Mr. ROHRABACHER. Let me just note this, if the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) was being accused of perjury and saying that he had committed perjury in the past, I would not investigate and have an investigation. That Mr. HYDE is being accused of obstruction of justice, that would be something else. We probably would say maybe there is a point here, and someone has a built-in situation where he should not be that chairman or something.

That is not what the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), what they brought up. That is not what they brought up on the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Let us say that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) had been accused of all sorts of campaign violations, and of course he is looking into campaign violations himself, these things.

These things, hypocrisy is something that someone can talk about and charge with someone. Someone has a double standard and things such as that. But that is not what has happened here. And, of course, we do know that Mr. Starr, and I have not personally commented on this. This is the first time that I have publicly commented on the fact that Mr. Starr, of course, the investigator himself, has been brutalized over and over and against that and these last few years.

When I was in the Reagan White House, Ronald Reagan was committed to see that communism, and the communists would not take over Central America. And as much as people do not like to admit that, that was the core issue that was going on. Ronald Reagan was going to stop the Sandinista government, which had billions of dollars of military equipment from the Soviet Union, from expanding and put them on the defensive.

We did that until the Soviet Union collapsed. Because had the Sandinistas started expanding their role, it would have been a terrible thing. Probably communism would not have collapsed because they would have thought they were going to win.

Anyway there were some mistakes made by people in the White House and elsewhere, and we helped the Contras at a time when some Members of Congress felt that it was not legal for us to do so. Let me add, I personally believe that no laws were ever broken in that situation. I personally believe that it was perfectly legal for the President to do it, although it was not advisable what he did in terms of Iran, but it was perfectly legal for him to try to make those contacts with Iran and there was residual money that was left over that was transferred to the Contras.

Mr. Speaker, there was a big crisis in the Reagan administration. That was as big as a crisis and upsetting of the natural order of things here as what we are going through now, based on this current scandal. But at no time do I remember that the special prosecutor in that case, that we tried to do anything like is being done to Mr. Starr to the special prosecutor that went after Mr. Reagan.

And, by the way, that special prosecutor spent more money and had more people working for him, I believe, or at least an equal amount, and a number of people, and I do not remember seeing anything in the paper about whether or seeing if people believed in the special prosecutor’s words as they do now. They have polling as, “Who do you believe? Clinton or Starr?” That did not happen during the Reagan years. If I think Mr. Starr, and believe me, I do sympathize somewhat with the idea that prosecutors should not just have a blank slate and be able to come in and investigate anything in anybody’s life until they find something. I understand that. But that is not what the situation is today. We have to decide here, very specific things about specific statements made under oath that we believe that may well not have been truthful.

Mr. Speaker, we have to investigate that because it was made under oath and involving a civil legal matter. If we do not say that, we just say across the board that it is okay to lie under oath in civil cases. Now we cannot say that. We cannot permit that standard to sink that low.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOK). The Chair must remind members not to discuss charges against the President.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have not mentioned the President when discussing any particular charge. And in fact, some of the charges, some of the things that we have been discussing have no relationship to the President whatsoever. And, in fact, relate more perhaps to some of the President’s staff or perhaps to other people in the executive branch. Or perhaps some of the things that we are discussing are aimed more at people who are liberal activists in the news media.

So, although obviously some of the things we are discussing may have some impact on the President, we are not addressing this specifically at the President.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, lest there be any doubt, we come to this Chamber, and indeed in the next few trying weeks this should be our cause. This, Mr. Speaker, should be our mission, not to address the impending crisis as Republicans or as Democrats, but as Americans. Americans concerned about the future of the rule of law. Americans who understand that our adherence to the rule of law is both central and essential to our survival as a constitutional republic. Adherence to the rule of law for all, regardless of title, regardless of job, regardless of economic standing, regardless of race, religion, color or creed. This is the essence of what it means to be an American in the late 20th century. To understand that adherence to rule of law is everything. For if we lose that, then, Mr. Speaker, we have nothing. I yield to my colleague Mr. ROHRABACHER. In conclusion, let me say that I am pleased that my friend from Arizona joined me here tonight. Actually I am sure he saw me on C-SPAN and decided to come over, working late in his office. He was probably working in his office until 11 o’clock at night and came over here, and I know that has happened to me at times as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are both concerned, and I think that tomorrow that we will see in this body a great deal of concern about this vicious personal attack on the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE). And I would hope that it is a source of unity for this body, that we unify tomorrow and say that this is beyond the pale. This is beyond the pale. This is the bounds of acceptability. And we will stand together to uphold the standards of law because that is true, both Democrats and Republicans, we realize that like in that movie about the young boys who were on the island, remember that? Somebody else is going to have to help me with this. Lord of the Flies, in that movie Lord of the Flies, I remember I read the book as well, come to think of it. There was a scene that was the symbol of respect for law. But once that respect for whoever held that conch so the people would be quite and listen to them and they could discuss the issues, once that was destroyed, there was a degeneration into a type of life, a savagery that came out. We will maintain the comity of this body. We will maintain good will. Goodwill among free people, goodwill among people who believe in democracy and constitutional government.

What happened with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) was not in keeping with that spirit, and it will not, and let us just state once and for all, we will not be intimidated. Justice will be served. We will make an honest determination of everything that comes before us and personal attacks on us must stop and they will not be tolerated.

HOUSE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles:

June 16, 1998
H.R. 524. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 717 Madison Place, NW., in the District of Columbia, as the “Howard T. Markey National Courts Building.”
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD – HOUSE

August 13, 1998
H.R. 765, An act to ensure maintenance of a herd of wild horses in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

August 14, 1998
H.R. 3824, An act amending the Fastener Quality Act to exempt from its coverage certain fasteners approved by the Federal Aviation Administration for use in aircraft.

SENATE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the house that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and a joint resolution of the Senate of the following titles:

June 16, 1998
S. 1605, An act to establish a matching grant program to help State and local jurisdictions purchase and use armor vests for use by law enforcement departments.

June 19, 1998
S. 423, An act to extend the legislative authority for the Board of Regents of Gunston Hall to establish a memorial to honor George Mason.

June 23, 1998
S. 1190, An act to ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national or multistate significance, to extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes.

June 29, 1998
S. 1150, An act to establish a commission to examine issues pertaining to the disposition of Holocaust-era assets in the United States before, during, and after World War II, and to make recommendations to the President on further action, and for other purposes.

July 7, 1998
S. 209, An act to permit the mineral leasing of Indian land located within the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in any case in which there is consent from a majority interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease.

July 14, 1998
S. 2582, An act to amend the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes.

July 16, 1998
S. 731, An act to extend the legislative authority for construction of the National Peace Garden memorial, and for other purposes.

July 21, 1998
S. 2590, An act to require the Secretary of Energy to submit to Congress a plan to ensure that all amounts accrued on the books of the United States Enrichment Corporation for the disposition of depleted uranium hexafluoride will be used to treat and recycle depleted uranium hexafluoride.

July 29, 1998
S. 2618, An act to require automatic cancellation rights with respect to private mortgage insurance which is required as a condition for entering into a residential mortgage transaction, to abolish the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, and for other purposes.

August 12, 1998
S. 2584, An act to amend the Agricultural Market Transition Act to provide for the advance payment, in full, of the fiscal year 1999