

H.J. Res. 69. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Homer Alfred Neal as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution;

H.J. Res. 110. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Howard H. Baker, Jr. as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution;

H.J. Res. 111. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Anne D'Harnoncourt as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; and

H.J. Res. 112. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of Louis Gerstner as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1228. An act to deter investment in the development of Iran's petroleum resources;

S. 1340. An act to establish a Commission on Concentration in the Livestock Industry, and for other purposes;

S. 1429. An act to provide clarification in the reimbursement to States for federally funded employees carrying out Federal programs during the lapse in appropriations between November 14, 1995, through November 19, 1995; and

S. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent Resolution to authorize the printing of "Vice Presidents of the United States, 1789-1993".

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain fifteen 1-minute per side.

#### SAVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the headline in the Washington Post this morning is wrong. It says, "House Republicans Derail Budget Talks." We should make it perfectly clear that the person who derailed the budget talks was Vice President AL GORE when he came out to the microphones at the White House the other night after the Speaker and the majority leader in the Senate met with the President, and he poisoned the well by mischaracterizing the agreements that were made at the White House.

We are intent on balancing the budget, and we are intent on doing it now. We can give our children and our grandchildren the greatest Christmas present that anyone could ever leave to the next generation, and that is a balanced budget which means saving the American dream for our children and theirs.

We are going to do it, and we are going to do it now.

#### LET US FIND CHRISTMAS

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it is easy to be hard. It is hard to be both caring and responsible.

Some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, not all, but some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are determined to demonstrate to all America how hard they can be, my way or no way. Scrooge was hard.

The Christmas season, however, challenges us to care, to consider others, to reach out to our human beings, to embrace them. To share, to be caring can be hard.

The fatal plane crash over the mountains of Colombia and the near fatal plane crash on the runway of New York reminds us how all of our lives are uncontrollable, how the perils of our lives, we do not control that. We have many natural problems. We need not create more.

The stalled budget problem is one we created. We created that. This Congress and the President can bridge that gap between Medicare and Medicaid and the CBO numbers. Those are problems we created. They are easy.

I say to my Republican freshmen and others, be determined not to be hard.

Guess what, even Scrooge found Christmas. Please find Christmas.

#### MY MOM AND DAD: WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT

(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, at a time when the President and this Congress are engaged in an historic battle over finally balancing this Nation's budget, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the importance of this date, December 21, 1995, to me.

You see, 50 years ago today, December 21, 1945, a young soldier from Massachusetts who had just returned from the war in Europe and a young woman from North Carolina were married. Over that 50 years they raised four children. They now have 9 grandchildren and a 10th on the way. They are both now in their seventies. They are both on Social Security and Medicare, and they both realize, by the way, that we are not cutting Medicare or Social Security, despite what some in this House might allege.

They never had a lot of money, material goods, or that kind of wealth. But they did have something and they still have something that is more important. They have love. They are my mom and dad, and they are an example of what America is all about.

#### THE BUDGET DEBATE: DO NOT FORGET THE SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, we continue to resist a Republican budget with deep cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, a Republican budget which has already been repudiated by a broad cross-section of the American public.

And, as we continue to debate the Federal budget, I would like to remind my Republican colleagues that they should not lose sight of the budgets of thousands of senior citizens in their districts.

Today the elderly pay more out-of-pocket than ever before for Medicare coverage and supplemental insurance. In Rhode Island, they pay this with an average income of approximately \$16,000.

Yesterday the New York Times reported that MediGap premiums for over 3 million seniors will increase an average of 30 percent next year. MediGap is the supplemental insurance which is necessary to cover nonhospital medical expenses. In Rhode Island, the average premium increase will be 35 percent.

These higher premiums would come on top of the proposed increases to beneficiaries in the Republican budget.

The Republican budget will raise annual Medicare premiums by \$264 for an elderly couple in 1996 and nearly double premiums by 2002.

And on top of these significant increases, the Republicans also propose to eliminate the Medicaid entitlement which serves as a critical safety net for thousands of seniors in Rhode Island.

I urge we repudiate these massive cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

#### ANOTHER STRATEGY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, anybody who had the opportunity to watch the President's remarks yesterday, they would have seen the unveiling of yet another strategy at the White House. After backing away from the promise the President made 30 days ago to the American people to offer a balanced budget using real numbers, the President's latest strategy now has him labeling House Republican freshmen as being extremists and radical. Imagine that. The President of the United States, the leader of the free world, is now held hostage by the Republican freshman class.

Now, I have heard a lot of tall stories in my life, Mr. Speaker, but this one takes the cake. This latest attempt to tar and feather the Republicans as extremist boogymen is just more proof Bill Clinton has no ideas and that he is becoming increasingly irrelevant.

You know, it was just about a year ago the liberal media said that Bill Clinton was irrelevant. Considering his opposition, his opposition to an honest 7-year balanced budget, I think we now have an answer.

#### DO NOT WALK AWAY FROM OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO WORKING FAMILIES

(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, I am holding a copy of an advertisement that ran in today's Washington Post paid for by a group of business leaders who are calling for a balanced budget. What they don't say is what they are willing to sacrifice to achieve that goal. Will they have the courage to say "no" to corporate welfare and tax breaks?

The sponsors of this ad are questionable spokesmen for tightening our belts. Let me tell you about one, Lawrence Bossidy, the CEO of AlliedSignal. Mr. Bossidy earned \$12.3 million last year, while closing down a plant in my district, putting 1,400 people out of work.

Mr. Bossidy and the protectors of corporate subsidies could all learn a lesson from Aaron Feuerstein of Malden Mills. When his factory burnt to the ground earlier this month, Mr. Feuerstein did not walk away from his responsibility to his workers. This Congress should not walk away from our responsibility to America's working families by passing a Republican budget that protects corporate welfare, while cutting Medicare, Medicaid, and education for working families.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 359

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 359.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

#### WHOSE FAULT IS THE BUDGET STALEMATE?

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, well, you have seen the headlines in the New York Times and Washington Post. All I can say is consider the source. Two of the most liberal publications in America today naturally would want to blame the Republicans, someone like the Republican freshmen, for this.

What they did not do was watch the news conference of Vice President GORE the other night, two nights ago, when NEWT GINGRICH and BOB DOLE came back to this Capitol to brief us on what happened at the White House. There was a note of encouragement in their voices. It looked like we were on our way to getting something done.

At that very moment they were briefing us, AL GORE was in front of the cameras scuttling the whole deal, repudiating everything GINGRICH and DOLE thought they had heard.

Mr. Speaker, if anyone deserves the blame for the budget talks going south, it is Bill Clinton and his liberal Vice President, AL GORE. They refused to

deal in good faith. They refused to honor their commitment that they made last month, and now they want to blame freshman Republicans. Absolutely silly.

Does this not strain credibility, Mr. Speaker? Bill Clinton and his liberal administration refused to honor their commitments, and they do not deal in good faith.

#### PUNISH CRIMINALS, NOT THE TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the budget deficits.

Serial killer Joel Rifkin admitted to killing 17 women. They found the bodies of those victims in nearby creeks, even in his pickup truck bed, folks.

Joel Rifkin was sentenced to 152 years in jail where he will get free food, free health care, free clothing, free heat, free electricity, television.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It is time that America cuts this business out. The shallow graves of those 17 victims are crying out for justice. The only punishment here is the punishment to the American taxpayers.

Joel Rifkin should be put to death. Congress should say, "Good night, sweet prince," and maybe we would balance around here.

Yield back the balance of all the money here.

#### THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, there is no longer any doubt in my mind that President Clinton is the most powerful man in the world. Did you see what happened yesterday? The President came out to give a speech to the press, going on and on about how distraught he was over those evil Republicans who are insisting we actually balance the budget.

While he was talking, in direct reaction to his speech, the stock market dropped 50 points, it dropped 50 points in 10 minutes, just like that, bam, a 50-point drop.

Do you know why? Because every investor in the country was scared to death the President was actually being honest for once and would continue to block a real balanced budget. You see, America, that is the problem. There is only one person standing between the American people and a balanced budget, and unfortunately it happens to be the one man who can make the stock market drop 50 points in 10 minutes. It happens to be Bill Clinton.

#### THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today the Government is in the midst of its second shutdown. Not because Congress and the President cannot decide when and why to balance the budget. But because a radical minority does not care about the rest of America.

Speaker GINGRICH and company have chosen to inflict the maximum amount of pain on the American people, rather than offer solutions.

Last fall Republicans talked about a contract with the American people. I ask you, what about the contract with the elderly, the children, and the Americans in need?

These people will not be receiving the benefits checks that they were promised for food, shelter, and medicine—because this arrogant minority decided that it should be their way not the American way.

My colleagues, these contracts with the American people were in place well before any of us came to Congress. There is so much at stake for so many Americans. We cannot allow this extreme minority to keep stalling. Stop this irresponsible governing. Let us do our job and fund the Government.

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#### DOING THE RIGHT THING

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, all of my colleagues are anxious to get home for Christmas, and no one more so than this Member. But I recognize that the best Christmas present that we could give to all our children is to stop adding debt upon debt which they must repay.

I recognize that if we do not do it now, then it probably will not ever get done. And, while it may be more convenient to put it off yet again, as has been done so many times in the past, that would be wrong, and that would be going back to business as usual in Washington, DC, and that is what this Republican freshman ran to stop.

Mr. Speaker, we must act now to balance the budget for our kids. We must act now to save Medicare for our parents and grandparents. We must act now to reform welfare for all our sakes, and we must do so with or without the President. Whatever it takes, Mr. Speaker, we must do the right thing.

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS, DEAR FRIENDS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, this first session of the 104th Congress has been characterized by anger and arrogance, meanness and hubris. The result of such negative emotions was perfectly predictable—year-end stalemate.