

This Chinese dictatorship condones forced abortions, engages in religious persecution against Christians and Muslims and Buddhists, has institutionalized slave labor and child labor. Even attempting to form an independent labor union in China is an offense punishable by death.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has been promised over and over that free market capitalism will create a more democratic and less hostile China. Yet, after 10 years of U.S. engagement with China, that nation remains a nation ruled by an authoritarian government with a violent aversion to human rights and a hostility to environment and labor standards.

What makes anyone think the next 10 years will be different? There are more corporate jets at Reagan National Airport during congressional debate on China every year than at any time during the year. A WTO deal for China is more about gaining access to a billion workers than it is a billion consumers. Vote no on permanent NTR.

TRUCKERS PLAY A VITAL PART IN AMERICA'S COMMERCE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today hundreds of truckers mount a demonstration in the Nation's capital.

America's truckers are a vital part of our economy. Truckers deliver the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the materials used to build our homes. Unfortunately, for the past several months, truckers have been hit by rising gas and diesel prices. These outrageous fuel prices are threatening the livelihood of thousands of truckers across the United States, which is the reason for their demonstration today.

When truckers cannot afford to fill their tanks, they will be forced off the road. Without trucking, commerce in our Nation would be ground to a halt.

With gas and diesel prices expected to continue rising through the summer, even a greater number of truckers are going to be threatened. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has admitted that the Clinton-Gore administration was asleep at the wheel when it comes to gas and diesel prices.

Now the American people must unfortunately foot the bill for the Clinton-Gore failure.

CONGRESS MUST STAND UP AND BE COUNTED WHEN IT COMES TO GUN CONTROL

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, we have seen Members of Congress one by one come to the microphone before na-

tional television urging Americans to stand up and be counted in the 2000 Census.

I would add to that call and would also urge Congress to stand up and be counted and start counting the nearly 12 children who die each day from gunfire in America, approximately one every 2 hours, which is equivalent to a classroom of children every 2 days.

Why is it that Congress wants America to stand up and be counted and Congress is unwilling to stand up and be counted itself on legislation that would reduce youth crime and promote safety in our schools and communities?

That is what legislation that I have does, the Child Handgun Injury and Prevention Act, which is a bill to prevent children from injuring themselves with handguns, requiring safety devices on handguns, and establishing standards and tests and procedures for these devices.

As of today, we have 68 cosponsors. I would like for 435 Members of Congress to stand up and be counted.

COMPREHENSIVE GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION HAS BEEN DE- BATED AND DEFEATED

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Colorado a little bit ago took the floor this morning to bemoan the fact that this Congress has done nothing, she says, this House has done nothing to pass gun control legislation.

I must remind both her and the American people that, in fact, a comprehensive gun control bill was on the floor of this House last year, H.R. 2122. It did, in fact, have provisions to close the gun show loophole. It instituted a juvenile Brady. There was a ban on the importation of high-capacity clips. It mandated trigger locks. It was a comprehensive piece of legislation. It failed on this floor by a vote of 198 Democrat no votes to 82 Republican no votes.

Now, why did this happen? It happened, Mr. Speaker, because in fact, with all the rhetoric aside, what the minority party wants here is not a solution to this problem but an issue in the next campaign.

CHILDREN OF COLONIAS

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

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a special group of students who are here in Washington this week. They are young people from my district who live in Colonias. These are communities on the southwest border without water, electricity, roads, education, and very poor health services. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we have thousands of Americans living in these third-world conditions along our southern border.

With today's unprecedented prosperity, this is an unbelievable tragedy. Therefore, it is important to hear their stories. They will be providing testimony today from 3:45 to 5:30 in the Cannon Room 340. I ask my colleagues to listen with me and to commit to provide resources to make Colonias a safe and secure place to call home.

I want to recognize these students from my district. They are Alicia Contreras, Ubaldo Fernandez, Chris Herrera, Janet Dunbar, and Gilbert Vasquez.

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We owe these students the amount of resources to provide them the hope and opportunity that all of us as Americans deserve.

ASTRONOMICAL GAS PRICING

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue my critique of the Clinton/Gore administration's role in the recent surge in gasoline and home heating oil prices. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the administration must shoulder much of the responsibility because they ignored the "two Ds," domestic production and diplomacy.

The United States imports the majority of its petroleum requirements largely because it is difficult to produce petroleum in this country. Mr. Speaker, the administration imposes serious limits on exploration, drilling, refining through an incredible permitting and regulatory scheme. These regulations force many facilities to shut down when oil prices are low and make it uneconomical to reopen when prices rise.

This takes us to the second D, diplomacy. The administration knew 1 year ago these prices were coming down the pipeline. Unfortunately, Secretary Richardson was preoccupied by a major spy scandal at the DOE. As he himself said on February 16, "It is obvious that the Federal Government was not prepared. We were caught napping. We go complacent."

Mr. Speaker, this administration gets "two Ds" and an "F."

END AIRBUS SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it appears again that European governments may be ignoring their agreements to stop subsidizing Airbus. The British government's decision to make a loan of \$868 million to Airbus for the development of another jumbo jet clearly flies in the face of the concept that the WTO rules are designed to end government subsidies to Airbus.

Now, folks have argued that Airbus is an infant industry. It is not an infant,

it is not even an adolescent, it is a full adult competitor in the aircraft industry; and it ought to be treated as such.

We have tools to stop these subsidies. The WTO was designed to stop these subsidies. We are urging our government to be as aggressive as possible to demand answers as to how such a loan would be made, because we believe it will be shown that this is not a loan that was commercially available. Had it been commercially available, it would be available through commercial outlets.

This is a government acting as a venture capitalist for Airbus. We need to end these subsidies today.

MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT SHOULD BE SIGNED INTO LAW

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask a very fundamental and basic question and that question is, is it right, is it fair that under our Tax Code 25 million married working couples on average pay \$1,400 more in higher taxes just because they are married. Is it right that under our Tax Code, married working couples, a husband and wife who are both in the workforce, pay higher taxes than an identical couple in identical circumstances who choose not to marry.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong that under our Tax Code we have a marriage tax penalty suffered by 25 million married working couples; and I am proud that this House of Representatives has passed H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, wiping out the marriage tax penalty for 25 million married working couples. My hope is that the Senate will join with the House and vote in a bipartisan way to wipe out the marriage tax penalty and put that legislation on the President's desk. My hope is that the President will once again keep his word and sign into law the legislation wiping out the marriage tax penalty.

Let us not forget that Bill Clinton and AL GORE vetoed that legislation last year. We hope they will sign it this year.

SMALL BUSINESS TAX FAIRNESS ACT SHOULD BE SIGNED INTO LAW

(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, I rise today to talk about the American dream. Of course, the American dream is different for everybody, but for a significant number of Americans, the American dream means starting up a small business, helping it to grow, and then passing on that business to their children.

Unfortunately, our Federal Government punishes these people who want

to pass their life's work on to their children. Approximately 70 percent of family-owned businesses are not passed on to the next generation. Mr. Speaker, 87 percent do not make it to the third generation.

This is no surprise when we factor in the death tax. The death tax forces families to pay taxes of up to 55 percent on the value of a deceased family Member's estate, making it virtually impossible for a small business owner or family farmer to pass that on to their family. This is wrong.

The House has passed the Small Business Tax Fairness Act which will deliver some relief from the death tax. I hope the President will sign it and help more families live out the American dream.

CENSUS BUREAU SHOULD CONSULT READER'S DIGEST

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, now, we have to love that government crowd down at the Census Bureau. I mean they are so typical government. We remember this crowd. They are the ones who did not want to bother counting the people just because that strange document called the Constitution requires a head-by-head count. What they wanted to do was sample.

Now, they showed us their efficiency last week; go home and check your mail if you do not believe me. They sent out 120 million forms to the wrong address. Check it. Every address had an extracurricular "1" in it.

Well, it still got through because the Post Office, being another governmental agency, knows how to think like a governmental agency so they figured out what the Census Bureau was really trying to do. But then they put all of the instructions on the back in every language under the sun. Well, not quite, but in 40 languages, they just overlooked English.

No problem, I know a lot of people are against English first in America, and apparently the census is too. But in it they did not put instructions in English. They have an enclosed envelope. I do not know what to do with the envelope, so I looked for the toll free number. The toll free number is not on the form.

So I just would ask the people at the Census Bureau, call the folks at Reader's Digest Sweepstakes. They will show you how to do a mailer, they will show you how to get responses and maybe we can get this thing done. But remember, they are the ones who are responsible for counting us. Does that not scare you?

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR THE BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to

meet the week of March 20 to grant a rule which will outline the amendment process for floor consideration of the budget resolution for fiscal year 2001.

The Committee on the Budget ordered the budget resolution on March 15 and is expected to file its committee report early next week.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies and a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 of the Capitol by 4 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, March 21. As in recent years, the Committee on Rules intends to look more favorably toward amendments offered as complete substitutes.

Members should also use the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Congressional Budget Office to ensure that their substitute amendments are properly drafted and scored and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their substitute amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 3822, OIL PRICE REDUCTION ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make an announcement.

Today, a "Dear Colleague" letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet next week to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 3822, the Oil Price Reduction Act of the Year 2000.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require the amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amendments must be preprinted prior to their consideration on the floor.

Amendments should be drafted to the version of the bill reported by the Committee on International Relations.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2372, PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 441 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 441

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. 2372) to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the United States Constitution, have been deprived by final actions