRICH thousands and thousands of dollars. That is why.

THE PRESIDENT AND WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, last May, Bill Clinton clearly stated that the Wisconsin welfare reform plan was a solid, commonsense plan for moving people from welfare dependence to work. Here is what he said on May 18 during his weekly radio address, "I pledge that my administration will work with Wisconsin to make an effective transition to a new vision of welfare based on work * * *."

Today, the 30-day public comment period expires and yet we hear nothing from the White House about the Wisconsin welfare waivers. Not a peep.

Mr. Speaker, clearly there is a complete and total disconnect between what Bill Clinton does and what he says. As George Will once said, Bill Clinton believes everything he emphatically says, right up until the second he totally repudiates it.

The same applies to welfare reform. Bill Clinton will say anything to make people believe he wants to change welfare, but when it comes time for action, he will come to the defense of the liberal status quo.

REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS OF INACTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, when I spoke on the floor I was encouraged by the fact that the Senate was finally taking up the minimum wage hike; and I was hopeful that a crippling amendment that would have delayed implementation for 6 months and exempted many small businesses so that half the people on minimum wage would not benefit from the hike would not pass. Fortunately, that amendment did not pass; and so now I am hoping that somehow we are going to get this minimum wage to the President's desk.

But what we have found out today is that the Republican leadership in the Senate as well as in the House continues to want delay. They do not want the minimum wage to pass. They are saying they are not going to appoint conferees, and they will only appoint conferees to work out the differences

on the minimum wage bill if the health care reform bill also moves.

What we are seeing again is an effort by the Republican leadership to stop the minimum wage hike just like they are trying to stop health insurance reform. They are going to let this drag on between now and November so that this Congress once again will be the Congress of inaction. Nothing happens here. It is not happening because the Republican leadership does not want it to happen.

CASUALTIES IN THE WAR ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, yet again the majority has failed to make education a priority in this year's appropriations bill. Education cuts included in the Labor, HHS, Education appropriations measure, H.R. 3755, total \$400 million from last year's level. And these cuts are in addition to the \$1.1 billion already cut by the 104th Congress.

In this most recent battle in the war on education, casualties include Goals 2000, Byrd scholarships, student incentive grants, and Eisenhower teacher training funds. Those wounded in this battle included title I funds for disadvantaged students, special education, safe and drug free schools, bilingual education, and others.

this bill makes it clear that in the eyes of this Congress, access to higher education is not a priority, safe and drug free schools are unimportant, and improving our educational system is unnecessary.

If we want our students to grow into a competitive work force and continue our leadership in the global marketplace, education is the engine that will take us there. Education is not expendable, it is vital to our future, and the appropriations bill that passes this House should reflect this reality.

FAT LADY HAS NOT SUNG ON MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, as they say in sports, "It ain't over till it's over." "It ain't over till the fat lady sings."

Bipartisan majorities in both Houses have passed the minimum wage increase which would help 11.8 million Americans, 40 percent of whom are sole breadwinners and 58 percent of whom are women. But it ain't over. Because special interests and NEWT GINGRICH and the Republican leadership are already in the back room working out delays.

They do not want to appoint a conference committee to move this bill to the President's desk despite the fact

that 80 percent of the American public, American taxpayers, want an increase in the minimum wage. They are saying if we do not get our special interest provision in the health care bill, you cannot have minimum wage.

That is the way it goes around here now, and it is flat-out wrong. The people deserve better. The people deserve minimum wage increases and a clean health care bill.

Would somebody give the fat lady a sheet of music? We need to pass this legislation. We do not need to knuckle under to special interests.

□ 1145

MINIMUM WAGE HELD HOSTAGE BY SENATE REPUBLICANS

(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, yesterday the Senate passed the minimum wage. Normally it would be on its way to President Clinton for his signature and in a short time—Americans everywhere would be benefiting. But not in this Congress—unfortunately here the will of the American people is consistently being undermined.

Eighty percent of the American people support a minimum wage increase, today we learn that Republicans in the Senate are holding the minimum wage hostage. According to Congress Daily, "Coming off a defeat on a controversial pro-business amendment, Senate Republicans further jeopardized final approval of a minimum wage hike by threatening to block conference action unless Democrats unleash their grip on health care insurance reform legislation."

As my colleague before me said, they want to put in their special-interest medical savings account into the health care bill. This sounds a lot like, "If you do not play by my rules, then I am going to take my ball and go home." This is a refrain that is heard in sandboxes. It has no place in the U.S. Congress. The Senate needs to get out of the sandbox, pass the minimum wage today.

REPUBLICANS PUT FAMILIES LAST

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are insisting that we put families first. Republicans are insisting that we put families last. Republicans have continued their attack on American families, but now with a double-barreled shotgun. They are attacking minimum wage again. The Senate is threatening to derail the passage of minimum-wage increase. They have loaded up the bill with poison pills to guarantee that it will not be signed by the President.