

In most cases, the Federal agency is in the best position to assess the skills of their workers and arrange reemployment training and outplacement assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I feel these bills make an important statement to the Federal workforce—this Congress appreciates their hard work and dedication in serving this country, and during this time of downsizing, we are committed to assuring that there is stability in their lives too.

WHAT HAVE THE GINGRICH REPUBLICANS DONE FOR AMERICA?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, as this year comes to a close the American people should be aware of some facts about the new GINGRICH-controlled mean-spirited radical Republican Congress. The list of achievements of this Congress will go down in history as the worst since the beginning of this country. What have the Gingrich Republicans done for America? Well for one they have closed down the Government twice. No other Congress ever achieved that. They have threatened senior citizens with reductions in their health care. No other Congress has ever done that. They have offered the most wealthy in this country a huge tax break while raising taxes of poor working Americans. No other Congress has ever done that. They have removed the word compromise from Government. No other Congress has ever done that. They have threatened to turn back environmental gains over the last 20 years. No other Congress has ever done that. They have cut school lunches and food for the poor. No other Congress has ever done that. And finally, they have called themselves the family-friendly Congress while putting hundreds of thousands of Federal workers on furlough at Christmas time. No other Congress has ever done that. What a sad record of achievement, but certainly one no other Congress has ever had.

Mr. Speaker, people who knowingly break rules are cheaters. People who write the rules and then blatantly break them for their own benefit are even worse. The new Gingrich House passed new rules for this House last January which limited committee membership to two committees, and four subcommittees. Every Democrat in this House is abiding by those rules. How about the majority. Twenty-nine members of the majority are serving on more than four subcommittees. Nineteen Republicans are serving on more than two full committees. You wrote the rules and all year you have blatantly broken the rules. Perhaps this Christmas Eve you can go home to your families and instead of reading the "Night Before Christmas" you can instead tell your children how breaking

rules for their own benefit is good. Be sure and tell them that rules are for everyone else not them. Nearly 30 percent of the new Republican Members that came here in January are violating the rules, they pushed for. So much for honesty and fairness in the House of Representatives as controlled by the Gingrich radical Republicans.

□ 1815

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. ENGLISH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KIM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE ON BOOK ROYALTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last week the bipartisan House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct unanimously passed a resolution in response to a complaint involving Speaker GINGRICH'S \$4.5 million book deal with Harper Collins. Together, five Republicans and five Democrats agreed that the Speaker's book deal gave the appearance of capitalizing on public office. The committee has proposed changing the rules of this House to avoid any future allegations of Members cashing in on public office in this manner.

The rule change would limit outside royalty income to \$20,400 a year, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct promised that that proposal would come up on to the floor before Christmas. I might add that the \$20,400 is the amount of outside earned income that Members cannot earn from a variety of different kinds of professions that they might be in.

The only exception has been the book royalty exemption, and what this resolution is about is to try to close that loophole which was heightened by the fact that the Speaker was in the process of a \$4.5 million book deal with Harper Collins last year.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is charged with establish-

ing the bounds of acceptable behavior for Members of this institution. That bipartisan committee has made a unanimous decision that accepting millions of dollars of outside income in the form of book royalties is beyond the bounds of acceptable behavior. I might add that after weeks and weeks of delay in this effort of bringing this resolution to the floor, that I understand from the colloquy that was held on the floor to-night with the majority leader, that in fact the resolution will come up tomorrow, and I applaud that decision. There had been a fair amount of stonewalling on this issue, despite the work of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the work of the chairperson of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

It is time to allow this Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to do its job. Bring this rule change to the floor of the House for a vote, and I know that I will follow the recommendations of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct members, and I suspect that most Members of this House, of the people's House, will follow the lead of Committee on Standards of Official Conduct members.

My hope is that that resolution will be on the floor tomorrow morning before we depart here for the holidays. We must deal with this issue; we must remove any cloud or anything that puts into question whether or not a Member is using his or her office for personal gain. That is not why people in our districts give us the faith and trust that they do to come here and vote on their behalf. Our time, our effort, has to be focused on their interests, what their concerns are in their lives. That is why we hold these offices.

So I am pleased that this will come up tomorrow. We do not need any more delays. Finally, I do believe that the majority of this house will vote and follow the lead of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ONE TRAGEDY AFTER ANOTHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I awakened this morning, as many Americans did, absolutely riveted and saddened by hearing about the great airline tragedy that had happened in Colombia. I think every one of us identifies with that and thinks of what a horror this is during the holiday period, and we all send great condolences to the families. There is just nothing anyone can say.

And the news got worse. Here we are in this body where all of our pay is being taken care of, where we have just voted a recess until January 3, and the next bit of news made me feel terrible, because to deal with this awful crash they called on Americans, Americans representing this great flag of ours in Colombia who had been furloughed, who had been furloughed in our Embassy during the shutdown. They called them out of being furloughed to send them to the crash scene, which is in an area that is not secure, there are all sorts of guerrillas around there. They risked their lives, even though they are furloughed, coming back on, to go search for these crash victims, hoping to find someone alive, and to start doing all of the grisly work that we just shudder as we even imagine it. Then, of course, when they are done, because of the inaction of this body, they can go back to being furloughed.

Now, is that the vision this Congress has for how we treat people who deal with taxpayers and our problems all over this world? Do we just call them when we need them and then furlough them all of the rest of the time? I do not think so.

I must say, I am terribly saddened to see us in this mode right now where we are going to go have Christmas and we are going to get our pay. We now hear that Medicaid checks probably are not going to go out to most states to people who really need them for their children; that Aid to Families With Dependent Children is not going to get out in time, because that has all been shut down, and we can go on and on and on. I have students calling from Colorado saying that they are trying to make plans for their next term in college, but they cannot get in to get their loans. Small businesses needing money to get through the season, they cannot get in. I mean we could go on and on.

How can we take off and leave this Government shut down? It has never been shut down for more than 48 hours before. How can anybody think this is a great idea? Only Scrooge could go along with this. This is Scrooge. Yes, let Tiny Tim suffer. Who cares if he does not get his medical checks? Let people go without food. Let Federal employees who have given their life, who are always willing to come out, whether it is in the Colombian mountains or whatever, too bad.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a horrendous way to treat people, and I am ashamed. If there was ever a week where I must say I felt good about my retirement, this has been one. It is like I do not want to be a part of this body.

But then I got to thinking, how did we get here? First we have had this hassle that the gentlewoman from Connecticut was talking about, that we might not even bring the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct thing. Hopefully we are going to do that tomorrow. It is on the schedule now; I hope we see it. Because I think the

taint in this place about people selling their offices and all of that is really awful. So hopefully we get that behind us before we go home.

Then I came across a profile in the New Yorker of the Speaker in which I suddenly began to understand what has happened in this body to split us apart like this. In this profile of the Speaker, they are talking about how GOPAC, the Speaker's PAC, sent all of this information to Republican candidates, many of whom are now Members of this body, and here are some of the things that they said you should do if you wanted to speak like NEWT. That is the quote: "So if you want to speak like NEWT about Democrats, you are to call Democrats sick, traders, corrupt, bizarre, cheaters, stealers; that they are devouring the taxpayers; that they are self-serving; that they are criminal."

Well, no wonder we have some extremists here. No wonder. I mean, how could you call people those names and then sit down and deal with them decently?

Now, I must say, until I read this article I had no ideal this went on. GOPAC did not send me any tapes. But if that is how the Speaker is speaking about us as Democrats, what a great tragedy this is, and it certainly is not in the Christmas or the holiday or the human spirit or the great spirit of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONGRESS GOES HOME WHILE FEDERAL WORKERS SUFFER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I never cease to be amazed at what the Republican majority does, and what they have been doing, in the last few days with regard to the Government shutdown and not moving forward in a positive way on the budget.

This I guess is the sixth day now for the second shutdown that we have had of the Government, and amazingly, rather than coming forward with a continuing resolution today in some form that would allow the Government to continue to operate, but what we received instead was a motion or a resolution that was recently voted on, which I voted against, and which most Democrats voted against, that would allow the Speaker to recess the House of Representatives throughout all of next week.

Let us not kid ourselves. Regardless of what rhetoric was on the floor before by the Republican leadership, the au-

thority has been given now to the Speaker, to Speaker GINGRICH, to basically go into recess, beginning tomorrow, into January 3.

If that happens, and I fully expect it to happen, we will not only go through the sixth day, today, of the Government shutdown and the seventh day tomorrow, but by my calculations probably another dozen days with the Government being shut down.

Basically, we, the Congress, goes home for Christmas and the Federal employees who do not know whether or not they are going to get a check; although they have been promised it, how can they presume that there is any guarantee of that, and they have to worry over the Christmas holiday about whether or not they are going to be able to make ends meet, whether their children are going to be provided for while we in Congress go home.

□ 1830

I find it totally objectionable. I was particularly amazed today with the continued onslaught, if you will, against children that is taking place in this Congress by the Republican majority.

There was a brief dialog with the Republican leadership an hour ago about whether or not AFDC payments or SSI payments or Medicaid payments, much of which goes to children, were going to be made within the next couple of weeks without a continuing resolution. I do not know if the Republican leadership is even aware of it.

The suggestion was, "Well, maybe tomorrow we'll take up AFDC. We don't know if we'll take up Medicaid, we don't know if we'll take up SSI" or some of these other things. They do not even seem to know whether or not with the Government shut down these benefits are going to be paid. And if we do shut down and then we find out next week that some of these benefits are not going to be paid to children or to other people who are disadvantaged in some way, how are we going to be in a position to make those benefits payable? What are we going to do when we are not even here?

Additionally, today a welfare reform bill came up and amazingly, even though the House of Representatives and the Senate a few weeks ago voted for welfare reform that still guaranteed Medicaid or health care coverage for all children who are now receiving Medicaid payments, all of a sudden the conference report comes back and eliminates that guarantee.

So when we talk about the Nation's children at Christmastime, whether it is the Government employees, whether it is the unfortunate children who may not receive cash benefits during the holiday season, or whether it is the ongoing concern over whether or not children in this country will receive health care, I do not see any real concern on the part of the Republican leadership or the Republican Representatives that make up this majority. They just do not seem to care.