

Three guilty verdicts, one dismissed, one to be investigated, one pending. We are all in here together. The Committee on Ethics is our committee. It is a membership committee. It is our grand jury. I regret we have had to bring pressure to bear for them to act, to do what they were asked to do in the first place. This is a time to move forward in a more bipartisan and a more ethical process.

MORE IDEAS NEEDED FROM WHITE HOUSE ON BALANCING BUDGET

(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, it is without venom or vitriol that I rise today to respectfully suggest that the major story in Washington yesterday took place not here, but at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, where the President of the United States again opted for showmanship over statesmanship, wielding Lyndon Johnson's pen from 1965, the pen LBJ used to sign the Medicare Act even as the current President was vetoing the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. And, in doing so, again the President opted for fear over facts, when he talked about nonexistent cuts in the Medicare budget. That simply was not true.

Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully suggest that the President of the United States and his Cabinet-level officials get out a sharpened pencil, instead of LBJ's pen, and go to work formulating a plan to get us to a balanced budget in 7 years, because a sharpened pencil is what American families use around the kitchen table to decide how they are going to spend money.

And, oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, one unintended act of symbolism: When the President reached for LBJ's pen, there was no ink in the well. There are no ideas coming from the White House, nor from the minority.

DEFENDING AMERICANS LOOKING FOR A BETTER LIFE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, after the President's wise veto of the radical right budget, NEWT GINGRICH tried to bash the Great Society.

Well, I wonder if GINGRICH even wants a good society.

A good society protects the health and welfare of its most vulnerable—the Gingrich society hangs them out to dry.

But the Speaker thinks he can get away with that rhetoric since he used to be a history professor.

Well, let's talk history: the proud history of the Democratic party—and compare it with the sad history being written by today's GOP.

And the latest chapter: the Speaker's sharp rebuke by the Ethics Committee.

We Democrats are the party of FDR's New Deal that gave America economic security. Today's Republicans are the party of the Newt Deal—a shady book deal to give himself economic security. We are the party of Harry Truman who said the "Buck Stops Here." The Gingrich party tells GOPAC contributors "The Bucks better get here" if you want any help.

Democrats are the party of JFK's "Camelot"—today's Republicans are the party of "Scam-a-lot," as one Gingrich ethics scam after another comes to light.

Republicans try to defend the Speaker's millions in illegal contributions. We Democrats will defend millions of Americans looking for a better life.

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STRUGGLING OVER THE BUDGET

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today is December 7 and we remember that this is Pearl Harbor day. It was the beginning of the World War II struggle in the Pacific. Today we are starting another struggle over the budget. The President's budget is now available. It is hot off the presses, and I am very optimistic. I hope it is as close to the 7-year Republican plan as the President's Medicare plan is to the Republican Medicare plan.

According to James Glassman of the Washington Post, the expenditures in the President's Medicare plan in 2002 is within 2 percentage points of the Republican plan, 1.6 percent, actually. I am sure all of us have heard about the massive \$270 billion cuts to Medicare. Well, the President's plan is within 2 percentage points.

Mr. Speaker, let us get to the truth of the matter. After all, telling the truth is one of the Ten Commandments. We should move beyond this cheap talk. If the President's plan is that close, 1.6 percent, then maybe we can reach an agreement on the 7-year balanced budget plan. Then we will do what the American public wants, what the Congress wants, we will do the right thing and balance the budget in 7 years.

UNITED NATIONS SEEKS PROTECTION FOR CROATIAN CURLY-HAIRED PIG

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after an expensive study on endangered farm animals, the United Nations has determined that the world must protect the Croatian curly-haired pig. That is right, while millions are starving in Af-

rica, and many thousands are being slaughtered in Rwanda, the United Nations is immersed in animal husbandry.

If that is not enough to bust your chops, while the United Nations is studying the ham hocks of Croatian curly-haired pigs, with American tax dollars, I might add, American troops are landing in Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, I say the United Nations has officially become the mother of all pork. I question on the House floor today, I want to know what they are using to smoke those hams with. I think they are using something that is an illegal contraband everywhere in the world.

With that, I yield back the balance of all of the rest of this pork. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

DEMOCRATS VOW TO GET EVEN WITH SPEAKER GINGRICH

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, remember back when Speaker Jim Wright had to resign from Congress due to his ethics problems? Remember when the Democratic whip, Tony Coelho, had to resign from Congress due to his ethics problems? Back in 1989 the Democrats held NEWT GINGRICH responsible for Wright and Coelho and vowed to get even with him, saying they would destroy GINGRICH if it is the last thing we do.

Well, we have to give the Democrats credit for trying to do just that. Majority whip Bill Alexander filed 467 ethics charges against Speaker GINGRICH in 1989. All charges were resolved. This year the Democrats filed 65 charges against Speaker GINGRICH and all but 1 has been resolved by the nonpartisan Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. The last charge involves a complex Tax Code which an outside counsel will look at.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to quit all these ridiculous character assassinations and get down to the legislative business at hand and work on balancing the budget.

EAST TIMORESE SUBJECT TO WORST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE WORLD

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago today the small emerging nation of East Timor was brutally invaded by the nation of Indonesia. Over the past 20 years, the people of East Timor have been subject to some of the worst abuses of human rights in the world. More than 200,000 East Timorese, almost one-third of their entire population, have been killed or have died from starvation after being forced from their villages by Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, this attack cannot be countenanced. This violence must end. That is why today, with my colleague from New York, Mrs. LOWEY, I am introducing the East Timor Human Rights Accountability Act. This bill simply says that no United States aid to Indonesia can be used to further the occupation of East Timor or to violate the human rights of the people of East Timor. If it is, this aid will end.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York for joining me and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring this legislation.

DEMOCRATS SEEK TO DESTROY RATHER THAN FIGHT IDEAS OF SPEAKER GINGRICH

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, last evening the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, as we have heard, dismissed 64 of the 65 allegations against our Speaker. There will be more to come. This has been a systematic effort to destroy an individual rather than fight his ideas. There will be more to come.

The gentleman from Florida who spoke, Mr. JOHNSTON, who has been putting the privileged resolution on the floor that has been tabled twice, was quoted in his own hometown paper in Florida as having said I am part of a small group that meets weekly to pour over everything the Speaker says to find where we can file ethics charges against him.

This is an old story. We have heard it said here that in 1989 they said, and I quote, "We will destroy GINGRICH if it is the last thing we do". There will be more to come.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud that the Speaker can stick to his issues and the ideas. It is unfortunate that the other side is not willing to engage the ideas.

HISTORY BEING REWRITTEN REGARDING COMPLAINTS FILED AGAINST SPEAKER

(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, history is being rewritten down here in this well today. I want to tell my colleagues that when I listen to the other side, I have heard of putting lipstick on pigs, but they are really going crazy this morning.

Now, the way I see it is, there were 6 complaints filed, not 65. Six complaints. Three of them he was declared guilty by the bipartisan Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Guilty, guilty, guilty. Three complaints. Please, let us not rewrite what has been done. It is a record of this House.

On one of the others, they moved to get a special counsel to look into it.

That is very serious. One is still pending, and there are more supposedly coming to be filed. I think these are very serious. We should not play partisan politics with this, and this is not get-even time. The Democrats don't have to do anything to Speaker GINGRICH. All we have to do is stand back and let NEWT be NEWT. He is doing it, and I think it is really causing great trouble.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT PROVIDED THOUGHTFUL AND THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST SPEAKER

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Connecticut, Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON, and her bipartisan Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the thoughtful and thorough job that they did, the thorough consideration, and the fact that they threw out 64 of these 65 complaints against our Speaker.

I want to be clear also, Mr. Speaker. Ethics charges are serious charges, and they should not be used for partisan purposes. So I am delighted the committee has declared in a unanimous bipartisan report that 64 of the 65 charges are dismissed. And the last charge, which was a matter of tax exempt status for a university, will be observed by an outside adviser.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that Democrats are on the wrong side of history. Their ideas have been rejected by the American people and their institutions are the cause of our \$5 trillion national debt. The liberalism they have defended for a generation has left a legacy of debt, a culture of dependence and the breakdown of our American families. As they see it, the only hope left to them as a party is to destroy one man's character. It is wrong, it will not work, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct report proves it.

SPEAKER'S PLAN TO ABOLISH MEDICAID IS BAD IDEA

(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, when is Speaker GINGRICH going to get it? His plan to abolish Medicaid is a bad idea. He is not listening to seniors, seniors who will lose their long-term nursing home care. He is not listening to the American Medical Association, who warned him this week not to end the Federal guaranty to health care coverage for low-income women and for children.

Let us hope he listens to the participants at yesterday's White House con-

ference on AIDS, participants who made it clear that his proposal will be devastating for people with AIDS. I wonder if my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, that half of all people with HIV and AIDS in my home State of California rely on Medicaid for health coverage? Destroy the Medicaid safety net and people with AIDS will be denied treatment and care and will be forced into expensive hospital emergency rooms.

Mr. Speaker, listen to persons with HIV and AIDS, listen to the American Medical Association, listen to seniors, women, and children. Do not pay for special interest taxes by taking away health care from the most vulnerable Americans.

LET US NOT PLAY POLITICS BUT BALANCE THE BUDGET BY 2002

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thought today with the President's budget coming out it would be a new sort of "Honesty In Congress Day," but I see the rhetoric has shifted from facts and figures and how we achieve a balanced budget to character assassination.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a joyous day for some of us, as we see the President's budget that is going to turn out very close to what the Republicans have proposed, if we are going to reach that balanced budget in 7 years. I look at Jim Glassman's column today. It says it is scandalous how close Congress and President Clinton actually are on the key elements of the Federal budget. If Americans understood these numbers, they would be outraged.

I look at the New York Times article that says White House documents reveal similarities in the GOP plans for Medicare. Mr. Glassman says, "In my own judgment, it is," that lack of the deal, is Clinton's fault.

Mr. Speaker, there is closeness to this agreement. Let us get together. Let us forget partisan politics. Let us get a balanced budget by 2002.

PRESIDENT VETOED BUDGET THAT MADE DEVASTATING CUTS IN MEDICAID AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear my Republican colleagues defending Speaker GINGRICH today. You heard that right. They are defending the Speaker they elected earlier this year. But that is not what I am here to talk about, I am here to say I am proud that the President vetoed the Republican budget yesterday with the same pen Lyndon Baines Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law, because he believes