

taking in budget surpluses, the time has come to address some nagging fairness issues in our Tax Code. The House has already done that twice this year by passing relief from the marriage tax penalty and voting to end the Social Security earnings limit.

Now the time has come to address another unfair provision in our Tax Code, the death tax. Today, when a person dies, the Federal Government assesses a tax of up to 55 percent on the value of his or her estate. Thus, many Americans, small business owners and farmers, are unable to pass on their life's work to their children. This is totally unfair. Today, the House will be voting on the Small Business Tax Fairness Act which will deliver relief from the death tax. This commonsense legislation will make it easier for Americans to pass on a small business to the next generation. We should all support this bill that will help restore the American dream to American families. In fact, we ought to get rid of the unfair death tax altogether.

TIME TO INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing the minimum wage for America's workers. In West Virginia alone, at least 5 percent of the hourly workforce makes the bare minimum wage, but by raising it from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.15 an hour over 2 years, at least 106,000 workers would get an increase. That would also mean 50,000 full-time workers in West Virginia would see an increase in their wages. Who are they? It is the senior citizen who is cooking the biscuits in a convenience store. It is the mother who is working full time at a health care center. Today in West Virginia, a full-time minimum-wage worker with two children earns \$10,700 a year, or \$3,200 below the Federal poverty line. I hear the argument that the minimum wage only goes to students. I was one of those students working my way through college on the minimum wage, and the only wage increase I ever got was when this Congress raised the minimum wage. It is time to give workers an increase.

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THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in his comments about giving China MFN, the President said, "I believe the choice between economic rights and human rights, between economic security and national security is a false one."

If that is the case, Mr. President, why is the Chinese Government continuing to persecute the Catholic Church? Why is the Chinese Government persecuting the Protestant Church? Why is the Clinton administration going against its own human rights report and not speaking out for those who are being plundered and killed in Tibet? Why is the Chinese government persecuting the Muslims in China? Why, if one reads today's Washington Times, are we allowing the Chinese Government to increase its spying activities in the United States?

Mr. President, if you really believe that there is no connection, then you have not read your own human rights report.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would advise Members to address the Chair and not the President.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN MUST BE STOPPED

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Tom Sylvester and his daughter Carina. Her story is the fifth account in my series of one minutes on the more than 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries.

Carina Sylvester was born in 1994 and was abducted by her mother Monika in 1995 and was taken to Austria. An Austrian trial court found Monika Sylvester to have violated The Hague Convention, but she refused to comply with the court order and did not voluntarily return Carina. Carina is now 5 years old and has lived in the home of her maternal grandparents in Graz, Austria; and since 1995, Tom has seen Carina only occasionally and only under strict supervision.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has an enormous problem with children who have been abducted internationally and Congress must be part of the solution. These one minutes are about families and reuniting children and parents. They are just the first steps in our ongoing dialogue with the American people and my colleagues in an effort to bring our children home.

THE TRAFFICKING OF BABY BODY PARTS

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last night ABC's 20/20 brought something very important to the public's attention, the trafficking of babies'

body parts and organs. Even today the House Subcommittee on Health and Environment is holding a hearing on this issue.

As a physician and a Congressman, I find this practice disturbing, disgusting, and, of course, highly immoral; but the truth of the matter is that this is currently going on in our country. Evidence has shown us that private companies and even public universities buy and sell baby organs for the sole purpose of experimentation. It has been brought to my attention that they pay as much as \$150 for skin, \$990 for a brain, and \$325 for a spinal cord.

To make it worse, companies are making special syringes for abortion doctors so that they can prolong the abortion procedure itself and keep the baby alive long enough to get more money for these parts.

This practice is illegal. It is against the law. It is outrageous, and it boils down to human exploitation and death. I encourage my colleagues to oppose it.

THERE SHOULD BE AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of working families across America. I am speaking in behalf of a \$1.00 increase of the minimum wage over the next 2 years and opposing the passage of tax provisions of the Republicans' H.R. 3081.

The minimum wage proposal would benefit 11.8 million families and allow some comfort and economic dignity. Forty percent of minimum-wage working families are the sole bread winners in their families.

Raising the minimum wage would not cost additional jobs. It is our responsibility to allow everyone, I state everyone, a chance in America to have that dream, that opportunity, to enjoy life, an opportunity of quality of life by earning wages that are so important to a lot of us.

Raising the minimum wage, increasing it from \$5.15 an hour, is our responsibility. We have the responsibility to assure that people can afford a decent living. We have individuals who cannot afford to pay for food to put on the table. We have the responsibility to make sure that America enjoys life a lot better. Let us increase the minimum wage.

SELLING OF BABY BODY PARTS MUST BE STOPPED

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the health risks to women that the sale of body parts represents. The evidence that these parts have actually been

sold is overwhelming. More than one legitimate organization has been able to independently confirm their sale, including the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and ABC's 20/20.

More troubling is the fact that published price lists exist for certain parts of unborn children. This enables doctors to decide what the most effective procedure for delivery of intact unborn children might be for the highest profit. If procedures are changed to increase profit, this is inexcusable, Mr. Speaker.

The insertion of laminaria and forced dilation of women, often necessary for delivering intact fetuses, present real and legitimate risks to a woman's health. Think about it. Would not a virtually intact cadaver of a child raise the price that one could charge for the remains?

Mr. Speaker, this must stop.

HUD'S GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM SHOULD NOT BE ELIMINATED

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the House Committee on Appropriations wants to eliminate the gun buyback program at the Nation's public housing authorities. This just makes no sense.

Last week, a first grader killed another first grader with a handgun. Yesterday, four people in Memphis were killed in what started as a domestic dispute but ended when a gunman shot to death his wife, two firefighters, and a sheriff's deputy.

The daily gun violence in this country is a national problem. It calls for a national solution.

The American people know that 13 children are killed every day by gun violence. Meanwhile, the Congress has done nothing. Now the leadership has directed the House appropriations to eliminate the Department of Housing Urban Development's gun buyback program. This program has been highly successful in partnering police with housing officers to remove guns from public housing and in curbing gun violence.

In fact, Memphis, the site of Wednesday's gun killings, would lose its buyback program and so would 80 public housing authorities across the Nation.

The supplemental appropriations bill now has language in it that rescinds more than \$700,000 from the gun buyback program.

Mr. Speaker, this is crazy. When we have programs that work, we should not take them back. We have a moral obligation to reduce gun violence in this country.

A GREAT VICTORY FOR JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON, IN ELIMINATING THE SCOURGE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of law enforcement officers in Jackson County, Oregon. Yesterday, 110 law enforcement officers from the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency, IRS, INS, the Social Security Administration and the Jackson County Narcotics Enforcement Team, also called Jacnet, shut down a drug ring that was thought to supply 90 percent of the area's heroin and most of its methamphetamines.

Nineteen people were arrested; 28 houses and vehicles were searched in this early morning bust.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great victory for the work to protect our communities from the scourge of illegal narcotics, and I congratulate the law enforcement personnel who were involved.

The bust is also a great victory for cooperative collaborative counter-drug efforts. Jacnet is itself made up of people of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Oregon State Police, Medford and Central Point Police Departments, and the Oregon National Guard. Add Federal agencies and we have all levels of government working together to fight drugs, and it works.

That is why I am working to increase funding for the federally-designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, including Jackson County.

Mr. Speaker, this is a program that works, and I intend to keep pursuing it. I congratulate those law enforcement agencies that were involved in making our communities safer.

AT A TIME OF EXTRAORDINARY PROSPERITY, THE MINIMUM WAGE SHOULD BE INCREASED

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today we have an opportunity to vote on a measure that will truly make a difference in the lives of all Americans and that is an increase in the minimum wage. At this time of extraordinary prosperity, hard-working Americans deserve to have a much needed raise, to bring the minimum wage closer to a living standard.

Unfortunately, once again, the Republican leadership is attempting to delay, to derail this meaningful legislation. I call upon that leadership to end their delay tactics and allow a fair vote on this bill. This increase in the minimum wage should not be tied to an irresponsible \$120 billion tax package that will benefit only the richest of the rich, the super rich. Instead, we should

be voting for an alternative which would provide a much needed increase in minimum wage and responsible tax relief for small businesses.

It is time for us to do the right thing. It is time for us to raise that minimum wage fifty cents this year, fifty cents next year from \$5.15 to \$6.15. We send a message if we do that, that we honor their hard work, commitment and dedication.

DR. JONES, A MODERN DAY DR. MENGELA WHEN IT COMES TO SELLING BABY BODY PARTS

(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, last night I watched in amazement as the owner of a company, Opening Lines, made it known in a 20/20 undercover investigation that his company is in the business of selling fetal tissue for profit.

When asked by the actor posing as a potential investor how much they could make from selling body parts, Dr. Miles Jones, the owner of Opening Lines and a pathologist, stated, "It is market force. It is whatever it can go for."

He went on to say that a single fetus could make his company up to \$2,500.

Mr. Speaker, this is in blatant defiance of the law passed in 1993 under the NIH Reauthorization Act, namely that baby body parts cannot be sold for valuable consideration.

The Hippocratic Oath has gone out the window and been replaced by greed.

Dr. Jones went on further to state, over drinks and dinner at a fine restaurant, that his dream job would be to operate down in Mexico where laws are less stringent and where he could set up a system reminiscent of an assembly line.

This makes me sick. I am grateful that the Subcommittee on Health and Environment is holding a hearing today, in fact, to look into this barbaric issue. It is time that Congress gets off the sidelines, sheds the light of day on people like Dr. Jones, or should I say a modern day Dr. Mengela.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1695, IVANPAH VALLEY AIRPORT PUBLIC LANDS TRANSFER ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 433 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 433

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. 1695) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal