

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.

Perhaps in this Christmas week, with just 4 days remaining prior to that precious day, we should set aside the accusations, and try a little Christmas tolerance and generosity and kindness.

Merry Christmas, dear friends.

#### LABOR GRINCH STEALS CHRISTMAS

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago I stood outside a Harris-Tetter supermarket in Rocky Mount, NC, ringing the Christmas bell and collecting donations for the Salvation Army. Now, I come back to Washington, DC, to learn that many retail stores are no longer making room for kettle drives because of a recent ruling issued by the National Labor Relations Board. It seems that big labor unions—who are spending millions for TV ads against a balanced budget—feel discriminated against because the shopping centers that open their doors to the Salvation Army and other charitable organizations during the holiday season will not permit union picketing at their doorsteps. The NLRB, in its infinite wisdom, sided with the unions. Not surprisingly, many malls and shopping centers have told the Salvation Army that they would love to host kettle drives this year but they just cannot afford the enormous costs of being sued by labor unions.

Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage. This is yet another example of an out-of-touch, bloated Federal Government that doesn't care about the poor and needy who could receive a hand-up from the Salvation Army instead of a hand-out from the welfare state. Today, I am cosponsoring H.R. 2497 to stop this abuse of power by the Department of Labor. Let us stop labor unions from threatening businesses who invite bell ringers from the Salvation Army.

#### NO WAY TO RUN A BUSINESS

(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, the Republicans claim they are going to run our Government like a business. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am still looking for one, just one business in this entire country, that would run itself like the Republicans are running this Government.

Think about it. They are so mad that they are not getting their own way that they are sending home 280,000 employees, with pay. That is right, they are sending them home with pay.

There is not a single business in this country that would do that if they were using their own money. Nobody in their right mind would do that using their own money. But they are using taxpayer money to do that. It is wrong.

Those people should come back to work.

It reminds me of a kid in the neighborhood I grew up in. He was so mad he would pinch himself. He would say, "I am going to keep pinching myself," and the rest of us would look at him in complete amazement, because he was only hurting himself.

The sad joke here is the Republicans are only hurting the taxpayers.

#### BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS AFFECT CHILDREN

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, my son John plays on a U-10 soccer team, the Budget Bombers. Now, judging from their names, you would think we were a bunch of Democrats, but actually they are a bunch of future taxpayers who will inherit Democrat deficits.

Their coach, Kurt Rodenberg, gave me this hat. I think it is appropriate for the season. It says "Budget" on it. I will call it the Kasich cap.

But there is another cap out here. This is the Clinton cap. Something for everybody. Fun, games, promises, and make-believe; SSI for prisoners; fear and demagoguery for senior citizens; rules, regulations, and red tap for bureaucrats; American jobs and benefits for illegal aliens. And, for the children, Clinton and Demo-Clauses would never forget the children, for the children have a \$5 trillion debt. Higher interest rates, higher mortgages, less jobs. What a future for the young U-10 soccer team.

This is their compassion. This is their Christmas spirit. This is their love. Merry Christmas, Mr. President. But really and truly, fast forward them to ground-hog day.

#### PUT AMERICAN FAMILIES FIRST

(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, compromise: It is a simple concept. A 7-year-old understands it. For a child, it might mean something like having an ice cream cone or a candy bar, but not both.

Well, maybe I should have a child explain this concept to some of the extremist Republicans in this house. Because even though they are all older than 7, they are acting a lot less mature than that. You see, they want it all. Tax giveaways to the wealthiest Americans. Cuts in student loans and Head Start. Gutting regulations that protect clean air and water. Making our seniors pay more for health care.

And they will not give up, no matter how much suffering they cause, until they impose their radical demands on every American family. It is too bad.

You see, if a 7-year-old insists on ice cream and a candy bar, it just means a

little disagreement. But when the Republicans will not give up any of their antifamily demands, every American, students, seniors, children—must pay.

Come on. It is time to grow up. Stop holding your breath and stomping your feet and join the fight for a decent budget that puts American family first.

#### TIME TO WORK ON A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. FRISA. Mr. Speaker, I am sure most Americans feel as I do that we have heard enough of the blah-blah and the yak, yak, yak. We have a job to do, Mr. Speaker.

When I ran for election to this great body, I promised I would be different. I would not be like the Democrats who controlled this House for 40 years, ran up America's charge cards, got ourselves into debt, so that so much of the budget now is just going to pay the interest on our national debt. And regardless of the President's crocodile tears and his empty words and his quivering bottom lip, we are not going to be intimidated, because the simple fact is, Mr. Speaker, we have done our job and put a balanced budget on the table. The President has nothing but empty words.

We are here to work. As soon as the President is prepared to really roll up his sleeves, get the political will and drop the posturing, then we will have a balanced budget.

#### UPHOLD ETHICS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, these are difficult days for the House of Representatives. Portions of the Federal Government are shut down because the appropriations required have not even been enacted. Budget talks that could bring us to a balanced budget plan have not even really meaningfully begun; the parties are trapped in a meaningless standoff.

But something is afoot that is more serious, even more serious to this institution than either of these unfortunate developments. The House Committee on Ethics, in a unanimous bipartisan vote has recommended closing a loophole that allows Members of this institution to cash in through lucrative book deals. Efforts are now underway to prevent the Committee on Ethics recommendation from coming to the floor of this House for a vote. These efforts, apparently done with the blessing of the Speaker himself, pose a very serious threat to this Committee on Ethics.

If the committee on Ethics, operating in a bipartisan fashion, can no