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House of Representatives

The House met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. BURTON of Indiana].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 7, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable DAN BURTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER].

REASONS WHY PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD NOT MEET WITH PRESIDENT YELTSIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to encourage my colleagues to sign a bipartisan letter that I am circulating with the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] today. We have already gained 20 other signatures, bipartisan signatures on this letter that would say to President Clinton

and, in very strong terms, suggest that he not meet with President Yeltsin at the upcoming summit in May. We urge him not to do this for a number of reasons, because the United States has so much at stake in continuing to see Russian economic and political reform.

The first reason, Mr. Speaker, is that the Russian economic and political reform efforts are on very shaky ground. As the Russians now fight this war in Chechnya, they have diverted over \$2 billion that should be going to stabilize the ruble, to support the economic efforts we have supported through loans through the IMF and other world banks totaling over \$12 billion. These efforts are critical if the Russians are to work their way to a free market system and to continue to work toward a more open and democratic system in the new Russia.

Second, future issues are at stake, future issues that are important to the United States and a good, strong, healthy relationship with Russia. We need to be on good terms with Russia in terms of Bosnia and peace in that very unstable part of the world. We need to work with the Russians on START and other nonproliferation treaties, and we need to work with them on the future of NATO.

Third, we encourage the President not to meet with Mr. Yeltsin in May because of the human rights violations going on in this terrible war between Russia and the Chechnyan people.

I would encourage my colleagues to sign this letter. We are not saying that Mr. Christopher and Mr. Karadzic cannot talk. We are saying symbolically the President should not at this point sit down with Mr. Yeltsin at this very precarious time as the Russians are fighting a very, very bad war in terms of diverting their resources away from economic and political reform.

75 SPECIFIC DISCRETIONARY CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today I present my annual list of specific spending cut suggestions. I introduced these yesterday in the RECORD. Today I want to talk a little bit about them and elaborate on them.

These are 75 discretionary cuts which would save an estimated \$275 billion, those are taxpayer dollars, over the next 5 years. That is just about double the amount of spending cuts the President has offered us in his most recent budget package.

These savings could be produced without touching a single non-discretionary item. Let me put that into English for the rest of America. Nondiscretionary item would mean entitlement, and that translates into Social Security, Medicare and so forth, Medicaid. This list of budget cuts I am submitting does not touch Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid or any of those items that we call entitlements. It is only the discretionary items, the things that we control the purse strings on here in the House of Representatives, the power of the purse as it were.

It is imperative that before we ask Americans to sacrifice any of their earned benefits we demonstrate an ability to root out the hundreds of billions of dollars of wasteful spending in this Government. And that is not just rhetoric. That is something that the Grace Commission, the GAO, anybody who has looked at our spending here will tell you, that every year we have waste by the billions, by the tens of billions, by the hundreds of billions.

How in the world are we going to balance the budget and do all of these things we have promised if we have

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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that kind of waste at that level? The answer is we are not until we get at it, and the hard work of pinning down the specifics has got to start somewhere. That is why we submit our list of what could be cut.

Mr. Speaker, an administration official was quoted in Sunday's Washington Post as saying that "While the deficit is not optimal, it is not out of control." Let me tell my colleagues, the national debt is \$4½ trillion. The debt service on that is about \$250 billion every year, every year, \$250 billion, so that is a trillion every 4 years just in interest payments. Put simply, this empty rhetoric does not put, in my view, the administration in a very good light. I wonder what an optimal debt situation would be.

The White House has consistently ignored the tremendous waste and duplicative spending in the Federal budget and our Federal Government. We have seen that in the budget that they sent up. Instead of opting to try to reduce the deficit through tax hikes and on the backs of senior citizens, they should be looking at cuts, not raising taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the American people sent a powerful message to this Congress that was loud and clear, and it was cut spending, and do it now, get rid of the waste, the redundancy, the out of date, the off-target, the things we do not need anymore. The American people did not say trim a little here or trim a little there. The American people did not say move with caution and go slow. The American people told this Congress to look for any and all wasteful spending and get rid of it, take it out.

The Vice President complained yesterday that "Republicans haven't put any cuts on the table." Well, they cannot say that anymore, because the cuts are out there for all to see, a list of 75 totaling \$275 billion over the next 5 years. I stand before this Congress with most of the same cuts I introduced in the past two terms, and some of them which we have made some progress on, but most of them have gone untouched. So we are still able to come forward with a list of waste of 75 items.

I invite the administration to debate us on the specifics. Tell us why we need to be spending \$140 million on grants to prepare youths and adults to be home-makers. Explain to the American people why when 99 percent of America's farmers have electricity and 98 percent have phones we need to be spending billions of dollars in assistance to rural electric and telephone utilities.

The American people deserve better. They need answers. They deserve full debate on these and other programs that serve narrow special interests rather than the collective good of our country and all taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, we must strive to move beyond the rhetoric, to achieve the fundamental change that we talk about here with real action and with specifics. It is time to debate real spending

cuts and real fiscal reform, and I am confident if we do we actually will have taken a very important step toward restoring fiscal responsibility and, perhaps even more than that, retaining, restoring some of the credit that this institution needs to build with the American people.

We have done the balanced budget program in the House. We have passed it. We have done that unfunded mandates program in the House. We have passed it. We did the line item veto. We did it yesterday, we passed it. We are going to be talking about and going to introduce a supermajority to raise taxes. Those are all critically important tools to get a handle on spending, to make sure we do the right thing.

But the proof will come. Do we have the courage, do we have the wisdom to pick out the things that are true waste and start chopping them? That is actually the easiest part of the job. If it is not doing much for very many Americans, then why are we spending a lot of money on it? Usually the answer is political. "Well, it's in my district," or "I hate to do something to that program to cut it." That is something we cannot be doing anymore. We cannot afford it, and it is not good expenditure of money.

Accountability time has come, and we welcome accountability time, and I welcome the American people to take a look at our list of 75 cuts.

COMMONSENSE DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. SKELTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. speaker, we are at a crossroads in American military preparedness. Since the Iron Curtain collapsed in 1989, the quantity and extent of U.S. military commitments abroad have stretched our forces thin. Today, there are signs of a serious weakening in troop training readiness. The Pentagon reports that key modernization programs have been interrupted to pay for current operations and an ailing base infrastructure.

We have reduced our military too far and too fast. If we continue, by the end of the decade we won't have the military power to shape a peaceful and prosperous world. Without security, peace, and free trade, all Americans lose.

The erosion in military preparedness disturbs many of our Nation's leaders. President Clinton recognized the shortfall in December when he added \$2 billion to this year's defense budget. Several Members of Congress proposed staying at the fiscal year 1995 budget level, adjusted for inflation. That amount, about a \$14 billion increase, would be a major step toward bolstering American military preparedness.

Some critics argue that defense increases are not needed because today's world is less dangerous. They fail to re-

member that in 1994 the United States came close to armed conflict three times. In June, we deployed additional forces toward Korea to halt the production of nuclear weapons. In September, we sent 22,000 troops to Haiti to restore democracy and stop the flow of refugees to our shores. Then, in October, we responded to Saddam Hussein's move to imperil the world's oil supply. These occurred during ongoing American military commitments in the Sinai, Rwanda, Macedonia, Cuba, Bosnia, Turkey, Panama, Okinawa, and Western Europe.

In 1993, the administration outlined our national security strategy in the Bottom-Up Review. It reasonably concluded America needed enough military forces to fight and win two major regional conflicts, nearly simultaneously. Our recent trials with North Korea, Haiti, and Iraq affirm this two-war strategy.

But our experience under the Bottom-Up Review, now approaching 2 years, suggests that we cannot take our force structure any lower. Indeed, modest increases are needed.

Events in 1994 revealed our military is on the verge of being over-committed. Our experience in the new security environment also teaches that the Bottom-Up Review incorrectly assumed we can withdraw troops from peacekeeping and humanitarian relief commitments to fight a major regional conflict. Disengagement inflicts high cost.

Some critics, observing defense officials juggle resources among competing demands, suggest we've sacrificed modernization for readiness and quality of life. They've got it wrong. A serious imbalance does exist, but it's because all three are underfunded. Simply put, we are not adequately funding our strategy that ensures American security. The shortfall is not large, but it is big enough to create disturbing imbalances in our current military posture. We cannot allow troop morale, training readiness, and force modernization to get out of balance. Common sense says we should eliminate this strategy-resource mismatch to restore our overall military preparedness.

My defense plan for fiscal years 1995-99 which I propose today, provides a \$44 billion increase to add force structure; pay for peacekeeping obligations; and correct the imbalance in readiness, modernization, and quality of life. With this prudent investment, we can eliminate an over-committed force structure. We can meet our military commitments abroad. We can restore a high level of readiness. We can provide an adequate quality of life for our deserving service personnel. And we can continue to modernize our forces to be prepared for future threats. It is right and it is affordable.

The choice is clear—continued decline or prudent restoration of our military preparedness. Will the history books say that American service men and women who performed unselfishly