

We need to repeal the most punitive aspects of the 1996 immigration law. We need to restore fairness and equity to the system of immigration and naturalization. We need to give parity to Central Americans who fled for their lives. We need to allow for families to reside together, where they will be able to apply for an application without having to leave this country. We need to make sure and make clear that this law will be changed. And we need to make sure that both Customs and the Commerce, Justice, State bills do not pass until we make sure this immigration law is taken care of.

I ask the Republican side that everything be done to make sure that equal treatment be taken into consideration in this particular piece of legislation. I ask for consideration in amending the 1996 piece of legislation.

REPUBLICAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year when history gets rewritten in politics; when people like President Clinton take credit for welfare reform that he vetoed repeatedly. Who was actually responsible for getting the compass going in the right direction can be quite confusing. For that reason, I would like to set the record straight.

I think the American people can be proud of the progress the Republican Congress has shown. Just a few years before we got here, this administration forecast budget deficits of \$200 billion or more as far as the eye could see, and they said that the deficit is not a problem; that it is not an issue for us.

Well, Republicans reversed that. In 1998, we balanced the budget for the first time in decades. The next year we stopped a 40-year raid on Social Security, where our Social Security surplus was being diverted to other programs instead of being saved for retirement. And this year, because of that fiscal responsibility, we have a budget surplus. That only means we have to work harder to be fiscally responsible and not allow the White House to go on another spending spree.

We think the best responsibility is paying down the debt.

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DEMOCRATS ARE FIGHTING FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND MODERNIZATION

(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, Republicans in Washington, D.C., are always talking about what small business wants and it always comes down to what Washington Republicans want.

But when I talk to small business men and women in Maine, the two most important issues to them are the education and training of their workforce and the cost of their health care.

The strong economy has meant that it is harder to find and keep qualified employees. But remember, the Republicans in this Congress tried and failed to eliminate the Federal Department of Education and the assistance that goes to local school boards.

It is Democrats who are fighting for school construction and modernization, which will improve education, hold down property taxes, and give our businesses, large and small, a better trained workforce.

On health care, too many small business men and women in Maine can now only afford to buy catastrophic health insurance with an annual \$5,000 deductible. They are seeing 10 percent to 40 percent increases in their premiums. They will not get help from the Republicans in Congress because the majority here will not even support providing a guaranteed Medicare prescription drug benefit for our seniors.

For small business, Democrats stand for continued economic growth, support for education and health care, and fiscally responsible tax cuts.

REPUBLICANS STAND FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF EDUCATION

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we should rejoice in our constitutional republic when there are differences of opinion. And I welcome the comments from my friend the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN). Although I think that harsh political attacks, even taking a look at where we are on the calendar, may be somewhat out of place here.

Attacking prosperity is curious. Attacking local control of public education is even more curious. Mr. Speaker, "curiouser and curiouser" said Alice through the looking glass.

The fact is we stand for local control, putting parents in charge of education. And, yes, we invite our friends to put people in front of politics and join with us in a bipartisan way to make sure there is full health care deductibility, to make sure that there are solutions not decreed by Washington bureaucrats but by the people at home and the business owners and parents in the home and teachers in the classroom.

That is where our strength remains, not in the bureaucracies of Washington, D.C.

WE HAVE NOT DONE OUR WORK

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we have not done our work. The Repub-

lican controlled Congress has not finished its work.

Where is the Patients' Bill of Rights? Where is a prescription drug benefit? Where is the minimum wage legislation? Where are the 100,000 new teachers? Where is the new school construction? Where is the juvenile justice bill?

The majority party has not done its work. We have not been fair to the American people. They deserve better. They should get better. They need our help, and Congress has done nothing.

We are nearing the end of another "do nothing" Congress that has not done anything, not anything, not one thing for the American people. We should be ashamed to leave this place, be ashamed to close this Congress and not to be finished with the American people's agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Members and staff are reminded that the use of personal electronic communication devices on the floor of the House is a violation of the rules of the House and Members are to disable wireless telephones when entering the chamber.

PEOPLE OF SUDAN DESERVE TO LIVE IN PEACE

(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, as conflict rages in the Middle East and the world's attention is drawn to the crisis, it is vital that we do not forget other peoples around the world who suffer extreme violence.

One Sudanese man recently said, "We feel in Sudan that the world condemns us to die. Why? Our situation the world sees for 18 years, but no one seems to see help. We need mercy."

A number of Members of Congress have stood on the House floor to describe the horrors occurring in Sudan. Yet, for some reason, this administration believes that the issue of Sudan "is not marketable to the American people."

Why in the world are we ignoring the plight of millions of Muslims, Christians, and those of tribal religions whose homes, places of worship, and schools are being bombed? What kind of civilized government bombs a clearly marked hospital or church?

Mr. Speaker, the people of Sudan deserve to live in peace. Our administration must ensure that food aid is not used as a weapon by the Khartoum government against the people of the South and we must support the IGAD peace process.

EDUCATION FUNDING HOLDING CONGRESS UP

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)