

United States companies doing business in China.

We pressure China to stop selling nuclear-related technology to countries such as Pakistan that are trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The House will increase funding for the National Endowment for Democracy to promote democracy in China, and we will express our disgust at the Chinese practice of harvesting and transplanting human organs from prisoners, and we will deny U.S. visas to those Chinese officials.

#### MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS UNIFIED IN OPPOSITION TO FAST TRACK

(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, the major environmental organizations, some of which were strong supporters of NAFTA in 1993, have expressed their opposition to the current fast track proposals moving through the House and Senate. The National Wildlife Federation, the National Audubon Society, and Defenders of Wildlife have joined with the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and dozens of other grassroots environmental organizations around the country who oppose this legislation.

The debate currently raging over fast track is not a question of whether the United States enters into a global economy, it is a question of how we participate in that economy, and whether we should sacrifice the rights of workers in this country and around the world in the name of free trade. It is a question of whether we should capitulate to multinational corporations which would bargain down the environmental protection standards of nations around the world in the name of competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, the United States cannot afford to encourage a race to the bottom when it comes to preserving the global environmental or the rights of workers to a safe workplace and a fair wage. We should vote down this fast track legislation when it comes up at the end of this week.

#### SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN EDUCATION REFORM AGENDA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher in Edwardsville, IL, I often use my 1-minutes to praise teachers and students who have touched so many lives in central and southern Illinois. My past in education also makes me very aware of the need for reforms in our local schools.

That is why I rise today to urge parents, teachers, and students to embrace the bold education reform agenda that

was proposed by my fellow Republicans. This education agenda includes six measures which provide every child in America with first-class learning opportunities in safe, secure schools where children can focus on learning and teachers can focus on teaching.

Sending more money to Washington bureaucrats is a policy of the past, and we must begin to give control of our schools back to the States, local schools, teachers, and our parents, where it belongs.

#### PROTECT AMERICA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND SLOW DOWN FAST TRACK

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

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks I have grown increasingly concerned about the World Trade Organization's impact on our sovereignty. The WTO allows a panel of trade experts to rule that Federal and State laws are barriers to trade. If we do not take action to comply with the WTO's ruling, other nations then can level punitive tariffs against us.

While many have glossed this over, Congress has already changed one law to avoid these sanctions. The WTO has cases pending against several State and Federal laws. In Florida, we require foreign agricultural producers who ship crops into our State to pay for inspections when their produce enters our ports. These inspections protect locally grown crops from exposure to foreign-based infestations, which could devastate a multibillion-dollar agricultural industry.

While the State law does not violate any Federal statute, it is currently being challenged in the WTO. I would urge my colleagues to take a close look at the WTO before voting on fast track. Protect our sovereignty and slow down fast track.

#### IRS REFORM

(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, it is no wonder that the vast majority of Americans feel that nobody in Washington is on their side. Consider the IRS, as some speakers have already. For too long and for too many times, this agency has acted in an arrogant, heavy-handed fashion, running roughshod over hard-working taxpayers.

Fortunately, I believe Congress has listened to the American people and is now on the verge of passing a bill that will provide taxpayers with some much needed protections against the abuses of the IRS. This bill makes it easier for taxpayers to recover legal fees when the IRS is wrong. It allows taxpayers to sue the IRS for up to \$100,000 for negligent collection practices, and

most important, it shifts the burden of proof in court cases from a taxpayer to the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to stick up for the American people by standing up to the IRS. I urge my colleagues to support this important IRS reform.

#### INCONSISTENCY IN AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has never earned high marks for consistency. We do spend many hours debating the minor differences in the management of many centralized programs that are generally unwarranted. But when it comes to foreign policy, I see both sides of the aisle are eagerly agreeing with the President that we must threaten force and use of force in Iraq.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, there is no indication that this is a proper position. We have been told by the Ambassador to the United Nations that the reason we must threaten force in this area is that it is a direct threat to the security of the United Nations. Here all along I thought I was here in the Congress to protect the security of the United States.

We are inconsistent because the majority of Americans want us out of Bosnia. Most Members of Congress argue and vote to get us out of Bosnia. There is no indication that we are going to get out of Bosnia. Yet, here we are, chanting away that we should use force and threaten force in Bosnia. We do not have that same policy with China.

#### THE PRESIDENT JOINS REPUBLICANS IN ESSENTIAL IRS REFORM

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in response to the last speaker, I would point out that Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that, "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines."

I think President Clinton must have meditated on Emerson when he recently flip-flopped on reforming the Internal Revenue Service. Although the Clinton administration originally opposed IRS restructuring, the President wisely sacrificed consistency and jumped on the bandwagon of the IRS reform bill developed by the Committee on Ways and Means.

Building on the recommendation of the bipartisan Kerry-Portman Commission, this reform legislation would overhaul IRS management by placing the agency under an independent oversight board. It would expand taxpayer