

AMERICA HAS MUCH TO BE
THANKFUL FOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Fox] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at this time of Thanksgiving week have we much to be thankful for. In looking over the legislation which has been adopted by this House, we only have to look to the line-item veto, which will cut out the pork-barrel legislation that has wasted so much in prior Congresses.

We have to look just to the accountability law, sometimes called the Shays Act, which will force Congress to live under the laws that they pass for others. The prohibition of unfunded mandates. No longer will Congress be able to pass laws that, in fact, have local governments and State governments unnecessarily foot the entire bill. Now, if the Federal Government, through the House and the Senate and the President, wish the local governments to do something, the funding will have to follow.

We also passed historic legislation last week with my support, and all the other colleagues in this body. I think it was almost unanimous that we passed the House rule which will ban gifts from lobbyists. There is no way that our constituents feel that we should have gifts from lobbyists and now we have legislation which will prohibit it, and properly so.

But I am pleased to see tonight that we have the spirit of bipartisanship and we now have the President and Congress working together to achieve a balanced budget within 7 years. Under that specific language, the President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, and the President and the Congress agree that the balanced budget must protect future generations, ensure Medicare solvency, reform welfare, and provide adequate funding for Medicaid, education, agriculture, national defense, veterans, and the environment.

□ 1900

It further stipulates that the balanced budget shall be estimated by the Congressional Budget Office figures. I think it is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that by balancing the budget we will help all American families by reducing mortgage costs, reducing car payments, reducing tuitions costs, and as well stabilizing health care costs.

It should also be brought out to the attention of my colleagues that the proposed Balanced Budget Act passed by the House for 1995 includes important increases from 1995 to 2002 in the following ways: The earned income tax credit will go from almost \$19.9 billion to \$25.4 billion. The School Lunch Program nationally would go up from \$6.3

billion to \$7.8 billion. Student loans would go up from \$24.5 billion to \$36.5 billion. Medicaid will go up from \$89.2 billion to \$127.3 billion. Medicare will increase from \$178.1 billion to \$289.8 billion, and veterans' benefits will go from \$36.9 billion to \$41.8 billion.

So it is a case, Mr. Speaker, of promises made, promises kept. This Congress is moving forward in a bipartisan fashion. And in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I know that each of us can do our best to remove the personalities from the issues and restore the fiscal responsibility of the country by working on policies that Republicans and Democrats can embrace together to bring about the fiscal responsibility to make sure we live within our budgets as families do, as States do, as counties do.

We can work together to make sure that the vital programs of the Federal Government must provide, because State governments and the private sector do not provide them, but do so in a way that removes the waste, fraud, and abuse. If we do that, I know we can achieve the kinds of legislation and the kinds of services the American public wants and deserves.

ON THE BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I believe today is a truly historic day. For the first time in 30 years, that is right, in 30 years, Congress finally passed a genuine balanced budget plan. For over 30 years, the American people have heard nothing but hot air and hollow promises about the balanced budget.

This is my second term. I remember hearing all the promises to balance the budget at the beginning of the year. And then at the end of the year, they always have some excuse for running a deficit. And the Government was always in the red and they were always blaming someone else, pointing the finger at each other. I knew that if I ran my business like this, I would be bankrupt a long time ago, but Government just kept printing more money and more money and adding to our national debt.

This is very dangerous for the future generation, future economic security of our Nation. Why? As a result of all these deficits, we now have a national debt of close to \$5 trillion. The interest payment alone on this debt alone is about the same as what we spend on national defense.

Let us take a look at this chart. The blue line is the train of national debt. It looks fine until about 1980, suddenly going up like crazy, totally runaway, totally out of control. This is our national debt climbing up.

One might ask what is wrong with this. When our national debt, never mind the debt itself, but interest payment is almost 20 percent of entire na-

tional budget, then we know we are in serious trouble.

If this continues, we will owe so much money to all the foreign countries, we will have nothing left. Somebody has to pay off this debt in the future. You cannot borrow something without paying back.

What we are trying to do under this balanced budget resolution is trying to bring this back, a little bit flatten, and then at the year 2002, at the end of 7th year, flatten. So we spend the exact amount we take in. We still have generated an additional \$650 billion during this process. Adding this together, we also raise our debt.

This is what they call a mean-spirited cut? I mean, gutting it. Is this cut to you? Still increase more money, spend more money, but simply a slow rate. How we are going to pay off this debt, I do not know. We will worry about that at the end of 7th year.

This is what we are trying to do is let us not accumulate any more debt. We have a serious problem. I do not know why my friends out there do not recognize the seriousness. That is why I came to Congress, to stop this runaway spending.

I know the choices will be difficult. I know the Big Government liberals would attack me and other Republicans. I know it. But we are willing to take the heat. We have the courage needed to do what is right for the country. Our job is to fix government, not make a career of being in it.

Last November we Republicans asked the American people to put us in charge of Congress and we would deliver a balanced budget. I am proud to report we did just that tonight. We passed a fair, realistic plan that will balance the budget in 7 years.

Some people have said 7 years is too short. We need 10 years. Some people said, how about 7 years too long. We should balance it within 5 years. President Clinton has repeatedly said somewhere between 6 and 9 years.

We must do it as quickly as we can and CBO score the 7 years. We can do it without hurting vital programs.

We all know that we cannot balance the budget without cutting some programs. However, there is so much waste and fraud going on, wasted duplication that we can almost balance the budget simply by eliminating waste and fraud.

Can you believe this? Consolidating some overlapping programs and streamlining bureaucracies. We have more than 5,000 programs ongoing right now. Nobody knows what program does what. All these overlapping programs must be consolidated. We can eliminate waste and fraud. We can literally balance the budget. That is what we plan to do. All we are trying to do, folks, we are trying to slow down the spending rate. By doing it, we can balance the budget.

At this time I would like to thank the American people. I would like to

thank those people in my district. They have been calling me the last few days telling me, hang tough. I am telling you, 85 percent of those people telling me, hang tough, hanging in there. I am glad I did it.

Thank you again, American people. Thank you. God bless you.

VINCE FOSTER INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of years I and some of my colleagues and some staff people have been doing an investigation into the death of Vince Foster who was found at Fort Marcy Park a year ago July. It was in 1993, 2 years ago in July. And over the past couple of years we have researched, we have looked into the Fiske report.

We have gone out to Fort Marcy Park. We have talked to numerous people who were witnesses or not witnesses to his death but were at Fort Marcy Park and we found some startling things. One of things that has really bothered a number of us in the past couple of months is that we found out, when we looked at the report that was filed by the FBI, that there is some severe inconsistencies.

The man who found Vince Foster's body, who was called the confidential witness, was alleged to have said in the FBI report that when he found Vince Foster's body he looked directly into the face, specifically observing that the eyes of his body were partially open and slightly glazed and that traces of dry black blood were running from the side of the mouth and nose down the right side of his face.

When I talked to the confidential witness, he swore under oath before a court reporter that there was no blood on the side of the man's face. You might say that might be just a mistake. But the report went on, he further advised that there were traces of blood stains on the shirt to include the upper right shoulder area, along with traces of what he considered to be vomit or spilled wine, possibly purplish in color. He says there was no blood on his shirt, that there was no blood on the side of his face and no blood on his shirt, and he told the FBI that. Yet the FBI put in a report that there was blood on the side of his face and on his shirt.

Another part of the report says, he further maintained, this is the FBI saying this, he further maintained that he was fixated on the face of the body and did not pay specific attention to body extremities, including the hand. In this regard, he advised he could not remember the exact position of the thumb, stating that while he did not observe a gun, there could have been a gun in his hands.

When this was read to the confidential witness, he went into orbit. He said

there is absolutely no question whatsoever that I say the hands clearly, the thumbs were out, the palms were up and there was no gun in the hands. He said, I was right there. I looked right down in his face, no further than 18 inches from the body. So the FBI, according to him, misstated that.

Now you would say if that was the only problem with the investigation by the FBI, that they may have just made some mistakes, even though there is some glaring ones here.

Then we ran into another witness who was out at the park that same day and an hour earlier. That fellow, when he was there, his name was Patrick Knowlton. He said that when he went into the park he saw a car, a brown car with Arkansas plates, and it was a Honda and that it was an older model.

Yet in the FBI report they say it is a light blue car with Virginia plates. He said, I never said that. I said it was a dark brown car with Arkansas plates and they put it down as a Virginia car with Virginia plates and it is light blue.

He also saw some suspicious people in another car who were doing some things there and they may have been involved in the Foster case. And he said, in the report according to the FBI, he could not further identify this particular individual nor his attire and stated that he would be unable to recognize him in the future. He said that is an absolute lie, because I told the FBI agent specifically I not only could identify him, I could draw a picture of the guy because I would never forget his face. Yet the FBI says he could not identify the gentleman.

Then we go back to the confidential witness. There is another part of the report that says, and the possibility does exist that there was a gun in or near his hands that he might have seen. The confidential witness said that is an absolute lie.

Now, another lady drove up near the park and her car broke down, and it was a Mercedes. When she went into the park to try to find help, she sighted two cars and in her report to the FBI she states the cars were of different color than what she said. She has been contacted.

The interesting thing about all of this is the two FBI agents that did the investigation, gentlemen named Larry Monroe and Bill Colombell. All three of these people say that the report that they gave to the Fiske Commission was wrong, that it was lies.

If one of them was a lie or a mistake, you could understand it or if two of them. But three, these people interviewed three people and there are glaring misrepresentations in these reports.

I have said to the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight here in the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], and to the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SCHIFF], who is also looking into this for the Speaker, that

we ought to have those FBI agents come in and explain these inequities and inconsistencies, these inconsistencies in this report, because according to the witnesses who found the body, according to the witnesses who were there, according to the witnesses who saw the cars and the people involved, they say these are out and out lies in these reports.

If the FBI lied to Mr. Fiske or if they were asked to lie to Mr. Fiske, that is a breach of faith. It is something that has misled the American people as to whether or not this may have been a suicide someplace else or maybe even a murder. These things need to be brought to the attention of the American people.

We have, I believe, Mr. Starr, the special counsel or prosecutor, who has been looking into this. It has been brought to his attention. I hope he pursues this and finds out why these FBI agents did not write the report the way the people who found the body and the way the people who were at the park saw it. I think he should ask those FBI agents directly, why did you misrepresent these things in this report?

In addition to that, I believe it is incumbent upon the Congress of the United States and our committee to call these FBI agents in and go ask them directly face to face why these things are inaccurate.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I will try not to use the entire hour this evening. But I did want to get to address the House tonight because I do feel that the two major bills or resolutions that we passed today are rather significant.

First of all, the continuing resolution, which, as I think most of us know, allows the Government to continue to operate, prevents the partial shutdown of the Federal Government, which forced many Federal employees to go home and not provide the services that they normally provide to the public.

Second, I would like to address the budget reconciliation or the budget bill that was passed today in final form before it goes to the President, which obviously seeks to plan or map out our budget priorities for the next decade in this Nation.

□ 1915

I have to start out by saying with regard to the continuing resolution and the effort which was successful today to prevent the continued Government shutdown, Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to see that it was passed. I think it was very wrong to have the Federal Government partially shut