

words, the consideration of amendments might cease at a particular time. Let's say there is 1 hour on the rule, 1 hour on the general debate, and 6 hours on the amendment process.

With another 4 hours of walking time—voting time—we could consume altogether up to 12 hours on the clock. At the end of the 6-hour debate period for amendments, not counting the time consumed in voting, no further amendments could be considered at that point. It would benefit Members if they have significant amendments to decide which of those are truly significant and lay them out so that Members can be to heard on those amendments. That would be fair to your side.

Mr. VOLKMER. I thank the gentleman.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON MAKING GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, since I spoke here a week and a half ago about the outrageous amounts of money this body spends to provide Members of Congress with their own gold embossed set of code books, I received a great deal of support from colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Today I will introduce a resolution that will make a few simple changes in the way Members obtain the United States Code book. First of all, this resolution will not prevent Members from obtaining the laws of this land for their use as legislators.

Instead, the measure will actually expand options for obtaining the code. For instance, if they choose, Members can purchase the entire code for \$37 on CD-ROM, or they can obtain the Government printed version of the code for a fraction of the cost. If they really want these gold books, buy them out of your own office account, not the Clerk's contingency fund.

Mr. Speaker, today is the 81st anniversary of the 16th amendment which gave the power of government to tax. Boy, have we taxed, and, boy, have we spent.

To people inside the beltway, saving half a billion dollars may be small and minuscule. To me it is a lot of money. To the taxpayers it is a lot of money.

I urge you to support my resolution on making Government more efficient.

SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, today the President of the United States set forward a very bold plan that is overdue, and that is to raise the minimum wage for workers in this Nation who have

steadily seen the erosion of their ability to support themselves and their families.

The actual minimum wage, when adjusted for inflation, has fallen 50 cents just since 1991, and it is 27 percent less than it was back in 1979.

I ask Members on both sides, Mr. Speaker, to support the President in this increase in the minimum wage, because it is needed. It is needed for people in my district.

I can remember back when we were trying to push the earned income tax credit as a part of President's budget. We got no votes from the other side, yet 26,000 families in my area that has been devastated by unemployment were affected by that. It helped those families to help themselves in this day and age when everybody is talking about welfare reform.

We cannot say that we can make millions of dollars on book deals when we are in Congress but we cannot have 45 cents for the American worker. We cannot say Members of Congress can go play golf with lobbyists and can have free dinners but we cannot have 45 cents for the American workers.

I laud the President, Mr. Speaker, and ask the support of both sides of the aisle.

A GREAT BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, we are going to give Ronald Reagan a great present for his birthday on Monday, and in the process, we will also be giving a great gift to the American people, because we are finally going to pass a line-item veto, an idea that Ronald Reagan championed more than anyone else.

As usual, he was way ahead of his time. Say goodbye to studies on cow flatulence, say goodbye to Belgian endive research, and say goodbye to research on the sex lives of certain insects. Say hello to responsible government and accountability.

If only the former majority had given Mr. Reagan the line-item veto in the first place, we might not be in this deficit mess. He could have used it to cut out some of the \$219 billion in additional spending that the guardians of the old order added to his budget requests.

But it is better late than never.

Happy birthday, President Reagan, and this is your victory, and it is a victory for us all.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS PROGRAMS?

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the economists say that the economy is great. My question, Mr. Speaker: Are these economists smoking dope or what? Orange County is bankrupt. The District of Columbia is bankrupt. The trade deficit hit a record of \$153 billion, and Americans keep getting pink slips.

Listen to this from the State of Washington to Kansas to Philadelphia, Boeing just laid off 7,000 workers.

Congress, it is jobs, living-wage jobs, and there is not a job program on the Republican side and there is not a job program on the Democrat side.

If there is any consolation, Mr. Speaker, Burger King is hiring, and I never heard of anybody that committed suicide by jumping out of a basement window.

WE ARE KEEPING OUR WORD WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, since January 4 this House has taken important steps to restore the credibility of this institution to the American people, and it is the American people who pay and provide the tax dollars for this Government to operate.

Here is what we have done in less than 1 month: We have enacted eight major reforms in the way Congress does business. We have passed a balanced budget amendment. We have passed legislation to end unfunded mandates to State and local governments. And today we move toward passage of a long-awaited line-item veto to eliminate waste and abuse in the Federal Government, and we are working hard, making important changes to continue this effort.

But more important, we are keeping our word with the American people, and that is what they expect.

THE MINIMUM WAGE: PUT WORKING PEOPLE FIRST

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, we need to put working people first. The minimum wage increase proposed today will allow hard-working Americans the opportunity to take control of their future and secure for themselves and their families a place in America's middle class.

Too many Americans are struggling to make ends meet. They work longer hours for lower pay.

The average minimum-wage worker brings home about half of his or her family's income. Sixty-five percent of them are adults.

Providing people who are playing by the rules with more take-home pay will benefit not just a select few, it will

help all of us. And we have a moral responsibility to insure that people who work are not living in poverty.

As we emphasize the importance of moving people off welfare and onto work and the Congress begins that debate, we should not lose at all the simple fact that a decent hourly wage cuts through a sea of Federal benefits programs and elaborate job-training programs to provide a firm hand of support.

The President has taken the lead in making work pay for all Americans. This Congress must respond to that challenge.

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PASS THE LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Monday will be the birthday of a great man—President Ronald Reagan. Monday will also be the day that we vote on the line-item veto. Over the last 40 years this body has stood idly by as we have passed a \$4.5 trillion national debt onto our children and grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, we must end this lavish spending now, and the line-item veto will help us do so.

The line-item veto will empower the President to rid legislation of wasteful spending, forcing each expenditure to survive public scrutiny and survive on its own. President Ronald Reagan had it right when he said that the line-item veto would allow the President "the right to reach into massive appropriation bills, pare away the waste, and enforce budget discipline."

The greatest gift we could give to one of the greatest Presidents of modern history is the line-item veto. Let us win one for the gipper. Let us win one for the American people. Let us pass the line-item veto.

THE GOLDEN GRAB AWARD

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade I had the honor of chairing the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. That subcommittee regularly exposed waste, fraud, and abuse committed at the taxpayer's expense. We found defense contractors charging \$600 for toilet seats, and billing the Government for the expense of boarding dogs. Environmental contractors who were supposed to clean toxic waste sites were instead wasting taxpayer money on lavish parties, reindeer suits, and clown costumes. Universities used Federal research dollars to pay for yachts and 19th century Italian fruitwood commodes. The Nation's Governors were baldly raiding Medicaid funds to build prisons, pave roads, or cut their own deficits.

The experience of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee teaches us that behind almost every wasteful Government project, questionable Government contract, or skewed Government regulation stands a long line of interests, palms extended. The entertainment industry honors excellence with its Golden Globe Awards. To honor excellence in bilking the taxpayer, I am today announcing the Golden Grab Award.

We will be giving such awards periodically, a statue of a human hand, palm out, extended.

I expect that the 104th Congress will give us a wealth of candidates for the Golden Grab. Already, Rupert Murdoch has shown that he can collect world leaders with book contracts the way children collect baseball trading cards.

Nominations are now open for the inaugural award. Winners will have their names engraved on a statue in the form of an outstretched hand, palm up.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Budget Committee and as a former member of the New Hampshire State senate, I know what it is like to balance budgets in good and also in hard times. That is why we passed a balanced budget amendment and sent it on to the Senate. That is why we passed an unfunded Federal mandate bill despite the dilatory tactics of a small minority of Members of this House. And that is why we will pass a line-item veto for the President.

Mr. Speaker, Orange County may be bankrupt, but so is the Federal Government, and it is time that we move to complete the third leg of the stool of accountability of Congress and to move to give the President the line-item veto so that each and every line of our budget is subject to justification in this House. So let us get on with it and pass the line-item veto on Monday.

WORKING FOR WORKERS' DIGNITY: THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, the Congress has the responsibility to help working families earn a living in the world of work. Today the minimum wage has slipped to the lowest value in decades. Men and women who are struggling to support themselves and their kids and American families are falling further behind. Unemployment is low, but many that are accepting jobs are receiving substandard wages and taking these jobs but not making ends meet. America needs a fair minimum wage. Decency demands that Congress act to give a fair shake to American workers.

The single parents, the persons trying to be able to make a living on his or her job, not with a government support program. The best welfare program is a job.

Action to raise the minimum wage, itself, helps workers, not a trickle-down political promise program to cut taxes for the rich, but social justice for workers on the job in America today.

Fairness and decency demand congressional action to make a work pay. Let Congress Act to increase the minimum wage and be fair to the working people we represent.

LINE-ITEM VETO IS LONG OVERDUE

(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, Christmas might come just once a year to most people in the country, but up here in Washington, land of plenty, the legislative Christmas tree shines all year long. Why? Because Congress for years has been practicing pork barrel politics.

In the past, Members have been able to hang their own little ornaments on appropriation bills, best known as Christmas trees which resulted in huge payoffs to someone back in their district. Unfortunately these ornaments cost the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars while only benefiting a select few.

But with the passage of a line-item veto, we are finally going to give the President of the United States the same power to remove these costly ornaments. Line-item veto will allow the President to enjoy the same authority as 43 Governors including my own Governor in Illinois, already practice. With line-item veto, we will end the long reign of pork barrel politics. This bill is long overdue.

DEMOCRATS WILL FIGHT FOR A FAIR MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, over these past 2 years, President Clinton and the Democratic Party have been fighting for a single fundamental goal: To raise the standard of living of America's working families. Everything else is secondary to that goal. And if you are one of the millions of Americans who try to support a family on the minimum wage, your real wages have plummeted by almost a third since 1979.

How can you raise a family on \$8,500 a year? That is why it is time to raise the minimum wage by 90 cents to lift up those who have been falling behind, to make work pay more than welfare, because too often that is just not the case today. We know that a minimum