

welders and auto body specialists do we need? Pantyhose crotch-closers?

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Since NAFTA, 50,000 American workers have lost their jobs. Just last week Boeing laid off 3,200 Americans, moved to Mexico. They were making \$18 an hour in Seattle. They will make 76 cents in Mexicali.

Ladies and gentlemen, you are talking about balancing the budget? America and Congress will never balance the budget with jobs at Mickey D's.

It is time to take a look at the loss of jobs, ladies and gentlemen.

GET RID OF SECRETARY O'LEARY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to try to achieve a balanced budget, I think we ought to keep in mind the one Cabinet Secretary who has been singled out by Vice President GORE for doing, and I quote the Vice President, "a fabulous job on eliminating unnecessary spending." Yes, I am talking about the administration's poster child for government frugality, Hazel O'Leary.

How can we be so callous, so downright mean-spirited, Mr. Speaker, as to work for a balanced budget at a time when the Secretary of Energy already may be going a whole night or two without staying in a 5-star European hotel at taxpayer expense?

The Vice President insists that she is doing, in his words, a fabulous job. But here is a question: The law clearly states in title 5, section 3107, that a Cabinet Secretary may not use appropriated funds to pay a publicity expert unless the money has been appropriated specifically for that purpose. Was that law violated by Mrs. O'Leary when she used taxpayer dollars to hire a private PR firm?

Let us look into that. Let us balance the budget. Let us get rid of Secretary O'Leary.

□ 1015

GET ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, when the Republicans took over this House in January, they said they would run this Government like a business. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am still looking for the business that would run this Government like the Republicans are running it. They are sending home workers because they are upset they are not getting their own way, and in the end they are going to pay them. I would like to see one business, just one business in this country, that is going to send home its employees because it is so mad it is not getting its own way,

and then is going to pay them in the end.

There is no reason to send these people home. They should work if they want to work. And why are they sending them home? They are not getting their own way, because President Clinton and the Democrats in Congress are saying "No, we don't want seniors' monthly premiums for Medicare to raise at four times the rate of inflation. We think that is wrong. And we think it is wrong that you have tax cuts that disproportionately go to the richest people in this country."

Yes, Mr. Speaker, some day we should have a tax cut, but we should not have the hot fudge sundae until after we eat the vegetables. Let us get our economic house in order first, and then let us talk about tax cuts.

AFL-CIO SPENDING UNION MONEY TO ATTACK BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, opponents of the Republican effort to balance the budget have made a number of attempts to frighten the American people. It began with medi-scare, continued with edu-scare, and now it culminates with union-scare. The Washington based leadership of the AFL-CIO intends to spend \$22 million on a campaign that attacks Republican efforts to balance the budget. Their campaign, however, is not based on the facts of the Republican plan to balance the budget, but rather on a series of lies, half-truths, and distortions.

The interesting part of this campaign is that the \$22 million is being financed by dues, fees, fines, and other special assessments on the hardworking men and women who are members of the AFL-CIO and their affiliate unions. Moreover, it is also important to note that this money is not being spent to further the interests of the union members, but rather is being spent to advance the political interests and agenda of the AFL-CIO's newly elected leadership. I wonder if the men and women who are paying for this campaign would support the use of their \$22 million, if they were aware that it was being used to advance purely political objectives that stand in the way of a balanced Federal budget and brighter future for all Americans.

BALANCED BUDGET PLAN AFFECTS RETIREES

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, what this budget debate is all about is the Republican plan to give a \$253 billion tax break to wealthy individuals and to repeal the minimum corporate tax. And where does the GOP balanced budget plan leave real people, like Mrs. Johnson, who wrote to me and said:

I will be 65 years old next month, but have been disabled for 9 years. At this point in time I'm very concerned about what will happen to me and my husband when changes in Medicare are made. My check is for \$332, which doesn't cover the cost of the supplemental health insurance. My husband's check is \$670 a month. At present he is quite ill and in the VA hospital.

We tried to save for our retirement years, but I had to quit my job as a nursing assistant because of many health problems. This means we have spent more just to get by than we have in income. At this rate, our small savings will not go too far. I don't know what the answers are to these problems, but I desperately hope a solution can be found that won't make life harder.

BALANCING RIGHTS OF ALL PARTIES IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

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

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, in two hearings earlier this year, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities heard from witnesses who shared their experiences with so-called "union salters." In many cases, paid union organizers, known as salters, sought employment simply to disrupt the employer's workplace or to force the employer out of business or to defend itself against frivolous charges filed with the National Labor Relations Board [NLRB]. For most of these companies—many of which were smaller businesses—the economic harm inflicted by the union's salting campaigns was devastating.

Mr. Speaker, last month the Supreme Court issued a decision that such salters were nevertheless employees under the National Labor Relations Act [NLRA] and thus entitled to all rights and protections of that act.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that any employer is entitled to know that its employees are loyal employees not being paid by others to be destructive to its business. I am therefore exploring legislative alternatives for curbing the abusive practices involved with salting. The Court's decision notwithstanding, we must retain and ensure the balance of rights of employers and employees that is fundamental to the system of collective bargaining.

FAMILY FRIENDLY CONGRESS

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, welcome to the family friendly Congress. If you are a Federal employee, say, at NASA, tell the kids "Sorry, no Christmas. Dad is out of work. Santa ain't coming. The grinch stole Christmas."

If you are a tourist visiting the Smithsonian with your kids, sorry, no Air and Space Museum. But what about buying a coin?

If you are a veteran, sorry, no Veterans Administration.

Mr. Speaker, this is family unfriendly, because this House, your House, has failed to do its duty. You did not pass your budget in time, you did not pass your appropriations in time, you failed to realize how the Constitution works. And if all of America does not accept your budget, Medicare cuts, tax cuts and all, then there is no deal, no Christmas, sorry, kids, sorry, America.

The Constitution does not work that way. This Congress is not working the way that our forefathers intended it to.

TIME TO BALANCE BUDGET IS NOW

(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 time to balance the budget is now. For 40 years, the liberal politicians in this town were willing to put off decisions until tomorrow. And look what it got us—a 5 trillion dollar debt.

No, let me rephrase that. Look what it got our children—a 5 trillion dollar debt. You see, Mr. Speaker, that's what this debate is really about. It's about our children and it's about our children's children. Unless we stand firm now, their future doesn't look very bright. But if we can just restrain our spending, we can help restore the American dream for our children.

That is a Christmas gift worth giving the American people. Mr. Speaker, I'm tired of hearing excuses from the President. It's time to do the right thing for our children's future—it's time to balance the budget. So we ask the President, put a real plan on the table. Help us save the next generation. Balance the budget now.

FREE THE NATION'S CAPITAL

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to alert this body that the Capital of the United States is still hanging out there about to choke. The conference report that was to materialize yesterday did not because of the complications here and in the Senate.

The conference report, I am told, will come forward today. That would be the ball game. That is the right way to handle this. We are already into extra innings that are killing the Capital of the United States.

An agreement structured by the Speaker himself will come before us as the conference report. Vouchers will be out, not because this body wanted them out or because the Speaker wanted them out, but because of a filibuster in the Senate. It is an act of leadership by the Speaker to bring it forward, and I appreciate that. I understand he will speak for it.

It would be easy for this body to sit this out, but nobody wants to shut the

Capital of the United States down. We are now running on empty. Even the gentleman from New York [Mr. WALSH], who does not support this report, does not want to shut the District down. Do the responsible thing; free the District of Columbia.

TIME FOR SECRETARY O'LEARY TO RESIGN AND FOR THE PRESIDENT TO NEGOTIATE A BALANCED 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, it is no wonder the President is unable to come up with a balanced budget. He has Secretary O'Leary tied around his neck like a millstone. Secretary O'Leary has taken 16 international trips, she takes as many as 50 staffers with her, 60 other guests, she hires photographers and video crews to catch her at her best. She has 520 public relations employees. She has a personal media consultant, even hired a private investigative firm to see what reporters and Congressmen are trying to see which reporters and Congressmen tarnish her image, all at a cost of about \$30 million to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, it is not about the tax breaks for the rich or Medicare. That is all bogus. It is about wasting millions of dollars. Mike Royko of the Washington Times had it right:

Buy a rope, tie one end of the rope to Mrs. O'Leary's ankle, tie the other end to her desk. See, whipping the deficit doesn't seem to be so complicated.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Secretary O'Leary to resign, and it is time for the President to honestly negotiate a balanced budget.

TIME TO STOP PLAYING GAMES

(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, last month, Speaker GINGRICH shut down the Government because he did not like his seat on Air Force One. Now he is at it again.

This time Speaker GINGRICH has shut down the Government to try to get his way on the budget, throwing more than 200,000 people out of work a week before Christmas. These families are being used as pawns in the Speaker's attempt to force through huge cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment, all to pay for a \$245 billion tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, they are so wedded to this tax break, the crown jewel of the Contract on America, that they are willing to put the lives of 200,000 working Americans at risk. These folks are not being paid one week before Christmas holidays, and they are willing to put those lives at risk in order to give their rich CEO friends this tax break.

Stop playing games with people's lives. Have a budget that protects Medicare, Medicaid, and America's priorities.

BEAM ME UP

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to point out to the gentlewoman who just spoke that as she well knows, it was the President who vetoed three bills that could have put all of those workers back to back.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOKE. No, I will not yield.

Ms. DELAURO. If the gentleman will yield, he knows that is not true.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I have got to tell you about something I read in the paper this morning. It says Clinton told reporters before yesterday's meeting that now he thinks it is possible to reach the GOP goal of a balanced budget by 2002, using the conservative economic calculations by CBO.

Mr. Speaker, in the words of my good friend, fellow Ohioan and honorary theme team member, "Beam me up." Beam me up. It is unbelievable. The President says that he thinks it is possible to reach the GOP goal of a balanced budget by 2002. Did he read the language of the CR that he personally signed into law before he signed it? Did he read that language agreeing to do exactly that 30 days ago? And now he tells us, now he tells us that he thinks well, maybe it is possible to do that.

Mr. Speaker, what planet is the President on? This is just incredible.

AMBASSADOR SPIEGEL DESERVES OUR RESPECT

(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, in the Washington Post this morning there is a report about the majority leader and the Speaker expressing concern about remarks made by Ambassador Dan Spiegel, our U.N. representative in Geneva, for allegedly attacking the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Spiegel's remarks were taken out of context. He was not attacking the Congress. He was discussing the impact of a growing isolationist trend which has had a devastating impact on our payments to the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Dan Spiegel worked in the U.S. Senate for 6 years for Senator Hubert Humphrey. He has great respect for this institution. In any event, Ambassador Spiegel has apologized and the matter should be put to rest.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Spiegel is one of our best ambassadors. We should now move on, now that his remarks have been clarified. He deserves our