

Democratic delegation and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) headed the Republican delegation. Both delegations told Prime Minister Barak and Yassir Arafat that we would support funding for the Wye River Accords. The Democrats intend to honor our word. Apparently the Republican leadership does not intend to allow those Republican Members to keep theirs.

This is indeed a sad day. The Wye River Accords and the subsequent agreement entered into by Israel and the Palestinians earlier this month to implement Wye mark a dramatic turning point in the history of the Middle East. President Clinton has said he will veto this bill if it is passed by the Congress. I urge a no vote today and a vote to sustain the President's veto when the bill is returned to the House.

STATE FLEXIBILITY, A MEANS TO PROTECT WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, as we begin to debate raising the minimum wage, we must take into consideration the most significant change in our social, economic, and workplace laws in American history. We must remember welfare reform. Federal law currently places immense responsibilities on State governments to move people off of welfare and into productive jobs; but if we are not careful, another one-size-fits-all Federal minimum wage could harm our efforts to create good jobs for every American.

Mr. Speaker, we have trusted our governors with the responsibility to move welfare recipients into jobs. Now they need all the tools to do that job, including more control over the minimum wage. It is time we trust our State leaders to determine increases that best complement their successful welfare policies. I urge my colleagues to secure the employment future for American workers by sending these decisions back home.

REPUBLICAN MANAGED-CARE BILL

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, making sure that everyone has an opportunity to see the doctor of their choice, that is one of the main principles that we are here for. One of the main things each and every one out there, each American, wants to be able to see the doctor of their choice, especially if they are paying for their own medication and their own health care.

For the last 2 years, we fought over the issue of managed-care reform, and we need to make sure that every American has that opportunity to see the doctor of their choice.

It is interesting that now as we come to battle on this issue that the other side is beginning to talk about coming together, and we do need to come together, but the reality is that we are skeptical about their proposals. We have the managed-care bill, the patients' bill of rights, that is there to make sure that we can come back and make the managed-care companies, the HMOs, accountable to our constituents. I want to make sure that as we move forward that we do the right thing. Let us stop wasting time. It is time that we come together and we make sure that we are responsive. Instead of reinventing the wheel and derailling things, we have to make sure that the majority is held accountable for health care in this country.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS BILL VETOED BECAUSE IT DOES NOT LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

(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, with the stroke of a pen yesterday President Clinton has thrown away a good Washington, D.C. appropriations bill. What has he thrown away? Good and needed things like helping D.C. kids go to college, placing foster kids into permanent homes, cleaning up the foul Anacostia River, cracking down on drug offenders, and reducing the size of D.C.'s bloated government. And for what? For legalizing marijuana. The President drew a line in the sand that said he would not sign a bill that did not legalize marijuana.

Nobody should be fooled by the pretense that this is a medical issue. That is a smoke screen. A war on drugs will never happen when the President's priority is to veto a bill over legalizing drugs in our Nation's capital.

The President is sending the worst possible message to our children. Every police officer, every teacher, every parent who has ever fought against drugs should be outraged by this veto.

IT IS TIME TO PROTECT AMERICANS FROM THE THREAT OF A BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACK

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, we are very busy here trying to make sure that we have enough money to continue to shore up our military defense system. Some are tempted in thinking that free trade, diplomatic goodwill, and more international communication will remove the threat of war. All of human history really suggests that such thinking is a fantasy. It is not only a fantasy, Mr. Speaker, but it is a very dangerous illusion. It was a dangerous illusion in 1914, and it was a

dangerous illusion in 1939 and it is a dangerous illusion today.

In fact, it is because of the existence of nuclear weapons that this illusion, this fantasy, is even more dangerous today than ever. It is, therefore, imperative that we reconsider our foolish policy of remaining vulnerable to a foreign ballistic missile attack. Many Americans will be surprised to learn that this is so, but America does not have a national missile defense system. It is time to protect Americans from the threat of a ballistic missile attack because the world is still a dangerous place out there.

ONCE AGAIN, BIGGER GOVERNMENT WINS AND THE TAXPAYER LOSES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has vetoed the tax relief package passed by Congress. Once again, by vetoing this legislation, he has denied the average middle-class family relief from the marriage tax penalty. He is robbing millions of workers the opportunity to obtain health-care coverage, who do not have health-care coverage now. He is making it more difficult for parents to save for their children's education. He is making it more difficult for people to pass on the family farm or the family business after a lifetime of toil, sacrifice, and devotion. He is making it more difficult for people to save for their future and provide for their retirement. This tax legislation would have been a step towards more fairness in the Tax Code and it would have reduced the burden on the people who are carrying the load paying the taxes and living the American dream, or trying to live the American dream. Once again, bigger government wins and the taxpayer loses.

A COMMITMENT NOT TO SPEND THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we debated a very important resolution on this floor to reaffirm our commitment not to spend the Social Security surplus. We heard repeatedly from the other side of the aisle that we had already spent the Social Security surplus when not one penny of that surplus has been spent, and when this House needs to be firmly committed not to spend one penny of the Social Security surplus.

I wondered all afternoon and all evening why we would constantly hear that, and then I began to realize that for four decades the House has spent the Social Security surplus. This is

truly a historic moment in the life of this House and for the future of Social Security. We have to be committed to the future of Social Security not to spend Social Security money today. We can and we are in the process of putting this budget together without spending the surplus. We have to stay committed to that. We cannot let the American people believe that has already happened, because it has not. We cannot let the message go forth from this House that we are going to continue business as usual when we are not.

THE TRUTH IS REPUBLICANS PLAN NOT TO SPEND THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I saw a Democratic member of this Congress on television stating that the Republicans were going to spend Social Security money to finally get the appropriations bills passed. I was astounded, absolutely astounded. First of all, he is wrong. We are not planning to do that. What is even worse, although I have been here only 5 years, I did serve under a Democratic administration of this House that first year I was here. Not only did we take Social Security money and spend it, we took every cent of Social Security money and spent it. Not only did we take all of the Social Security money and spend it, but we spent a couple of hundred billion dollars beyond that and added that to the national debt. That is what we had 5 years ago here in this House under Democratic control. Today the Republicans are controlling it. We are not adding to the national debt. We are trying not to spend a cent of Social Security to get our budget out. What a dramatic change, and to have someone from the other side say we are breaking the rules is just utter nonsense. Listen to the truth and the truth is things are much better today.

A TAX CUT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT SPENDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(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, we may have heard the recent propaganda coming out of the White House and from the liberal tax-and-spend Democrats here in the House. The word is that a tax cut would take money from Social Security and from paying down the debt. The truth is the tax cut that the President vetoed would have allowed the American people to keep \$792 billion of their money over the next 10 years. It would have not touched Social Security. It would pay down the debt by \$2.2 trillion.

The truth is, as the former speaker said, for 40 years, a liberal tax-and-spend Democrat Congress spent the Social Security trust fund money as fast as they could on every big government program they could think of.

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To hear them today say that they want to pay down the debt, that they want to save Social Security, is an absolute joke. They never have; they never will. What they want the money for is to spend, and to spend it on bigger and more intrusive government.

TAX CUTS VERSUS SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we are hearing rhetoric from the other side of the aisle that should make them ashamed of themselves for trying to deceive the American public. Because the truth is the Republicans had every intention of using the Social Security surplus to pay for their trillion dollar tax cut.

I have some news for all of my colleagues. No one was fooled by it. And it is also no secret that the Republicans have already spent \$30 billion of the Social Security monies before we even start debating the rest of the spending bills. And now they are scrambling to use every budget trick in the book to pretend otherwise.

Well, I am here to tell my Republican friends that it just will not work. The people in this country know better. I applaud the President for vetoing the Republican payoff to their wealthy contributors and preventing the majority party in Congress from dipping into the Social Security surplus even further to fund what they consider the most important benefit of this country, tax breaks to the very wealthiest people, the top 1 percent.

ARREST OF ZHANG RONGLIANG

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues the very unfortunate case of Zhang Rongliang, one of the most prominent church leaders in the People's Republic of China. During the month of August, Chinese officials arrested over 30 House church leaders, including Mr. Zhang. It is reported that government security officers burst into a meeting of his church, telling the gathering that they were a cult, engaged in illegal activities.

Last year, Mr. Zhang made it clear by signing the United Appeal to the Chinese Government and the House Church Confession of Faith that he has no desire to undermine his nation. In-

stead, his desire is to serve the people of China.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of the Chinese Government in this case are a blatant violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which they have agreed to uphold. Mr. Zhang is not a criminal and should not be treated as such.

The actions of the Chinese Government in this case, and others like it, are undermining their own ability to bring China fully into the community of nations. I urge them to immediately release Mr. Zhang and others unjustly arrested and imprisoned because of their religious beliefs.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2559, AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 308 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 308

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2559) to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to strengthen the safety net for agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improved protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture now printed in the bill, modified by the amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each title shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment so printed may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee, shall be considered as read, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business,