

What does this mean? We are selling our fiscal soul; we are returning to the era of deficit spending. Or are we going to use the projected budget surplus for new programs as opposed to deficit reduction or for tax cuts as opposed to deficit reduction? Are we going to handicap our ability to address the problems of the Social Security System; or are we going to gut programs for veterans, agriculture, education, health care, seniors and our Nation's defense?

Mr. Speaker, we must not let the biggest pork barrel spending bill in the history of our Nation pass conference committee.

SUPPORT THE NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT

(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, I rise today to speak for 80 percent of Americans who support the National Right to Work Act, H.R. 59.

The National Right to Work Act repeals those sections of Federal law that give union officials the power to force workers to pay union dues as a condition of employment.

Compulsory unionism violates employers' and employees' constitutional rights of freedom of contract and association. Congress has no constitutional authority to force employees to pay union dues to a labor union as a condition of getting or keeping a job.

Passage of the National Right to Work Act would be a major step forward in ending Congress' illegitimate interference in the labor markets and liberating America's economy from heavy-handed government intervention. Since Congress created this injustice, we have the moral responsibility to work to end it, Mr. Speaker.

The 80 percent of Americans who support right-to-work deserve to know which Members of Congress support worker freedom. I, therefore, urge the congressional leadership, the majority of which have promised to place a National Right to Work Act on the floor, to fulfill their promise to the American people and schedule a time certain for a vote on H.R. 59.

RAISE LEGAL PURCHASE AGE FOR TOBACCO TO 21

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues pick up any copy of Rolling Stone or Sports Illustrated, they are certain to see tobacco advertisements dominating the pages. Why? Because these publications are aimed at college-aged kids, and tobacco companies know they must aggressively seduce this age group into smoking if they are to survive as an industry.

That is why R.J.R. has invested millions of dollars in its Camel Club Program in cities like Cleveland and in Denver, where college-aged kids hand out free cigarettes and R.J.R. paraphernalia to their peers.

Most minors under 21 who pick up smoking as a casual habit will become addicted to cigarettes for a lifetime. In fact, there is a less than 10 percent chance of becoming addicted to cigarettes if a smoker does not first light up before his or her first 21st birthday.

The only way to stop the tobacco industry from luring kids under 21 into using this deadly product is to make the sale of tobacco illegal to this age group. By raising the age to 21, we can stop this deadly practice.

REASONS FOR RELEASING THE HUBBELL TAPES

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

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of being a member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and the disagreements that have occurred between the minority and the majority.

I think it is vitally important to understand what some of the major issues are, and one of the issues being the tapes. I want all the American people to know that we believe that under the law, the committee is entitled to have the tapes. In fact, a subpoena was issued last July, and that subpoena was responded to by the Justice Department by providing our committee with all of the tapes of Mr. Hubbell's discussion with his family and friends while he was institutionalized in a Federal institution for conviction of a crime unrelated to Whitewater or anything that we are investigating.

The problem was should these tapes be released to the public and whether or not it in any way impeded what the committee was doing. The fact is we had the tapes for more than 6 months.

STOP KEYCHAIN GUN FROM BEING IMPORTED OR MANUFACTURED IN UNITED STATES

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, the front page today of the New York Times documents a new horrible device that has just been found. It is a gun that looks like a keychain, and its only purpose is to be smuggled through metal detectors at our airports. This is a dangerous device that could allow terrorists, criminals, drug dealers, and others to get guns through airports and into airplanes and in our country.

I am writing the President and asking that he administratively block the importation of this device. If that is not possible, then we should introduce

and quickly pass legislation that would stop this so-called keychain gun from being imported or manufactured in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, abolishing this awful device with the only purpose of helping terrorists is something that even Charlton Heston could agree on.

□ 1030

SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues a bipartisan bill that we will be introducing. It deals with Social Security, the money that we are borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund.

It does two things. It says, in the future when we borrow money from the Social Security Trust Fund, they will not be blank IOUs, as they are today, but they will be marketable Treasury notes that the trustees of the Social Security Administration can walk around the corridor and cash in when they need them.

The second thing this bill does is that it says, in the future, when CBO and OMB, the Congressional Budget Office and the Office of Management and Budget, issue projections of deficits or balanced budgets, they will not include the money that is borrowed from the Social Security Trust Fund. I invite my colleagues to cosponsor that bill with us.

It seems very important that we move ahead honestly and that we achieve a real, honest budget. Even though we have made great progress over the last several years, cutting down the deficit by \$300 billion, let us move ahead.

MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, as Mother's Day approaches, we should all remember that when a couple stands at the altar and says, "I do," they are not agreeing to higher taxes. Yet, under our current Tax Code, that is precisely what is happening to millions of married couples each and every year.

According to a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office, an estimated 42 percent of all married couples, some 21 million couples nationwide, incurred a Federal marriage penalty tax in 1996. The average marriage penalty that year approached an astounding \$1,400.

Addressing this inequity in our tax law must be one of the top priorities of this Congress as we work to provide the American people further tax relief in 1998. This Mother's Day, I would urge all of my colleagues on both sides