

must be approved by the other body. How can anyone look into the eyes of a child and say, "I don't care about your future, as long as I can keep things the way they are."

Mr. Speaker, I ask those opposed to a balanced budget amendment to remember who will pay the price if this budget is not balanced.

The time for rhetoric has passed. Now is a time for action.

SHORTCHANGING KIDS

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, speaking of children, in a press conference yesterday, Republicans asserted that their proposal to end the school lunch program by block-granting it would not shortchange kids, because Congress could always pass a supplemental if we ran into trouble. That is absolutely preposterous.

Anybody who has watched Congress the last 2 years knows that supplementals are virtually a thing of the past. Right now the Congress has bottled up at least two major supplementals, and you can expect to see more of that.

Make no mistake about it, under this plan States will be left holding a very empty lunch bag. This plan is vicious, this plan is mean. It ought to be stopped.

THE NEED FOR REGULATION REFORM

(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, Federal regulations are strangling the life out of businesses in this country. This year alone, \$600 billion in taxpayer funds will be spent on regulations. This year alone, the Clinton administration is pursuing 4,300 new regulations. The American people do not want their tax dollars to pay for antiquated and often conflicting regulations for businesses. They want a smaller, more efficient Government, one which will work for them and not against them.

If businesses are to continue creating jobs, the current bureaucratic maze of redtape and regulation must be brought under control. Companies are being bled dry by overbearing regulations and they are forced to cut jobs in order to pay for them, and because many of the regulations clash with each other, they are faced with a dilemma. Do they break one law to follow another? This is an impossible choice that hard-working Americans should not have to make.

Mr. Speaker, we must bring reason into the regulation process. It is just plain common sense. We need regulation reform and we need it today.

FOREIGN AID: SUICIDE FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the No. 1 terrorist nation in the world is Iran, and Iran's No. 1 hated enemy is America, and Iran has been trying to build a nuclear weapon for years.

Now, America's newest friend is Russia, and America gives Russia \$12 billion. And that buys an awful lot of vodka for old Boris, you know. But evidently Russia is going to take some of that \$12 billion and build four nuclear reactors in Iran, but Russia says, "It's for peaceful purposes." Peaceful? Tell me, is a nuclear attack on Jerusalem a peaceful purpose?

Ladies and gentlemen of Congress, if Iran can kill 240 Marines with a car bomb, what will they do with a nuclear bomb?

Beam me up. I think if we are going to cut the budget, let us cut that \$12 billion. This is not foreign aid. This is foreign suicide for America and America's friends.

GETTING GOVERNMENT OFF THE BACK OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, did you know that a farmer cannot drain a pond on his property without first getting Government permission, even if he created it?

Did you know that if flooding creates pools of water on someone's property as the result of a clogged drainage system, the owner may not clear the clog to drain the new wetland without Government permission?

Welcome to Bill Clinton's America.

It is a place where redtape and red ink have Americans seeing red.

But we are changing that, Mr. Speaker. Today we complete consideration of the Regulatory Transition Act, which will impose a commonsense moratorium on Federal regulations. This bill will allow us time to enact reforms to put an end to the type of horror stories that we have been hearing today and which have become all too commonplace.

We are keeping our promise to get the Government off the back of the American people.

REAL DOUBTS ABOUT THE CONTRACT

(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, we have all seen the pictures of the happy faces, kids getting their only good meal of the day. It might be in an inner city in

Harlem, it might be in rural Appalachia, it might be in the suburbs of a town that experiences high unemployment.

But those pictures will be no more.

Who would have ever believed that the Contract for America meant eliminating the School Lunch Program? The balanced budget amendment sounds good, but when Americans learn it means eliminating school lunches, making student loans very expensive, crippling Medicare, they are going to scratch their heads in wonder.

The priorities of the Gingrichite contract are out of whack. We cut school lunches, but increase spending for some new-fangled plane, the F-22, made in Georgia.

The American people are beginning to learn that this contract is not about cutting out waste. It is about cutting the very programs that made America move forward from the New Deal to this day, and when they learn about it, they are going to have real doubts about the Gingrichite contract.

PASS THE REGULATORY TRANSITION ACT

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, get a load of this story in the L.A. Times of last year.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is planning to issue regulations to require manufacturers of industrial five-gallon plastic buckets to redesign their products. Concerned that infants could climb inside them and drown, the CPSC studied the issue for five years and recently issued a 101-page report. In the report, the CPSC staff notes that one of their suggestions to the industry—making buckets so that they deliberately leak—is being objected to by bucket makers. According to the report, "Industry representatives claim that they can envision no use for a bucket that leaks."

I have heard of a cup that is half empty. I have heard of a cup that is half full. But only the Government would require a bucket that leaks.

It looks to me, Mr. Speaker, like buckets are not the only thing leaking over at the CPSC.

Welcome to Bill Clinton's America.

It is this type of story that has Americans so angry and demanding change. And that is what we will give them when we pass the Regulatory Transition Act, which will give the business community and individuals a much-needed break from costly regulation.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, Republican priorities are out of whack. The Republican Contract on America slashes

dren's nutrition, and leaves us with millions of hungry or malnourished kids. What a strange way to invest in this country's future.

Our Republican colleagues say these cuts are only intended to eliminate bureaucracy or waste. If that were the case, we would all vote for them.

The truth is that Republicans are playing a dangerous shell game. They want to shift the responsibility for children's health to the States, but cut billions of dollars of funding that the States would need to provide that help. These extremists say we cannot afford to support food for hungry children in America, but actually they are making these cuts to finance fantasy projects like star wars and massive tax cuts for the less than 1 percent of Americans who make over \$200,000 per year.

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Mr. Speaker, I have heard from hundreds of parents, day care providers, and teachers who know the importance of good childhood nutrition. Perhaps if children could vote, they would not be trashed by the Contract on America.

WELCOME TO BILL CLINTON'S AMERICA

(Mrs. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, here is what Bill Clinton's Big Government agenda has wrought.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last year investigated a woman's complaint that a company refused to offer her a job after she told them of her disability. What was the disability? Well, it was a molar that contained a microchip that "spoke" to her and others.

Now the EEOC took the complaint seriously, and forced company officials to respond and supply "any supporting documentation."

One can only wonder what that supporting documentation might look like.

Welcome to Bill Clinton's America.

This is just another example why we need to pass the Regulatory Transition Act, a bill that will institute a moratorium on new Federal regulations while including some commonsense exceptions.

Americans are sick of Big Brother Government, Mr. Speaker. Let us get on with cutting Big Brother down to size.

LET US KEEP THE NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, guess who is going to pay for all those political promises, to the rich, of a tax cut? We now know. America's poorest children. We see them cutting and

slashing with glee the nutrition programs that feed the lowest income children in America. That program was started in 1946 after World War II, when America became so concerned that many of the recruits could not pass muster because of malnutrition.

Mr. Speaker, imagine a country that feeds the world now refusing to feed their own children so they can feed the fat cats that came to the fancy dinner. That is what this is about.

How awful it is to see America's politicians pull up to the table as they start slashing their budget and throw children out first. Children should be the last to go out, and now we see that they are the first to go out.

I hope that sends a real message as to what their vision of America is about. It is not mine.

TEAM AMERICA NEEDS A TIMEOUT

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, in football or basketball, a team may call a timeout when they have lost control of the game and they need time to get their act together. Sometimes you need that timeout to catch your breath or slow your opponent's momentum.

Well, I happen to believe that the Federal Government has lost control of the regulatory process in America. That's why we need to take a timeout from passing new regulations.

As we speak, the Clinton administration is planning to pursue another 4,300 new regulations for this fiscal year. That is too much, especially from an administration that claims to be reinventing Government.

Mr. Speaker, Team America needs a timeout to stop our opponents, Team Regulation, from running roughshod over us. Let's vote for H.R. 450 and return sanity back to Federal regulations.

ALLEGED VIOLATIONS UNDERSCORE NEED FOR OUTSIDE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

(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, the ethical cloud hanging over Speaker GINGRICH's head grows darker each day. Despite the Speaker's contention that his college course is purely an academic venture, Kennesaw State College officials, where the course was once taught, tell a different story.

According to news reports, Timothy Mescon, the dean of Kennesaw College, now says that political and academic resources were commingled in the class.

In 1993, 40 of Speaker GINGRICH's colleagues at Kennesaw College wrote to the dean to protest the political nature of his course. They wrote: "It appears

that we are all acting as a part of the reelection campaign for Mr. GINGRICH, or laying the groundwork for his future political ambitions." Finally, Lois Kubal, who helped put the course together, said: "The class * * * was intended to be partisan and very political."

If these latest allegations by former Gingrich allies are true, the Speaker's course is in violation of both campaign finance laws and tax laws. They underscore the need for an independent, outside counsel to investigate this mess.

RESTORING REASON TO THE REGULATORY PROCESS

(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, last fall Republicans promised the American people we would reduce the size and cost of the Federal Government and we are keeping that promise with unfunded mandates reform and the line-item veto. We will continue to keep our promise by cutting the Federal regulations that are choking the life out of the little guy—small business and its consumers.

Mr. Speaker, Federal regulations are costing consumers over \$500 billion a year. That is right—red tape is costing \$10,000 a year for the average family of four. These regulations can be even more costly to a small business. One small business was fined \$6,000 because an employee violated OSHA rules when he rescued a coworker trapped under a pile of dirt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to restore reason and common sense to the regulatory process. We need to continue to work in a bipartisan way to reduce necessary and overbearing Federal regulations.

KEEP THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, Marie Antoinette said, "Let them eat cake." I believe the Republicans have said very loudly, "Let them eat ketchup." As a parent, I know what it is to have children in school, participating in programs that help them survive. I realize that when you talk about children, they do not vote.

But I find the Republican proposal to cut school lunches absolutely appalling. Over 13 million children and their parents rely on the school nutrition programs. If the Republicans are allowed to cut \$5 billion over the next 5 years from the WIC and child nutrition programs, our children will be the losers.

Today 5 million children under 12 are hungry. I simply want to show you the