

problem we have engaged in mindless fingerpointing that blames adversity on the system.

This rhetoric of blaming the victim and the poor must stop. Death's like these have occurred because of the systematic destruction of America's social safety net.

We must invest in our fellow human beings instead of turning our backs on them. If we fail to do this, there will be thousands more like Elisa and Debra.

It should not take these heinous crimes to serve as a wakeup call that we must change our course. Stop making excuses and start funding change.

#### SHOW US WHERE CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN, AND BE SPECIFIC

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, shortly after Bill Clinton took over as President, he presented his 1993 budget plan. He was, of course, criticized by Members of Congress on his spending and taxing priorities. He responded to his critics by demanding specifics on how they would do things differently.

In fact, here is a quote from February 18, 1993. In St. Louis, MO, the President said, "My answer is: Show me where, but be specific. No hot air. Show me where, and be specific."

Well, today Bill Clinton criticizes Congress' balanced budget proposal. In fact, he was willing to shut down the Government to prove his point.

He criticizes, but he provides no specifics. He trashes our budget, but he does not say how he would do things differently.

Mr. Speaker, the President should end the hot air campaign and show us exactly where he would do things differently. Show us where, and be specific.

#### DEMANDING AN ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF SPEAKER GINGRICH

(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, it is becoming clearer and clearer now why Speaker GINGRICH is pressuring Members of the Republican majority not to support the privileged resolution for the Ethics Committee to give the Members of this House and the American public a progress report on their 14-month-old investigation into the speaker's activities.

Today on the front page of nearly every major newspaper in America we are treated to the fact that the Speaker mixed campaign fundraising and his activities as a legislator. We see now tens of thousands of dollars contrib-

uted to the Speaker by those individuals that sought his legislative favors before the Congress of the United States, people who sought his favors dealing with asbestos regulation, with cement trade problems with Mexico, where the Speaker, in exchange for those \$10,000 contributions, wrote back to those individuals telling them he was terribly interested in their problems, he will look into it, or that he thanks them for their counsel on capital gains.

Mr. Speaker, the House rules are clear on the ethics. You cannot engage in that kind of activity when you are raising money from individuals, and then engage in favors for those individuals later on. The Ethics Committee ought to report to this House and to the American people.

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#### AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TROOPS IN BOSNIA

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, we have no business sending troops to Bosnia—plain and simple. That is the message I am hearing from the people I represent, Mr. Speaker, and one the President would do well to heed. I pray he's listening.

The President proposes to send troops trained for combat to somehow enforce an uneasy peace among antagonists who have been at each other's throats for five centuries. He's sending heavy armor in an area totally unsuited for modern armored warfare. He is placing Americans in contact with radical factions that have no love for the United States. Remember, not all of the combatants on the ground have embraced the peace agreement, adding further to a long list of factors which add up to a potential disaster.

In the final analysis, Mr. Speaker, we should never deploy combat troops abroad unless a national security interest is at stake. This deployment does not meet that simple test. Congress has spoken on this matter. The American people are speaking loud and clear. Listen to them, Mr. President. Stay out of Bosnia.

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA SCHROEDER

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor this morning to offer words of tribute to the gentlewoman from Colorado, PATRICIA SCHROEDER, my colleague. The gentlewoman took us all by surprise yesterday with her announcement. She deserves the thanks not only of thousands of grateful Coloradans but from an entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, whether on issues of military reform or women's rights or

the interests of the kids of America, she has been known to rock the boat when that was needed and to set a courageous course for America so many, many times. Her intelligence, her irreverence, her integrity has set the standard, but in no area more than in her wit and turn of phrase has she been an inspiration to so many of us over so many years.

The House of Representatives and the United States have been the richer for PAT SCHROEDER's selfless service.

#### ROOT OUT MEDIA BIAS

(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, in order to form opinions and reach conclusions, the American people trust the media to present the facts objectively. Unfortunately, all too often this is not done.

Editorials, in the guise of news stories, regularly appear on the front pages of newspapers. Some reporters don't wait beyond the first paragraph to reveal their bias.

In the age of 15-second sound bites, positions on complex issues are reduced to "for" or "against," with no explanations.

The lack of the public's trust in the media is glaringly revealed by two 1995 public opinion surveys.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll found that 60 percent of those surveyed think the media is out of touch with average Americans. In a Wall Street Journal/NBC News Poll, only 21 percent said the media are very or mostly honest.

Publishers, editors, producers, and reporters can better protect our democracy if they will initiate efforts to root out bias and present the facts objectively to a public yearning for the truth.

#### ALLOWING DEBATE ON PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, in my new quasi-emeritus status, let me talk to the Members of the other side of the aisle. We are going to have a very important privileged resolution come in front of this House today, and that resolution we should be allowed to debate. If they vote to table it, we cannot even debate it. That resolution is about what is the status of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct's report on all the many, many charges against the Speaker.

Please, I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, get your voting cards back, get your spines out of the Cloakroom. We ought to have that kind of a report, especially on a day when the newspapers in America are filled with articles talking about how the Federal Election Commission has

said the appearance of corruption is spread all over GOPAC and the Speaker's fundraising. If he cannot abide by the laws that are in force, if there is not an appearance of corruption, we must get a report from the Ethics Committee, or we are part of the coverup. If you vote to table, you are covering up. Do not do it.

#### MORE COMPASSION FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. DURBIN. The Gingrich Republicans just do not understand the problems facing working families, but do not take my word for it. Take the word of the Consumers Union. I hope you are familiar with this organization. They publish Consumers Report. They are noncommercial, nonpolitical.

Yesterday, they analyzed the Gingrich Republican budget and its impact on working families, particularly when it comes to Medicaid, the program that pays for over half the cost of nursing homes across America.

Mr. Speaker, if you have a member of your family in a nursing home or if you anticipate that possibility, it is a troubling challenge to every family. It costs on average \$38,000 a year to keep a person in a nursing home, and the Federal Government picks up the lion's share of that cost so that families will not be decimated and bankrupted by this experience. The Gingrich Republican budget, according to Consumers Union, will force 395,000 long-term care patients off these Medicaid payments for nursing homes.

Now, what will happen to these working families? I wish they had the same sensitivity for working families as they have when they give tax breaks to the wealthy.

#### JOIN WITH US TO GOVERN

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my colleague from Illinois, and I dare say to find some of the most stunning fiction in this Nation one no longer needs to visit bookstores, one no longer need go to the library. Simply listen to the rhetoric chanted almost as a mindless mantra from those disciples of big Government who fail to understand one basic principle. You work hard for the money you earn, you ought to hang on to more of it and send less of it here to Washington.

The fact is, and we will repeat it again, we are not making these draconian cuts the other side attributes. We are restraining the rate of growth to save the very programs they purport to champion. Sooner or later, my friends on the other side of the aisle, the lib-

erals in this Chamber and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue will have to step forward with us and govern.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we extend our hand. Join with us and govern. The American people deserve no less.

#### IMPOVERISHING FAMILIES IS NO WAY TO BALANCE BUDGET

Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, no, we will not join in an effort that, as the report issued on Wednesday by the Consumers Union says, and these are the folks, my friends, when you go to buy your car, you look at the Consumer Reports to find out if you are getting a bum deal or if you are going to get a good deal.

Let me tell you what kind of a bum deal that the folks in this country are going to get. The Republican plans for the transformation of Medicaid may force thousands of American families into financial ruin.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid pays the bills of 60 percent of nursing home residents in this country. Under the Republican plan, 395,000 of our Nation's long-term care patients are likely to lose Medicaid payment for their care.

Most appalling is that the Republican plan would repeal current regulations that protect the assets of the families of nursing home patients.

In fact, this bill would actually allow a State to place a lien on your home if your mother or father is in a nursing home and cannot pay the bill. Mr. Speaker, families should not have to hawk their homes to pay for the medical care of loved ones. Impoverishing American families is no way to balance the budget.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The Chair would remind the Members that we are in 1 minutes, and the Chair would appreciate it if Members would stay within 1 minute.

#### VOTING CARD WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CREDIT CARD

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, as one of those who came to Washington to change how Washington works, I found the last year so very interesting.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in the House use this plastic card. It is a card that we carry, and the interesting thing is, our friends on the left, the Democrats, for the last 26 years have used this card, their voting card, as the world's most expensive credit card, running up a \$4.9 trillion national debt.

What does that mean to the people in the land of Lincoln, my home State of

Illinois? Well, everybody's share is \$19,000 if we wanted to pay off that national debt. We have been operating under deficit spending for 26 years. Not since Neil Armstrong has Congress balanced the budget.

Just like every American family, Republicans are committed to living within our means. We have a plan which balances the budget over 7 years. We increase spending for Medicare by \$724 billion over 7 years. We increase Medicaid funding for the State of Illinois by 55 percent. We have a plan to balance the budget. We reform welfare.

Where is the Democrat leadership plan? Where is the President's plan?

#### CONGRESS OF BUSINESS, BY BUSINESS, AND FOR BUSINESS

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, a year ago Speaker GINGRICH signed what he called a solemn Contract With America to end Congress' cycle of scandal and disgrace. Yet all we see today is government as usual, even worse than usual.

Record levels of campaign contributions. The Washington Post reports that the majority whip is known as the hammer because he hammers people for contributions. Yesterday, we saw again more of this as we read in the Wall Street Journal how contributions are becoming more and more closely linked to legislative favors. While business should certainly be at the table, this has become a Congress of business, by business, and for business.

Then, finally, today we read, according to the FEC, that GOPAC, the Speaker's fat-cat PAC, gave him a quarter of a million dollars in hidden Newt support. Yes, we said yesterday disclosure for lobbyists but, of course, no disclosure for the Speaker. This bill came 5 years too late.

#### BALANCED BUDGET BONUS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget by 2002 means a bonus for current and future generations. Lower interest rates, for example, will mean that people from Michigan will save \$3,914 per year on an average fixed-rate mortgage. Students at Michigan State University would save, on average, \$584 on a 10-year student loan.

Republicans have passed a budget that balances by 2002, paving the way for American families to reap the benefits it will bring for our economy.

The President has produced no specific plan to balance the budget. His refusal to offer his own details not only risks missing this opportunity to have a balanced budget, lower mortgages,