

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Committee investigation into allegations against Speaker GINGRICH makes the O.J. trial look like swift justice.

Since the beginning of this Congress, the Ethics Committee has been meeting to discuss the various charges against Mr. GINGRICH. The complexity of the charges coupled with the fact that they are leveled against the highest ranking Member of the House are two reasons why this inquiry has dragged on. They are also two reasons why we need an outside counsel to take over.

For several months, government watchdog groups like Common Cause and Public Citizen have been calling for the appointment of an outside counsel in this case. They believe, as I do, that the appointment of a fully independent, outside counsel is the only way to assure a fair, thorough, nonpartisan investigation of the Speaker. It is the only way to lift the ethical cloud that hangs over this House.

LOBBYING REFORM

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand today and agree with my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT], who just told us about the importance of ending the subsidies that the American taxpayers pay for groups to lobby.

It is a critical issue. We are talking about lobbying reform. Currently, we are talking about PAC reform. These are important issues that should be discussed, but we should not have a fear because a group says you are stifling my voice.

Let us make it clear in this debate. This is an important issue. These are government dollars, taxpayers' dollars, that are going into these advocacy groups.

In recent research, what was told us is that 70 percent of Americans want to see this changed. We have got to address this in the debate. This has to come before the Halls of Congress. We also have to make it clear that these groups should be advocates for their position. A lot of these groups I agree with. They would be free to advocate their position, but the taxpayers of this country should be free from paying for it.

UNCLE SAM IS NOT THE WORLD'S POLICEMAN

(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, everybody wants peace in Bosnia, but that is not the only issue here. The issue is whether American troops should be the peacekeepers.

Now every time there is a problem in the world these foreign leaders bow down and call America the superpower. Yes, truly we are a superpower. But we are not the only power, ladies and gentlemen. I say, if peacekeepers are needed in Bosnia, where is Great Britain? Where is Italy? Where is Spain, ladies and gentlemen? All of a sudden did they become third-world pushovers? The Constitution did not make Uncle Sam the policeman for the world, and Congress should not make Uncle Sam the neighborhood crime watch leader, either.

I say, before one American gets sent to Bosnia, there must be a consent, approval, and authorization of the Congress of the United States of America.

A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what did my constituents send me to Washington to do? They sent me here to downsize the bloated Federal bureaucracy, cut spending, and most importantly balance the budget. And why do they want the budget balanced? Because of the benefits it will bring them.

A balanced budget means lower interest rates on home mortgages, car loans, and student loans. A balanced budget results in a stronger economy, which means more jobs. A balanced budget means that Government spending is under control and taxes will be cut rather than increased.

Mr. Speaker, for too long Washington bureaucrats have come up with excuse after excuse for not reining in Government spending. But enough is enough. No more Washington gimmicks, and no more excuses. It is time to balance the budget. It is the right thing to do for America's future.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my Republican colleague followed me here and talked about the difference between the debt and the deficit.

Well, I know very well the difference between the debt and the deficit. I know we have almost a \$5 trillion debt. The deficit, though, in 1992 under a Republican President was \$290 billion. For that year, that deficit.

Last year it was only \$163 billion. That is what I call progress, and it was not done during the 1980's. In fact, during the 1980's, our debt exploded to that \$4.9 trillion or whatever it is.

But the truth is really out. We need to balance our budget, but we do not need to do it on the backs of education or Medicare, and that is wrong. That is what the American people are saying in all the polls.

Mr. Speaker, the comments of our Speaker and also the leader of the other body last Sunday in the Washington Post demonstrate the true sentiments of the Republicans on the Medicare plan. Cut health care for seniors as much as necessary to pay for that tax cut, not balancing the budget but for a tax cut.

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It is disgusting to see a PR campaign used to provide for a tax cut. Mr. Speaker, I hope the conference committee and the President will veto that plan.

WHY WE ARE HERE

(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, with all of the speculation about whether the President will sign or veto the Congress' plan to balance the budget in 7 years, we need to remember why we need to balance the budget. A child born today must pay \$187,000 during her lifetime just to pay for the interest on the almost \$5 trillion national debt.

That is before paying for any government services—Social Security or Medicare for her parents and grandparents—or national defense for herself.

We have to balance the budget for our children's future. We have spent over \$5 trillion in Federal welfare programs since 1965 and Americans have concluded that the current welfare system perpetuates dependency and offers no hope for a better future.

We have to reform welfare because it is what Franklin Delano Roosevelt described as "a subtle destroyer of the human spirit."

While American families sent 2 percent of their income in taxes to Washington in 1950—today they send almost one-quarter.

That is why we must provide tax relief to families.

Without reform, Medicare will be bankrupt in 7 years with no legal authority to pay hospital bills for seniors.

These are the stakes.

Americans sent us to Washington to fix these problems.

I hope the President chooses to sign the only budget plan that will address these problems.

WHO PAYS FOR THE TAX CUT?

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, last week the Republicans voted to dramatically slash Medicare by \$270 billion, Medicaid by \$180 billion. They voted to raid the pension plans of

working men and women in this country and to slash educational opportunities for those who seek a college education.

Why did they do it? They did it so they can pay for a tax cut to the wealthiest people in this country. The vast majority of their tax cut goes to the upper 5 percent of the people in this country. They have asked the children, they have asked our college students, and they have asked our pensioners to pay for it.

They say if the President does not agree to it, they are going to force the Government to default. If the Government defaults now, they are going to ask the pensioners once again to pay for it. They are going to ask the retirees to pay again. They are going to ask those people who get an income tax refund to pay again. They are going to ask homeowners with mortgages to pay again. They are prepared to ask everybody to pay in the country, except the wealthiest people in this country, for that tax cut.

They should not be allowed to force this Government to default to provide an unfair tax cut to the wealthiest people in this country.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO SEND A MESSAGE

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I looked at the cover of the U.S. News and World Report which talks about the death of the Democratic Party. I think all you have to do is listen to the last speakers that have been up here to understand why.

A few speakers ago, we had somebody come to the floor and said he was disgusted with the tax cuts, that we should take pride in the fact the deficit has gone down over the past year or two. What he does not tell you is he is proud of what has happened in the past year or two because he voted for the largest tax increase in the history of the world. He voted for taxes on seniors who they claim to protect. He voted for tax increases on working men and women they claim to protect. He voted for taxes on middle-class people who they claim to protect. He voted for taxes on small businesses that create jobs.

Now it just absolutely amaze me that the Democratic Party despises the jobmaker but loves the jobs. I mean, let us get real here. Read the cover of U.S. News and World Report and figure something out.

The American people are trying to send a message, and that is, "Get government off our backs and lower out taxes."

AMERICA MUST BE CONCERNED ABOUT A DEFAULT

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago Speaker GINGRICH went to New York, and he stood defiant to default, proclaiming, "I don't care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 60 days, not this time."

Well, in order to counter that kind of extremism, the Republicans got a couple of their big campaign contributors from Wall Street to come down here to Washington yesterday and tell them not to be concerned.

I would suggest the American people have every reason to be concerned if we continue to pursue this approach of, "It's NEWT'S way or no way, even if it means the first default in the history of this great Nation." Indeed, perhaps our Republican colleagues would be well advised to read this morning's Washington Post and the comments of one of their senior Members, our colleague, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON], who says, "I think the whole thing is nuts. Nobody knows the potential impact. If you play this hand and lose, you can really do a lot of damage."

It is like threatening to explode an atom bomb in your own backyard. Yes, that is the approach. These Gingrichites who defaulted to the people on Medicare ought not to default to the rest of America as well.

DEMANDING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WELFARE, WELL-BEING, AND WHEREABOUTS OF JOURNALIST DAVID ROHDE

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

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that this morning, about 3 hours ago, the United Nations confirmed that the American journalist, David Rohde, who has been reported missing in Bosnian Serb territory, is alive and in Serbian hands. According to Clayton Jones, international editor of the Christian Science Monitor, a high-level Bosnian Serb official informed the United Nations Mr. Rohde is being held in a Bosnian Serb stronghold of Polje.

Mr. Rohde, the Monitor's East European correspondent, has not been heard from since last Saturday. I think it is an important message to send to the Bosnian Serb Government that we demand an immediate accounting of Mr. Rohde's whereabouts, his health and safety, and that we want to make it absolutely clear they will be held responsible for his safety.

In the context of the peace talks that are currently beginning in Dayton, it seems to me the entire integrity of the process rests on whether in fact these governments actually control the territory that they presume to control, and I call for David Rohde's immediate release and return to this country.

THE BIGGEST PENSION RAID IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, 95 to 4, by a vote of 95 to 4 the Senate overwhelmingly rejected a House Republican proposal to remove solvency safeguards on private pension funds.

In the 1980's \$20 billion was yanked out of private pension funds, often the workers' own retirement funds, which were used to finance hostile takeovers that resulted in downsizing and restructuring, ultimately costing them their very jobs.

On three separate occasions, Congress put in place protections to preserve the solvency of these vital pension funds. Now, without so much as a hearing, House Republicans have sought to remove these protections so companies can yank money out of their pension funds. They estimate that \$40 billion will be pulled from private pension funds under their proposal.

When we sought a separate vote on this issue, we were rejected. It was included in the budget. And so now, without so much as a hearing, without so much as a separate vote, House Republicans are moving forward a proposal that would allow the biggest pension raid in the history of the country. They must be stopped.

AN HONORARY GEORGIAN FOR THE DAY

(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, today we in the Georgia delegation pick up a new Member. To the young men and women from Magnificent High School, I know this is shocking.

But as your own gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE], who for the day, as part of being on the losing side of the World Series, becomes an honorary Georgian. Here is State flag for him, a tomahawk. I am going to give him some of the other Georgia products off the floor, but in the meantime I yield to him, and I want him to show the American people that he is truly an Atlanta Brave for the day, and he is wearing a Braves tie.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I do thank him for this gift and these other gifts. These really are very thrilling, and of course I am fulfilling my side of a bet here.

Because I have to admit any team that could beat the team that had the very best record in all of baseball in the past 40 years, any team that could beat the team that had the highest batting average in the past 40 years of any baseball team, any team that could beat the team that won going away by