

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

we need to bring more secrecy in the political process?

Mr. Speaker, this is a question of credibility. The Republicans talk a lot about rebuilding trust with the American people. If they really mean it, they should come clean and reveal the contributors and their expenses on GOPAC.

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DISASTROUS SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT MUST BE FIXED

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the current Safe Drinking Water Act is a disaster and must be fixed as it is reauthorized. This Member is committed to supporting legislation which will inject more common sense into the way that public drinking water supplies are tested, monitored, and treated.

It is certainly encouraging that the distinguished gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY], the new chairman of the Commerce Committee, has indicated his intention to place a high priority on revising and improving Safe Drinking Water Act.

Mr. Speaker, there is a growing financial crisis for communities across the country that becomes more evident each year as new water testing and treatment deadlines are imposed. These unfunded mandates hit small communities especially hard. Not only are these mandates costly, they often do nothing to ensure safe drinking water. It is clear that States and communities must be allowed to identify and focus on those contaminants which present an actual health risk in their geographic area.

Without question, the safety of this Nation's drinking water must be vigorously protected. However, in these days of tightening budgets on the local, State, and Federal levels, it is more important than ever that this goal be reached in a realistic cost-effective, and efficient manner.

THE FRUITS OF EXTREME PARTISANSHIP

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme concern over the judgment displayed by colleagues from the Sixth District of Georgia. His need to fire long-time friend and associate Christina Jeffrey from the office of House Historian only demonstrates his folly in trying to politicize every aspect of the administration of this House.

He first fired our bipartisan Historian in order to have a personal biographer. I wonder, had Ms. Jeffrey been retained, how she would have recorded

the Ethics Committee investigation of GOPAC.

Well, it turns out Ms. Jeffrey feels that the Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan do not get to tell their side of the story to our children in their history classes.

Mr. Speaker, such are the fruits of extreme partisanship. It deserves no place in this House.

THE UNFUNDED MANDATES REFORM ACT OF 1995, THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REDUCING UNFUNDED MANDATES

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

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, it has become clear over the last several years that the burden of unfunded Federal mandates placed on States and localities has risen to unacceptable levels. I am pleased to inform that yesterday, the Government Reform and Oversight Committee took the first step in addressing this problem by marking up H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

As a local official in New Jersey, I have felt the sting of unfunded mandates firsthand. Despite cutting discretionary county spending by 3 percent in 1994, the part of the State and county budget mandated by the Federal Government actually rose by 10 percent. Despite our best efforts, we were forced to raise county taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers are angry, not just because Federal taxes are too high, but because local property taxes are also skyrocketing due to unfunded mandates.

The voters spoke loudly on November 2. What they demanded was a government that was smaller, smarter, and less costly. Today we begin the process of accomplishing all three goals by putting an end to unfunded mandates and returning to the U.S. Government to its proper role in its relationship with the States.

ON THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HOLIDAY EVERY AMERICAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in anticipation of the 10th celebration of the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, which has been designated as a national day of service, to encourage my colleagues and all Americans to be mindful of the national theme: On the King holiday every American can make a difference.

The King holiday challenges Americans to remember and celebrate, but most importantly, to act to address the issues for which Dr. King and others gave of their lives, their energies, their talents. One of Dr. King's philosophies evolves around the promise that every

individual can achieve his or her dream in America.

To accomplish this goal, the Government must be a partner with the people. In keeping the dream alive, we must address the unfinished agenda and direct our efforts to reduce violence, help youths at risk, promote interracial cooperation and economic stability. By doing so, we can make every American experience the land of opportunity once again.

LET US ENACT THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT NOW

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the historic opening day of the 104th Congress was the start of a new era in American politics. A majority of both Democrats and Republicans voted to reform the House of Representatives to make it more open and more accountable to the American people.

Now that we have changed the way business is done in the House, it is time to change the business that the House does, starting with a balanced budget amendment.

As I traveled through my district, I listened to the people I represent tell me that Congress should direct its finances the same way as the rest of America does. The message I have heard is that families wisely live within their monthly salaries, so why does Congress continually fail to do the same?

It is time for Congress to start living within its means by balancing the budget. It is time to change the business Congress does. Let us enact the balanced budget amendment now.

WHAT PROGRAMS WILL BE CUT TO ACHIEVE THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT?

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of this country deserve to know what is really at stake when it comes to the balanced budget. Everybody agrees we have to reduce and ultimately eliminate the Federal budget deficit, but what will it really take to get a balanced budget in 7 years without touching the amount of money we now spend on defense as the Republican majority proposes, while at the same time offering a big cut in income taxes?

The Republican leadership is doing a real disservice to the American people by refusing to disclose what kinds of middle class programs we will probably have to get rid of in order to have to balance the budget by 2002.

Just a few minutes ago in the Committee on the Judiciary the Republican