A Conservative Agenda For 2001

Jan. 10, 2001

Since Bill Clinton stuck his finger in the eye of all who care about American sovereignty and constitutional rights by signing the International Criminal Court Treaty (ICC) on New Year's Eve, Congress should immediately pass Senator Jesse Helms's American Servicemembers' Protection Act. This will authorize the President to take any means necessary to protect U.S. service members from being subjected to any jurisdiction claimed by the ICC.

Congress should fulfill the Republican Platform's promise to stop using the military as "the object of social experiments." Congress should "affirm that homosexuality is incompatible with military service," forbid putting women on submarines, and fulfill the Platform's promise to implement "recommendations of the Kassebaum Commission, which unanimously recommended that co-ed basic training be ended."

Congress should forbid U.S. representatives to future Kyoto Protocol negotiations to agree to any system of U.S. purchase of "pollution permits" from foreign countries, which would be just a convoluted way of redistributing U.S. wealth to foreign countries. Congress should also prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from trying to implement this unratified, discriminatory treaty.

Congress should pass a resolution putting other countries on notice that, if the United Nations attempts to grab any of the powers spelled out at its Millennium Summit last September, the United States will cut off all future payments to the UN. Unacceptable proposals considered by the UN include imposing a global tax on foreign currency transactions and foreign travel, creating a UN standing army (as recently endorsed by George McGovern), and eliminating the U.S. veto or permanent membership in the UN.

Congress should legislate better financial privacy by prohibiting any Know Your Customer regulations to spy on our bank accounts, and legislate adequate medical privacy, including genetic, by repealing authorization for the government to assign a unique health-care identifier to every citizen. Congress should stop Clinton-style expansion and networking of government databases of information on law-abiding citizens, and should defeat all bills to give government protection to private databases.

Congress should give us the Medical Savings Accounts that virtually all Republican congressional candidates promised when they won Congress in 1994, and as promised again in the 2000 Republican Platform: "MSAs should be a permanent part of tax law, offered to all workers without restrictions." The current MSA plan was obviously designed to fail, probably by the HMO lobbyists who fear the competition of MSAs.

Congress should strengthen conflict of interest rules for the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration on approving vaccines. We need more Congressional hearings to expose conflicts of interest by those who make such important decisions.

Congress should carry out the promise of the Republican Platform to "replace `family planning' programs for teens with increased funding for abstinence education." We want to encourage the trend just reported by the Alan Guttmacher Institute that the percentage of secondary school teachers who present abstinence as the way to avoid pregnancy has risen from 2 to 23 percent.

Congress should pass the Department of Education Fraud Audit bill sponsored by Rep. Pete Hockstra (R-MI). Congress should move promptly to carry out the Republican Platform promise that "the role of the federal government must be progressively limited as we return control to parents, teachers, and local

school boards" by defunding Clinton's two controversial and unpopular 1994 laws, Goals 2000 and School-to- Work.

Congress should drastically revise and amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, whose re-authorization fortunately failed to pass last year. Re-authorization should be improved by eliminating all funding for the failed and unpopular Bilingual Education (which the voters rejected in California and Arizona), thus making funds available for more constructive purposes, and by initiating a full investigation of fraud in the Drug Free Schools and Community Act funds.

Of course, we want a tax cut for all taxpayers, not just targeted cuts that require us to spend our money the way the government wants us to spend it; and the sooner the better. We also want Congress to fulfill the Republican Platform promise to pass "legislation requiring a super-majority vote in both houses of Congress to raise taxes."

Congress should pass a resolution urging President George W. Bush to rescind Clinton's Executive Orders that have no justification in law. Some of the most outrageous include 13166 purporting to make NOT speaking English a new civil right, 13087 requiring federal agencies to grant affirmative action status on the basis of sexual orientation, 13107 implementing UN treaties even if unratified, 13061 putting ten new rivers every year under federal control, and PDD 25 giving the President authority "to place U.S. forces under the operational control of a foreign commander."

Finally, Congress should fulfill the Republican Platform's promise to reopen Pennsylvania Avenue, which was closed by the paranoid Clintons. Let's terminate this annoyance and inconvenience to all visitors and residents of our nation's capital.