

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONGRESS REGARDING EDUCATION MATTERS

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, why all the political rhetoric on education this past week? And to make sure everybody understands, the people back home understand, that is exactly what it is, political rhetoric. But why all this political rhetoric in the last week about education?

Well, I think there are probably four reasons. First of all, it is a diversionary tactic. I think no one would deny that. I suppose I can understand it, except it bothers me that children are used in this diversionary tactic.

Secondly, I imagine it has something to do with polls. All the polls say education is a sexy topic. But you want to be careful. Yes, every parent, every grandparent, wants their child to have a quality education. But when you look at those polls and they ask the question, who do you trust least to reform public education at the elementary-secondary level, the answer is almost unanimously the Federal Government. Who do you distrust second, the state government. And who do you most trust, it is local government, parents, school boards, administrators, teachers on the local level.

I guess the third reason would be this administration seems to like to micromanage elementary-secondary education from Washington, D.C., the old top-down method, which, of course, has proved totally unsuccessful.

I guess the last reason is pride of authorship. Every President I have served with seems to want to be remembered as the education President.

So in order to do that, you cannot fund existing programs that might be working well. You have to create new old programs. In other words, you take the old programs, give them a new name, and then say "This is my program." As I said at the White House just last week, who gets credit is not important; the important thing is are we doing something to help all children receive a better education.

Why do I say pride of authorship is so important? Well, obviously if the President wanted to have 100,000 new teachers for elementary grades, even though every study indicates we have 150,000 out there now who are not teaching, they are not teaching because they cannot get an elementary teaching job. In my district, depending on the school district, the waiting list is 50 to 200 applicants for every elementary teaching job. But if he wants 100,000 new teachers, then all he had to do was help me get more money for special education.

Something I have said for 20 years in the minority when there was an overwhelming Democrat majority is fund the special education mandate that you sent out there. You sent a 100 percent mandate on special education to local school districts. You promised you would send them 40 percent of the excess costs. And when I became chairman, you were sending 6 percent.

Forty percent of the excess cost. In other words, 40 percent of what it costs to educate a special ed student beyond what it costs to educate a regular student. Sometimes that is twice as expensive, sometimes ten times as expensive.

Well, let me show you what it would mean to school districts if as a matter of fact they got their 40 percent. Members representing large cities should have been on this year after year after year. The only person I could interest on the other side of the aisle over the years was the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), until about the last year or two, and I have gotten some help from the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Well, in the L.A. Unified School District, the Los Angeles Unified School district, they spend \$600 million each year, each year, to fund the Federal 100 percent mandate on special education. \$325 million of that has to come from the local tax base. We send them \$19 million. If we sent them 40 percent, they would have an additional \$60 million every year to reduce class size, to repair buildings, to do all of those things. More of this later on.

### COMMENTS ON OUTPUT OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, here it is. It is the 109th workday of this Congress in Washington D.C. Thank God we were in session all weekend, although most Members of Congress have not been here. The leadership has not been evident. But that brings the Congress up to a grand total of 109 days.

Now, the average American holding only one job, and I have a lot of American families in my district holding two or three jobs trying to make ends meet, but those who are just holding down one job have worked 200 days so far this year.

No wonder the Congress' work remains undone. Congress, under the Republican leadership, has worked in Washington, D.C. 109 days. Many of those partial days, like the day that we adjourned at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on a Wednesday because the Republicans had a huge fund-raiser in New York and they had the corporate jets waiting for them out at National Airport, and they all had to jet up to New York and hold this gala event to rake in a few tens of millions of dollars from their corporate sponsors, the same corporate sponsors who wanted them to kill any attempts to curtail teenage smoking and go after the tobacco industry, and the Republican leaders delivered. There is no legislation coming out of this Congress to curtail that, and the rate of teenage smoking is sky-

rocketing with all the tragic consequences down the road.

Then the insurance industry. They provided quite a few jets that afternoon because they had a real big one they wanted to kill. Tens of millions of Americans are in what are called HMOs, health maintenance organizations. What we found out about these HMOs is that they save money by denying Americans and their families and loved ones needed care. The insurance bureaucrats will deny your doctor, will deny you a referral to a specialist, so that they can fatten their bottom line.

Tens of millions of Americans were demanding patients' rights. Even the AMA weighed in. They wanted providers' rights. The doctors are fed up with this too. They want to be able to refer their patients for needed tests. But, guess what? The insurance industry is capable of delivering tens of millions of dollars to the Republican leadership, and, behind closed doors, they decided to kill that legislation. There will be no HMO insurance industry Patients and Providers Bill of Rights in this Congress because of special interest money.

Now, the chairman of the Committee on Rules rose the other day and said it does not matter that we didn't do HMO reform or anything about teenage smoking. It does not matter that we have not passed the education package to decrease class size, to increase the number of teachers and rebuild our crumbling schools, because we did one big thing in this Congress, we passed a tax cut.

Well, let us look at the statistics for the tax cut that was passed by the Republican majority. The families earning less than \$59,000, I hope they would all look at their tax return for this year, the 1997 tax year, and compare it to the 1996 tax year and see how much the savings were. Those who got it, about one family in five earning less than \$59,000, they got \$6. \$6. Very generous of the Republican leadership.

Now, families between \$59,000 and \$112,000, they did a little better. They got \$81. That is, those of them who got it. That is 20 percent of the families in that tax bracket.

But, ah ha, thank God some people really got relief under this bill. Two-thirds of the small number of families in this country earning over \$112,000 a year, those whose incomes average \$660,000 a year, well, they got a tax cut of \$7,135. Very nice. Very nice. It could help pay one year's cost for a kid to go to a state institution of higher learning.

Of course, their kids are not going to the state institutions of higher learning. But it could pay for that from one of those other families. The families earning less than \$59,000 will get \$6 to put toward that education, and those between \$59,000 and \$112,000 will get \$81.

So that is the grand accomplishment of this Congress. That is reason enough not to have done anything for education, for class size, for more teachers