

This cash stash is nothing but a slush fund for GOP priorities. Committees cook up schemes; if the Speaker approves, the Committee on House Oversight rubber stamps, and money flows. There is no floor debate, no vote, and no accountability. Millions have been disbursed this way, and Republicans are now scheming how to spend the \$4 million left in the fund.

I have introduced legislation, Mr. Speaker, requiring a House vote on future payouts from the slush fund. If Republicans want to waste public money on partisan witch-hunts, they should have to debate and vote in public.

The majority loves to talk about accountability. Let us see if they can put the slush fund where their mouth is.

#### CHILD SURVIVAL

(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, I rise today to share the stories of a Kenyan doctor who describes the use of U.S. funded population control dollars in Africa. Dr. Stephen Karanja states, "Our health sector has collapsed. Thousands of Kenyan people will die of malaria whose treatment costs a few cents, in health facilities whose stores are stacked to the roof with millions of dollars worth of pills, IUDs, Norplant Depo-provera, most of which are supplied with American money."

He goes on to say, "Some of these contraceptives, like Depo-provera, cause terrible side effects to the poor people of Kenya, who do not even have competent medical check-ups before injection."

He continues, "A mother brought a child to me for pneumonia, but I had no penicillin to give the child. What I have in the stores are cases of contraceptives."

Colleagues, we should reexamine our spending priorities. We are overfunding family planning and underfunding child survival. We should focus our efforts on saving lives.

#### CARNAGE OF NAFTA GOES ON AND ON

(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, the carnage of NAFTA goes on. Thompson Electric is laying off a thousand workers and moving to Mexico. Bass Shoe Company is laying off 350 workers and moving to the Caribbean. Mitsubishi Electric is moving to Mexico. Matsui Battery is moving to Mexico. Kobe Steel is moving to Mexico. Sanyo Plastics is moving to Mexico. Divisions of Sony and Hitachi are moving to Mexico. Asahi Glass is moving to Mexico. And Fuji Electric is on their way to Mexico. And not to be left behind in

America, Samsung of Korea is moving to Mexico.

Free trade, my assets. The American worker is getting screwed, and Uncle Sam is passing out cigars. Beam me up. If this is free trade, then I am a fashion leader.

#### EVERY YEAR IS THE SAME; TAX TAKERS ASK FOR MORE AND MORE FROM TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, as our country becomes increasingly divided between taxpayers and tax takers, the taxpayers are starting to stand up and tell their Representatives in Washington that America will no longer be the land of opportunity if the current trend continues.

Just this month, USA Today had on page 1 a chart showing the rising tax burden on the taxpayers. And the most interesting thing about the chart was that the tax burden has been rising steadily year after year for all families. It is rising for families with one income; it is rising for families with two incomes.

Funny how those who claim it is harder and harder for middle-class families to get ahead never seem to mention that one of the biggest reasons might be the rising tax burden. Funny how they never tire in opposing tax cuts on the grounds of fairness, and they never seem to consider the fairness towards the people who pay the taxes that Uncle Sam takes, between one-quarter and one-third of a middle-class family's income.

Every year it is the same old thing, tax takers ask for more and more from taxpayers, and every year the taxpayers sacrifice a little more freedom and find a little less opportunity in return.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The Chair reminds all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House, and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

#### DEMOCRATS PROPOSE TO EXPAND MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR PEOPLE AGED 62 TO 64

(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, today in my home State of Connecticut there are over 30,000 people ages 55 to 64 who are uninsured; 1 in every 10 individuals in this age group. That is simply unacceptable.

Democrats have a plan to help vulnerable uninsured Americans between the ages of 55 and 64 obtain health coverage under the Medicare program. The Democratic proposal would make it possible for those who are near retirement age not to be wiped out by an illness because they do not have health coverage. The program would expand Medicare coverage for people ages 62 to 64, and displaced workers over 55 whose employers renege on their promise of retiree health benefits. The program is self-financed and would not cost the Medicare Trust Fund one dime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to stop sending us home and start scheduling action on important issues like Medicare expansion. This proposal would be a significant and an important step toward ensuring that those who are near retirement age would not be without health coverage if they had a serious illness.

#### CONGRESS MUST NOT RETURN TO THE FAILED POLICIES OF THE PAST

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in a generation, Congress will spend less than it takes in this year. We should take this good news with a dose of caution. I am afraid that President Clinton has a different opinion. With surpluses in sight, he has decided that the era of saying "the era of big government is over" is over.

In his budget, the President proposes 85 new government initiatives costing \$150 billion over the next 5 years. He pays for these programs with \$129 billion in new taxes and user fees, raising taxes to their highest level since 1945. Even worse than that, the Clinton budget falls out of balance next year and breaks the spending caps of last summer's balanced budget agreement by \$69 billion.

The President's budget is built with higher taxes, deficit spending, bigger government and broken promises. My grandmother used to say, "If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got."

In 3 short years we have cut taxes, eliminated deficits and kept our promises. We must not now return to the failed policies of the past.

#### FRESHMAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the Thompson report released last week has confirmed what we all know; that the integrity of our political system has been undermined by the influence of soft money.