

hose. One of the rear wheels had a striker, which hit a gong with each revolution of the wheel. The apparatus was purchased in August 1896, for \$875, a far cry from the \$250,000 to \$500,000 required to purchase one today. Since the fire department did not own any horses, it was agreed to purchase a set of double harnesses and that a premium of \$2 be given to the first person to reach the fire house with two good fast horses and hookup to the apparatus.

Today's fire sirens, beepers, and radios are a far cry from the way fire alarms used to be sounded. The first alarm used in Colonial Beach, was by striking a metal triangle with a hammer and later on a large ring was struck with a sledge hammer. Both the triangle and the ring are displayed at the fire station on Colonial Avenue.

In August 1896, a bid was submitted by Charles Pfeil to build the first fire house for a sum of \$24. A year later, Pfeil was appointed fire chief at a salary of \$3 per month. His duties were to keep the apparatus, fire house, and fixtures clean and in ready condition. The fire house was moved to the old town hall in March 1907 and did not move again until another fire house was built in 1940. In 1952, a second story was added with the help of the Ladies Auxiliary. A brand new building was built in 1961 on Colonial Avenue and is the current fire house.

The first 100 years of the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department have been an exciting time of service and growth. The department has always stayed one step ahead of its peers with new, innovative thinking and proactive programs. Their members have committed themselves for over 100 years now with a sense of pride, tradition, and service to all those in their community. The Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department vows to continue to carry the high level of professional service that has become their hallmark into the next century, protecting the citizens of the community through the next 100 years.

SUPPORT THE BOSNIA PEACE PLAN

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, for the past 4 years Bosnia has witnessed atrocities not seen on the European Continent since the horrors of World War II. Among these are concentration camps, women and girls raped as a tool of war, documented instances of mass murder, and the nightmare of ethnic cleansing becoming a reality.

A quarter of a million people have been killed in this war, many of them defenseless civilians. This number includes women and children. Two million people, about half the population, have been forced from their homes and

are now suffering the miserable life of refugees.

For 4 years war has raged in Bosnia, and the United States has rightly stayed out of the war. The United States could not force peace on the warring factions. Now the situation is different. Due primarily to American leadership, peace has been brokered between the war-weary combatants.

Mr. Speaker, let us say thanks that the war and the killing has ended. Genocide has stopped and the war is over because of American leadership. We should thank the President, Secretary of State Christopher, Madeline Albright, Richard Holbrook, and the man that probably had the most to do with this peace, Robert Frazier, who gave his life to this process. I would also like to particularly acknowledge the key role played by National Security Adviser Tony Lake in securing the peace agreement. The peace process was initiated during his trip to Europe in late July.

The United States now has the historic opportunity to help Bosnia return to normalcy and bring stability to this troubled region.

THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT MADE THE CASE IN BOSNIA

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, last night the President came to the American people to convince us it is a good idea to send ground troops to Bosnia. He says he will come to Congress. Both of these things are the things he should be doing. We have been asking him to do it.

I sat there in front of my television half wanting to be convinced, because you do not want to embarrass the President, you want him to be right, you want him to represent the country in the right way. What I found with his speech was a great deal of emotion. He talked about rapes and concentration camps and mass executions, all things that we would like to stop if we possibly could, but he was short on substance.

He talked about vital American interests but he does not tell us what that was. He talked about American leadership and he seemed to be saying that the only way we can have American leadership is if we pay the bill, if we pay the price with our blood and with our money. I found myself wondering, I wonder if it is so bad if in some cases if someone else takes the leadership. Do we have to lead in everything? Is this not a European problem? Could we not rely on Europe to take the leadership in this?

I wonder how the President is going to respond to the families who lose children in this conflict, and they will lose some. Is he going to say, "Your son died for the future of NATO?" Is he going to say, "Your son died because we might stop World War III?" Is he

going to say, "Your son died for American leadership?" I do not think he has made the case.

THE LESSON OF HAITI

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, as the subject of Bosnia has come up, Haiti has somehow crept into the conversation as some sort of a model.

I think people should know that things are not so good in Haiti. Public security there is literally falling apart. There is violent rioting through the country, mob rule, the streets are unsafe. This past weekend a 6-year-old school girl waiting for a schoolbus was shot dead. Businesses are closed and shuttered.

I do not know how many people have been burned to death or hacked to death, but I know it is more than one. The police station in the major city has been burned down. A drive-by shooting took place at city hall. Fear is pervasive. You can measure it; you can feel it.

The wave of unrest and violence that is going on is not something that is caused by citizens from the ground up. It was unleashed by the democratically elected President, President Aristide, 2 1/2 weeks ago at a funeral.

The new police force that is supposed to protect and provide law and order there was disassembled and disarmed by the mob and chased out. The judiciary is in hiding. The presidential elections that we are supporting and paying for are in doubt.

□ 1415

Certainly, even if they come off, they will not be full, fair, and free. Investment is not happening. Privatization is not taking place. Corruption is not being taken care of.

But refugees are starting again. The drownings are happening again. This is not a model for success.

Let us not hope we are going to do in Bosnia what has happened in Haiti.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

A BALANCED BUDGET: GOOD FOR NEW YORK AND NEW YORKERS

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have talked generally about the national merits of our achieving a balanced Federal budget. However, I want to talk about the balanced budget and what the subsequent

lower interest rates mean for my friends and neighbors in New York's Hudson River Valley.

Lower interest rates will be good for homeowners. In fact a reduction in interest rates will not only help middle-class families save on their home mortgages, but it will also help those first-time home buyers make that crucial first step on the path toward long term financial security.

Because of this, experts agree that the average New York family will achieve annual mortgage savings of at least \$2,643. And the Federal Reserve has stated that it is quite possible that once we achieve a balanced budget, we will see mortgage interest rates drop even lower to 5¼ percent—a rate which hasn't been seen in generations.

Another benefit of a balanced budget is an increase in the overall affordability of college education. The average New York student loan is \$2,783, and a 2.7-percent drop in interest rates would mean that students would save \$557 over each year of the life of their loan.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton agreed to help us balance the Federal budget. The country will hold him to this promise. And I believe that New Yorkers need him to keep his promise. Our children's futures are at stake, and the President must remember it.

BOSNIA

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I served as the United States Ambassador to Yugoslavia's next door neighbor, Romania. Bill Clinton is talking about 20,000 soldiers, many of whom will come out of North Carolina, for peacekeeping. This is not peacekeeping, it is peace enforcement. But there is no peace to enforce. Just 2 days ago the Bosnian Serb leader said he did not like the agreement.

So what artificial peace are we going to enforce? Last night we heard Orwellian doublespeak: war is peace, peace is war. Clinton has gotten bad advice.

What could we possibly hope to accomplish? Our troops stand guard for 1 year, then we are out. We lose some lives, we leave maybe, then full-scale war breaks out again. What is the purpose? What is 1 year in 600 years of ethnic warfare in the area? And what about the cost to the taxpayer for this folly?

We have spent the last 50 years defending our European allies in NATO from the Soviet threat; now wealthy Western Europe should use its resources to try to keep the peace in its backyard.

Our vital national security interests are not at stake in Bosnia and Herzegovina. First of all, there is no real Bosnian nation, no Bosnian people, no Bosnian language; there are Croats, Serbs, Muslims fighting each other

since the 1300's. If Bosnia's ethnic strife and people killed are in our national interest, then why not go into every place on the earth where people are fighting and being killed?

This is a tragic mistake. American lives will be sacrificed. And for what? Can we not learn some lessons from history?

THE PEOPLE'S INTEREST, NOT SPECIAL INTERESTS

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I hope every American reads yesterday's Washington Post article on the Republican's real approach to campaign reform. This is sleight of hand and sleight of tongue, taken to its highest level.

While talking like the revolutionary, good government leader, GINGRICH has engineered the most aggressive quid pro quo ever seen in this city. We have seen lobbyists actually writing legislation and hear tell of the Republican list that determines which special interests get taken care of.

I challenge all freshmen Members, Democrats and Republicans, to join together and demand real reform now. None of us came here to be a part of a government that is for sale. The Republican majority has taken deception to a new high and government integrity to a new low. Mr. Speaker, this House should be more concerned with the people's interest than the special interest.

PRESIDENT HAS NOT MADE THE CASE FOR DEPLOYING TROOPS TO BOSNIA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, American service men and women should not be asked to risk their lives in Bosnia unless national security interests are threatened and military deployment would protect United States interests. President Clinton made a strong statement last night, describing the horrors in Bosnia. But he did not define what American national security interests are involved in Bosnia. And his statement did not establish that U.S. ground troops would resolve the Balkan conflict.

The people of the 21st District of Texas are committed to a strong American defense that protects our Nation's security interests around the world. Thousands in the 21st District have risked their lives to serve our Nation in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the gulf war. But America's leaders have a responsibility to ask for their service only when it is essential to protect our Nation's national security interests.

Before committing U.S. troops, the President should demonstrate that American national security interests are at risk and that U.S. military deployment can decisively advance our interests. President Clinton has not made this case.

LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, we spent \$2 billion going on \$3 billion in Haiti, and it is a mess.

We tried to do nation building in Somalia. We lost 18 young Americans, and we left Somalia, and the dictators, the warlords that were in charge, are still in charge over there. We spent hundreds of millions of dollars, and nothing was accomplished.

That foreign policy led to disaster. Now the President that got us into those two messes is going to send 20,000 to 30,000 young Americans into Sarajevo, into Bosnia. There are 60,000 people around Bosnia, Bosnian Serbs that say they are not going to abide by the treaty. Some of them said, "You saw Americans dragged through the streets of Somalia dead and naked. You are going to see the same things around Sarajevo." They are telling us what is going to happen.

There are 6 million land mines over there. We only know where 100,000 to 500,000 of them are, 6 million land mines.

This is a recipe for disaster.

We saw a terrible tragedy occur in Beirut when I first came to Congress. We saw 240-some marines blown to smithereens. The same thing may very well happen in Bosnia.

The President is making a monumental mistake. I do not think the American people want this to happen. I know they do not, and the President should listen to them.

FACTS ABOUT BENEFITS OF A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, over the past few months, congressional Democrats have used every scare tactic possible to attack the Republican balanced budget proposal. They accuse Republicans of taking away health care for senior citizens, trying to frighten senior citizens. Later they found out at the end of 7 years the part B premium, the Republican proposal is \$87, Mr. Clinton's proposal is \$84, only \$3 difference.

Then senior citizens find out, and they are really upset. This is what they call a deep cut?

Second, they are accusing that we are stealing school lunches from children. Later they found out that actually we are doing more money to local