

average American, fair to the elderly, fair to the young, and fair to the average citizen.

VETOING THE BALANCED BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the President has missed a historic opportunity to reverse his spending addiction. Since his 1992 campaign, Bill Clinton has told America that he would balance the budget in 5 years, 10 years, 8 years, 9 years, and even 7 years.

When the President vetoed the balanced budget plan he showed the American people his true colors. The President does not want to balance the Federal budget. Not now, not ever.

America, don't be fooled. The President will say anything.

He will tell you that Republican efforts to balance the budget are extreme. He will tell you that Republicans are cutting Medicare. He will tell you that Republicans are taking food out of the mouths of children. He will tell you that Republicans are taking away student loans.

That is not true. He tells you this because he loves big government, big spending, and big taxes.

□ 1145

GOPAC

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

Ms. VALÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of a sense of deep outrage. Not long ago this House-passed legislation on lobbying reform, but it seems the Speaker feels he and his personal slush fund were exempt from it.

It's no wonder that the Speaker refuses to act on campaign finance reform, when there are allegations that GOPAC financed his own campaign to the tune of \$250,000. The evidence is so damning that last night the Ethics Committee issued a stinging rebuke to Speaker NEWT GINGRICH.

My colleagues, I call on the Speaker himself to release the list of past GOPAC donors, and the list of past GOPAC contributions to his own campaign.

Mr. Speaker, if you really have nothing to hide, then you have nothing to be afraid of. The American people demand the truth, it is time for you to come clean and end this charade.

BALANCED BUDGET PEN

(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, the only thing that stands between this country and a balanced budget is President Bill Clinton. Unfortunately, he ve-

toed the only balanced budget bill in the Oval Office yesterday. Instead of balancing the budget, the President has made it clear that he wants more spending, not less spending.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that the American people's priorities are just the opposite. It seems to me that the people want a smaller, less costly, and more efficient Federal Government. The American people want to keep more of their hard-earned money through tax cuts, not tax increases. The American people want an economy that stimulates job creation, not stifles economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, by vetoing the Balanced Budget Act, it's obvious the President doesn't know what the American people want. So I'll tell him. The American people want a balanced budget, and they want it now.

HOOKED ON REAGANOMICS

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that for the last few weeks, my Republican colleagues have stopped talking about saving Medicare. That's probably because no one believes that cutting \$270 billion from Medicare while providing \$245 billion in tax breaks will save anything except the lifestyles of the rich and famous.

Now the Republicans talk only about balancing the budget. However, their so-called balanced budget proposal actually increases the deficit next year and the year after that. This should come as no surprise considering that their tax breaks come first, while leaving the hard spending cuts to future Congresses. That is exactly what Ronald Reagan did to increase our debt by \$3 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, it appears my Republican colleagues can't help repeating the mistakes of the past. I suppose that's what happens when you're hooked on Reaganomics.

WHAT ARE THE DEMOCRATS TALKING ABOUT

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment to comment on what we are hearing from the other side of the aisle today. Particularly because yesterday the President vetoed the most important bill, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, that has ever come across his desk. And after 2 years and 11 months, we are still waiting to see his version of a balanced budget.

Here is what most of the Democrats are talking about today, Speaker GINGRICH. Let me just tell my colleagues, selective memory is a fine thing, but there is a fine line between self-righteousness and hypocrisy, or have they forgotten the House bank and post office scandals that happened on their

watch. Have they forgotten the two votes in the last Congress when they voted to block a Committee on Standards of Official Conduct investigation into Dan Rostenkowski who was then a member of the House Democratic Party leadership, for allegations of misconduct and ghost employees, the same gentleman who is under indictment today. They have forgotten that.

Here is the bottom line with this discussion. If my Democratic colleagues had any ideas on how to solve the major problems facing our country, they would be down here talking about them and not just continuing this character assassination against the Speaker.

I think the American people see through it. It is time to get on with the people's business. It is time to do the right thing for our kids and our country, and it is time to balance the budget.

DEMOCRATS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, no, we have not forgotten. We thought you had. But finally after the filing of many complaints against Speaker NEWT GINGRICH and 14 months later, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct found the Speaker guilty, guilty, guilty on one, two, three counts of violating House rules by misusing official resources and the committee appointed a special outside counsel to investigate another serious charge about the Speaker's political GOPAC operation.

Well, it is about time. Believe me, the American public does not appreciate double standards. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. No one should be so big, so important, so powerful they can violate the rules of this House and the laws of this country without suffering the consequences. NEWT may be Speaker, however, he, too, must account for any and all wrongdoing. It is about time.

Let us get on with the business of finding out who NEWT GINGRICH really is.

DOING WHAT WE WERE SENT HERE TO DO

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

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, let us face it. What is going on here is an outrageous attempt to reverse the election results of 1994. The defenders of big government did not like the fact that a Republican majority came in and agreed we were going to balance the budget and reduce the size of the Government. So they turned to outrageous personal attacks against the Speaker of the House.

The fact is the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, led by a very able, nonpartisan, tough lady, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] dismissed 64 of the 65 complaints. There was nothing wrong with the Newt book deal. They never said he was guilty of anything. But the other side is going to continue these character assassinations because they view that as the only way they can regain control, reverse the election, and once again turn back the clock and go for more spending, more deficits, and the ruin of this country.

This freshman class was sent here to get the job done. We will not be deterred by these types of personal attacks on our leader. We will stay here to balance the budget and do what the American people sent us here to do.

THE GOPAC DEAL

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, about 6 months ago I addressed this House about the GOPAC deal with NEWT GINGRICH. My words were written down then necessarily. But the mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly well. So the mills of the gods have caught up with Mr. GINGRICH, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has said that it is time to really look at the true facts.

The Republicans have showered this floor with acrimony, swaggering bravado. I have heard the President vilified and called a bugger. I have heard welfare recipients called alligators, all from this side of the aisle. So to say now that we are trying to assassinate Mr. GINGRICH's character is wrong. We are not trying to do that.

I am happy to say today that the President of the United States vetoed the reconciliation bill and well he should have. Regardless of the type of pen that he used, he turned back this really, really vicious attack against the poor and the elderly and the underserved of this country.

ETHICS COMMITTEE RESULTS

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand before this House and thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON], for her courage. She is one of the most ethical people I have ever met.

I think colleagues on both sides of the aisle can agree. During this thorough, bipartisan investigation by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, she was not allowed to defend the actions of the committee. The investigation committee had six different specific complaints. Five of them were dropped. Only one is being

looked at, and that is to hire a special counsel to investigate the tax implications of two nonprofit organizations which helped the Speaker in his course, a course that was in 21 universities, a course for which he never received a penny.

Was he guilty of encouraging people to call an 800 number to learn more about this course? Yes, if you call that guilt.

Was he guilty he had an unpaid advisor help him during the transition to decide who he should hire in his office? Yes, if you call that guilt, I do not.

He had a town meeting and he advertised his town meeting on the floor of the House.

Bottom line: The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct dropped five of the six complaints and is having a special counsel look at the one remaining issue, the tax implications of the Speaker's college course.

I salute my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. They worked hard and resolved a number of difficult issues on a bipartisan basis. I hope we can now get back to the business of balancing our Federal budget.

PRESIDENTIAL VETO

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the more the American people know about the Gingrich revolution, the less they like.

I was so proud yesterday when the President vetoed the Gingrich budget. It is what the American people have asked him to do. The American people have spoken. They do not support a budget that cuts Medicare and Medicaid, education and the environment to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. Last month the President cut a deal with the Republicans to balance the budget in 7 years while protecting the priorities of the American people. The budget that the President vetoed yesterday failed to meet that agreement because it did not protect the values that the American public holds so dear. It is time for the Republicans to send the President a balanced budget that protects the priorities of the American people and then he will sign it and then we can get on with the business of the people.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. PETERSON] is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON], offered a privileged resolution concerning the investigation by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of Speaker GINGRICH. This request was nonprejudicial. It was not a character assassination. It simply asked for a report of the activities of that committee.

Last night's action by the committee and the assurance that the House will receive a report on the investigation was welcome news. I regret we had to resort to a privileged resolution to get such a report, but in light of last night's announcement, I am announcing that we will not offer our privileged resolution as planned today.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2099, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 291 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 291

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the further conference report to accompany, and the amendment reported from conference in disagreement on, the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration, and against the motion printed in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference to dispose of the amendment of the Senate numbered 63, are waived. The conference report, the amendment reported in disagreement, and the motion shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its final adoption without intervening motion except debate pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule XXVIII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. QUILLEN] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.