

meal was mystery meat. Where is the guy in charge? I am going to complain. But the President won't talk to me. In light of Israel's tragedy, cutting Medicare is not the first thing on his mind. I am leaving on a jet plane, don't know when you will get paid again. I am leaving on a jet plane, don't know when you will be paid again.

□ 1015

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 264

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of House Resolution 264.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California.

There was no objection.

THE REAL ISSUE

(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, today's headline really says it all: "Clinton, No to GOP Offer To Keep the Government Open."

Mr. Speaker, last night 48 Democrats joined Republicans, broke ranks and resisted the strong-arm tactics of the left-wing liberal Democratic leadership by voting to keep the Government operating and open, and frankly, also voting to balance the budget.

That is really what this issue is all about. Are the American people going to have a balanced budget? Are the American people going to have a government that lives within its means?

Calls and letters that I am receiving from the folks back home are 4 to 1 in favor of balancing the budget and supporting the Republican Congress.

Kathleen Platek from Manhattan, IL: "You're doing a great job. Hang in there to balance the budget."

Ardele Ommem from Bradley, IL: "Support Republican budget. Keep the Government operating. Tell Bill Clinton to go to work."

Jacqueline Jordan from Mokena: "Balance the budget."

Mr. Speaker, the folks back home are watching. They want the Government to balance the budget. That is what this issue is all about.

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, every year we all await the Academy Awards. It really captures our attention to see who is going to be the winner in all the different categories.

Well, there is one category our Speaker has sewn up. There is absolutely no question that NEWT GINGRICH

has now absolutely sewn up the category of best performance by a child actor this year. There is only one problem. The Speaker is not a child.

Now that this country has paid dearly for his temper tantrum and paid dearly for his shutting down the Congress, shutting down the whole country because of his little ppeeve, could we get a performance that is more statesman-like? I think that is what this country would really like.

But congratulations, Mr. Speaker. If you wanted to be the best child actor, you got it.

AMERICA IS WATCHING

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today we are here, we have lots of cutesy ideas, we have little statues and we have posters. But, ladies and gentlemen, the people see past that. The people of America know what is stopping this Government.

All your actions here today will not block out in their mind that the Democrats and the President are refusing to work with the Republicans to balance the budget. The President has a chance today to reverse that, and he can sign the new clean CR that we have sent down to the White House. America is watching. The antics on this floor today will not cover up the fact that they want a balanced budget and they want us to hang tough until we do it, for ourselves, for our seniors and for our children. Let us get to it.

COMPROMISE NEEDED IN BUDGET BATTLE

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, if the Republican leadership is so committed to balancing the budget, then why do they not abandon their \$245 billion tax cut? Why is it that seniors, students, and the poor have to sacrifice to balance the budget, but America's wealthiest corporations and insurance companies will get a huge windfall?

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, the GOP is using the balanced budget only as a pretext to wage their feudal class-war against seniors and working families. Why do they not go after the \$500 billion in corporate welfare, as well as make Germany and Japan pay for their own defense?

Mr. Speaker, if the Republicans agree to abandon their tax cuts and eliminate just \$200 billion in corporate welfare, then even I will support their budget.

PRESIDENT CLINTON URGED TO SIGN THE BILL

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, the debate is now clear and the battle is joined. As Paul Harvey has said, Americans hate statistics but Americans know what they expect from us. They want us to put government on a diet and they want us to balance their budget. We are a Nation that gets up early, rolls up our sleeves and gets the job done. To be told that we cannot balance this budget within 7 years is an insult to the intelligence of the American people. You promised to balance the budget in 5 years. Mr. President, if you meant what you said, then sign this bill.

THE HORRIBLE WELFARE BILL

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, with most of the Republican leadership running for the Presidency right now, and running on ego and on meanness, it makes sense that this new majority is sending President Clinton a welfare bill that pushes over 1 million more children into poverty and does nothing, absolutely nothing, to help recipients prepare for jobs that pay a decent wage.

On the other hand, the Democrats have a welfare reform bill that invests in education, in job training, in child care and child support.

Mr. Speaker, when 100 percent of the House Democrats voted for this legislation, we demonstrated that conservatives, moderates, and liberals can agree on reform that guarantees a safety net for children and gets their parents to work.

I ask, why does the crybaby Speaker not cry about real babies? Real babies who are becoming even poorer as a result of this mean-spirited, whining leadership. We must veto this horrible welfare bill.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE TRUTH

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, President Bill Clinton has willfully misled the American public on his plans for the future of America.

During his campaign for President, he said he would support a balanced budget in 5 years. Two years later, he refuses to even consider balancing the budget in seven years.

He said he would end welfare as we know it. Now he says he will veto a bill that ends welfare as we know it. He said he supported tax relief for the American family. But his first budget raised taxes on American families.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is to truth what Abraham Lincoln was to lying.

The American people should not believe a word he says, because many

times Bill Clinton does not believe the words he is saying.

As President Clinton continues to refuse to open the Government, I urge the American people to focus on these facts. Republicans are going to keep their promises and offer a real balanced budget. Bill Clinton is going to break his promises and fight any balanced budget.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH and Medicare, the three words you need to understand this mess in Washington. He may really be a crybaby, but NEWT GINGRICH wants to demonstrate he is king of the mountain. And what better way to do that than to issue a royal decree cutting Medicare, even if it takes the taxpayers having to pay for 800,000 Federal employees to have a taxpayer paid vacation. And since the king expects lobbyists to come bearing tribute, it is only natural Speaker GINGRICH would be doing everything he can today to kill our ban on gifts from lobbyists to Members of this Congress just as he killed real lobby regulation last session. And before this week's shutdown and NEWT's paid vacation for 800,000 Federal employees, we already had shut down one institution of this body, shut down with lethargy, shut down with delay.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, point of order. Is it parliamentary to call the Speaker of the House a crybaby?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Such remarks are not in order and Members should refrain from using such language.

The gentleman may proceed in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry. Is it proper to refer to the front page of a newspaper that calls him a crybaby?

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, point of order. The chart is demeaning to the House.

Mr. VENTO. Regular order, Mr. Speaker. The gentleman should state his point of order, Mr. Speaker, if he has a point of order.

Mr. HOKE. My point of order is that we are not to have demeaning charts.

Mr. VENTO. Point of order, Mr. Speaker. That is not a point of order.

Mr. HOKE. That is a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend?

The Chair rules it is a legitimate point of order. The Chair also rules that the Members must be respectful of other Members and must avoid such referencing of other Members on the floor.

Mr. HOKE. Would the Chair please instruct the Member to take the chart down?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman must proceed in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, so that I may comply with the rules of the House, I understand then that I am not to refer to the Speaker as a crybaby. May I use the term "NEWT's tantrum"?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In answering the gentleman's question, the Chair would point out to the gentleman that the gentleman should be respectful of all Members of the House and the Speaker as well. The gentleman may not use demonstrations to be disrespectful to any Member or to the Speaker.

Mr. DOGGETT. But the Chair is not suggesting that this Daily News "crybaby" front page has to come down at this point?

Mr. HOKE. Regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is suggesting that it should be removed if it is intended to bring disrespect toward a Member of the House.

Mr. DOGGETT. It is not on the House, Mr. Speaker. How much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. DOGGETT. With the parliamentary inquiries? Not with my 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. No, with the gentleman's use of time.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the Speaker.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, last night in an interview, President Clinton was asked this question by Dan Rather: "Are you saying, flat out, that you will veto a bill sent to you that contains only the insistence to balance the budget, you'll veto that?"

The President said, "Yes."

Mr. Speaker, the President has divulged what Republicans in Congress have been saying all along. That is, President Clinton is too closely aligned with the liberal Washington establishment to do what is right for the American people. He is more concerned about spending more money on Government than balancing the budget, and he is more concerned about bureaucracy than our children's future.

The responsibility for this Government rests squarely on the shoulders of President Clinton. He asked for a clean bill. He has one. Now he says he will veto it.

Folks back home have been calling me to hang in there, balance the budget. Well, now it is time for the folks back home to call President Clinton. The number is 202-456-1414.

A GRAVE ERROR

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Acting Speaker, I have not myself been a great defender of the real Speaker. Indeed, I thought the American people were right when they found him to be the most unpopular elected official in America.

But yesterday I was ready to jump to his defense. I do not think people should be disrespectful of the Speaker. When I heard people suggest that Speaker GINGRICH had said that he was going to be tougher in negotiations and do more to shut down the Government because the President had been rude to him, I was ready to leap to his defense.

I said, how can you accuse Speaker GINGRICH, as much as I disagree with him on policy, of being so petty, of being so personal as to say that because the President did not distract himself from the Middle East peace process to come and talk to him and take his mind off having to sit with some other Republicans, how could you claim that this man would then use that as a reason to help shut down the Government?

Of course we have this problem because the Republicans have not passed the appropriations bills. It is their own lack of ability that has led the Health and Human Services Department and the Labor Department not to be there. To compound that with insensitivity is a very grave error.

CHARACTER OF MORNING'S DEBATE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, what is incredible about this debate this morning, if we call it a debate, is that what we see finally is that the Democrat rhetoric has been reduced simply to petty, the pettiest of ad hominem attacks on the personality of the Speaker.

□ 1030

And they are doing this because of two things: No. 1, they are embarrassed by the fact 48 of their own Members last night, quite correctly, cast their vote, including a couple that have been down here this morning, although they did not mention it.

And, second, because they are out of ideas, they know it has finally come to showing the liberal agenda against the commonsense agenda.

The only difference in the continuing resolution of last night was a 7-year balanced budget, a commitment to come to the same agreement that every one of these people, when they go back to their districts, talk about. This is the moment of truth, 7 years, scored honestly with honest numbers in an honest way, working together.