

Just as the American people have called for a ban on unfunded mandates, they have also called on Congress to balance the budget. Starting now we will work to control our spending and our own budget. It is what the people want, and what we intend to give the people.

COMMENTS ON HOUSE HISTORIAN

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, like the energizer bunny, the Christina Jeffrey story keeps going and going and going. Yesterday Speaker GINGRICH's spokesperson, Tony Blankley, said that they did not know that Christina Jeffrey believed that a Holocaust class should reflect the views of the Nazis.

Today we read in the Atlanta Constitution that Ms. Jeffrey told Speaker GINGRICH's staff a month ago. But even worse was today's revelations of why Ms. Jeffrey thought she was fired. Yesterday Mr. Blankley said that Speaker GINGRICH held Ms. Jeffrey in high regard, and today we find out she believes that she was told she had to go because "There would be marches and demonstrations and fundraising efforts to raise money to turn over the House to Democrats."

What was Speaker GINGRICH's motivation in firing Ms. Jeffrey? Was it because he disagreed with her views, as he should have, or was it because of adverse publicity and bad political consequences?

Yesterday I praised the Speaker for quickly firing her. I stand by that, but there are many questions that must, must be answered.

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respond to the Democrats' call for specific cuts in the Federal budget. They well know that Republicans have pledged to consider all proposals except for Social Security. Their insistence is an effort to divert attention from the real issue. Congress can only tackle the issue of how to balance the budget after we decide to balance the budget.

The Democrats' desire to place the proverbial cart before the horse led the American people to give their House to the new Republican majority. We must not let empty partisan rhetoric sway us from the task we have been sent here to do; namely, to bring fiscal responsibility to Washington. We owe the American people that much. It is time to stand and deliver by passing the balanced budget amendment.

COMMENTS ON HOUSE HISTORIAN

(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, a new chapter opened today in the history surrounding the hiring and the firing of the House Historian. Today, the former Historian reveals to the Atlanta Constitution that she had indeed informed the Speaker's office about her views on the teaching of the Holocaust before she was hired. This directly contradicts the statements that had been made by the Speaker's office. The Historian was fired because her opposition to funding a course on the Holocaust was wrong because it did not reflect what she called the Nazi point of view or the Ku Klux Klan point of view. Such extremism from the person hired to chronicle an important part of the history of our government is an affront to this body and to all Americans.

How could a person known to have such extreme views on this issue and one that is so sensitive to so many Americans, how could that person have been hired? But perhaps we should not be surprised. This is not the only office that the new Speaker has turned into a partisan political tool. The same thing was done in selecting the House administrator. I fear that we are seeing the beginning of a dangerous pattern.

PUBLIC HOUSING RENT REFORM

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as we debate the reform of our Nation's welfare system, our deliberations must include a close examination of the federally mandated system of calculating rents paid by residents of America's public housing.

The evidence is striking. The current system of establishing rents in public housing is set by bureaucrats in Washington. It provides no flexibility to provide incentives for residents to make a better wage or even find work.

In most cases, if a resident of public housing obtains gainful employment, they end up with less disposable income than if they had stayed on welfare. That is right, less money by going to work. Is it any wonder we have generations of people who are addicted to the public dole?

In the last Congress, this body passed a housing bill which included a provision which I sponsored, entitled the Rent Reform and Empowerment Act, which would reduce these disincentives through a system of income disallowances and ceiling rents. Unfortunately, it was killed in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing this important legislation. It is time we applied a little common sense. And keep in mind it has been this Government that has imposed some of the highest tax rates on America's poor.

COMMENTS ON HOUSE HISTORIAN

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, not even the Speaker of the House agrees. His choice of a Historian for this House is unfit to serve. There is no room in this House for bigotry, racism, or anti-Semitism. I commend the Speaker for realizing his error, acting quickly, and firing his appointment.

The operation of this House, the recording of its history, should be non-partisan. The House Administrator, the House Historian, these appointments should be made with the best interests of this House in mind, not the Speaker, not the Speaker or one political party.

Last week the American people were promised a new openness, a new way of doing business. But so far it looks like business as usual.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Republican House, this is not a Democratic House. This is the people's House. Mr. Speaker, the people deserve better.

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H.R. 359

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I am asking my colleagues to join 67 Members of the House in cosponsoring H.R. 359. This legislation will prevent a major rip-off of American inventors and investors by ensuring that Americans have the 17 years of patent protection which was their right prior to the passage of the GATT implementation legislation last year.

Hidden in that implementation legislation was a provision not required by GATT that was slipped into the implementation legislation. The provision dramatically reduces the number of years of patent protection for American citizens, permitting foreign nationals, foreign and international corporations to use American technology against us in the world competition without so much as paying royalties to American inventors and investors who created the technology.

H.R. 359 will stop the rip-off and perfect the GATT language by purging this provision from part of the GATT that should never have been part of it in the first place.

IS THE HOUSE MOVING TOO QUICKLY?

(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, are we moving too fast without taking proper precautions that will be costly in the future?

The Speaker did the right thing to fire Christina Jeffrey, but what is shocking is that a person with these views could have been hired in the first place.

Are we moving ahead on unfunded mandates legislation without recognizing the impact it might have on clean air, on clean water, on civil rights, on disabilities, on health and safety? Am I correctly hearing that the new majority wants to exempt all Contract With America legislation in this legislation?

As we move ahead on the balanced budget amendment, which I have supported, does it not make sense to specify from where these cuts are coming? Do we really want to amend the Constitution to have a super majority on taxes? What if we are in a recession? What if we are in a war? Let us make this balanced budget amendment work.

Mr. Speaker, let us have open rules. Let us be offered alternatives. Let us participate in a bipartisan way to deal with these problems. Let us not make mistakes now that we will regret later.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION

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

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, recent polls indicate that some 80 percent of the American people favor the balanced budget amendment. The people have sent their message to the people's House. Now it is time for the people's House to respond.

My colleagues, if we are sincere in our desire to get big government off the back of middle income Americans, then we should vote yes on a balanced budget amendment.

The balanced budget amendment is designed to produce results. It forces us to take action. It forces us to be responsible with the taxpayers' dollars. It forces us to do what this House has not done in 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, the time for stalling is past. Nearly \$5 trillion of debt placed upon our children and grandchildren demands a response. We must take action now. We must pass the balanced budget amendment.

WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE TO DISASTER IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to the White House response to my call and the call of other Members of this House who represent areas in California that have been egregiously affected by the continuous pounding of severe Pacific storms in California. The total now is at 17 counties that have been affected.

Even as we speak, Mr. Speaker, here on the House floor, we understand that there are more storms coming in from

the West that are going to be affecting very deleteriously the counties in and throughout California.

My county, Los Angeles County, has been affected very, very much.

I just want to thank the White House for finally responding and declaring a Federal disaster, a declaration that will allow FEMA to come in and to provide additional help and additional provisions to the people in California who are suffering.

It seems just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that we had to sign \$8.6 million for earthquake relief. Now we have floods in California.

We thank the White House for responding.

CHANGE IS HERE

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, change is here, and change is good.

After 40 years of one party's rule, last week, the new majority took the first critical steps to changing the House of Representatives.

More change is on the way. In the next month, we will vote on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

We have heard gripes from some Members of the new minority about what is wrong with the balanced budget. We have heard excuses. We have heard complaints.

But after 40 years of Democrat leadership, we never had a true commitment to a balanced budget amendment. And we have not had a balanced budget in about 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a new direction from the Congress. They want fiscal responsibility; they do not want to pay higher taxes but they do want less Federal spending.

Mr. Speaker, change is here and change is good. That is why we must pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution before this Congress is adjourned.

IN FAVOR OF THE CDBG ANTIPIRACY LEGISLATION

(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, thousands of workers in my community got a major slap in the face last year where their employer told them their jobs would be moved to other parts of the country.

If this was not bad enough, these loyal employees had salt rubbed in their wounds a short time later, when it was learned that Federal Community Development Block Grant funds would be used to help move these jobs to other States.

This is something that should not happen. Using Federal funds to move

jobs from one area to another is a total waste of taxpayer money and an insult to the people who are losing their jobs.

Today I am introducing legislation that would add an antipiracy provision to the block grant law. It will prevent the use of these funds from being used to steal jobs.

As we look for ways to save Federal tax dollars and get a better bang for our buck, this is the perfect place to start.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this January, as we work for and with America, we will vote to put responsibility, accountability, and respectability back in the Congress by finally passing a balanced budget amendment.

Many on the Democrat side want us to specify budget cuts before they agree to it. I think they are just using this as an opportunity to invite their good friends, the special interests, to come in and save their favorite projects from elimination.

As we have seen in the past 40 years, we can debate all day about how to balance the budget and never actually do it.

We need to set the record straight. The balanced budget amendment is about discipline. We need a mechanism that forces the Congress to balance it every year.

For 40 years we tried it the other way. All we got was more spending and more taxes. Now it is time for Congress to live like everyone else in America, on a budget.

LINGERING QUESTIONS

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, there are lingering questions still unanswered in the controversy over the fired House historian.

First, what did Speaker GINGRICH know about her extreme views and when did he know it? The Speaker says he did not know Ms. Jeffrey once rejected a course on the Holocaust because it failed to present the Nazi point of view. Yet, Ms. Jeffrey's top aide claims he knew all along.

Second, Ms. Jeffrey has been outspoken on GOPAC. She says that GOPAC was founded as, and I quote, "a way of getting around campaign finance disclosure laws." And she has called for repeal of those very laws.

I think the American people have a right to know: Do the Republicans agree? Do they agree that GOPAC was founded as a way of ducking campaign finance disclosure? Do they agree that