

Mr. HOBSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will take 20 1-minutes on each side.

THE CONTRACT: BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, for 2 months now, this Congress has been held hostage by the extremist trickle-down manifesto known as the Contract With America. Democrats have been saying all along that the American people do not need this contract. What they need are good jobs at good wages, more police to fight the scourge of violent crime, and access to affordable health care.

Republican pollsters who wrote the contract thought they knew better, but a New York Times poll published today makes it perfectly clear. If the Republicans really want to follow the will of the people, it is time to go back to the drawing board. First of all, more than half of all Americans have not even heard of the contract. So much for the Republican mandate. And on issue after issue, we find a wholesale rejection of the contract's extremist planks.

Americans overwhelmingly want the Federal commitment to 100,000 cops on the beat that the Republicans voted down. Americans overwhelmingly oppose a balanced budget amendment that puts Social Security on the chopping block as the contract does. Americans overwhelmingly oppose welfare reform that is tough on children but weak on work.

I suppose that is the problem with the Republican politics-of-opinion polls. When you live by the poll, you also die by the poll.

Based on today's poll results, I would offer these final words on the Contract With America: May it rest in peace, and now let us get down to the real business of the American people.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget.

We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we kept our promise; line-item veto—we kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—we are doing this now; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

Mr. Speaker, this is our contract, we are doing it and living up to it, and I believe it is alive and well.

POLL DOUSES CONTRACT AND GINGRICH REVOLUTION

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every morning Republicans come to this floor and read NEWT GINGRICH's Contract With America.

But this morning's New York Times throws a bucket of ice water on both the contract and the Gingrich revolution.

In a poll released this morning, the American people say that the contract is:

Too extreme, too mean spirited, and out of touch with the priorities of the American people.

When asked what our priorities should be the American people say: jobs, health care, and crime.

Yet, after 55 days of Republican rule, and after casting over 150 votes, we have not passed a single amendment that deals with jobs or health care.

And nearly 6 of 10 Americans say the Republican idea to pull 100,000 police off the streets is a bad idea.

Mr. Speaker, this poll confirms what we have always known: The Contract With America will not make a dime's worth of difference in the lives of middle-class families.

Republicans can talk about the contract all they want.

But the longer we go, the more it becomes clear: Americans do not like what they are hearing.

COMMON SENSE NEEDED IN REGULATORY PROCESS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, did you hear the one about the guy who was fined by OSHA for not having a

comprehensive hazardous communication plan for his employees—all two of them.

How about the \$100,000 spent on a study of quiet areas in restaurants.

Or the OSHA fine levied against a small business because they had a can of Pledge in a work trailer with no material safety data sheet on hand.

And, one of my favorites, the construction company that was fined because workers were not using disposable cups.

These are all great stories—and they would be very entertaining if they did not symbolize such a job crunching, budget busting, competition killing, business breaking, economic catastrophe in America.

It is time to restore common sense and civility to the regulatory process. The cost of doing nothing is too high for individuals and businesses in America. Let us act now.

IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN'S NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had an opportunity to speak to 95 3-year-olds and today I speak in their behalf, for the school lunch program that has worked well since 1946. It is not broken. America's children are our most important resource for the future.

Mr. Speaker, studies show that if a child is hungry, taxpayer dollars are wasted because hungry kids cannot learn. According to the Children's Defense Fund, millions of children will go hungry by cutting school lunches, food stamps, child care, Head Start meals, and WIC programs. Republican double-talk that "cuts to school lunches" are not "cuts," but block grants to States, and deceives the American people. As a 10-year veteran of the Florida legislature, I can tell you that sending Federal dollars to the States as block grants does not ensure that these funds will go to child nutrition programs.

Republicans seem to think they can fool some of the people, some of the time. But you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. The American people cannot be fooled. The Contract on America is a contract on children, the elderly and the hardest working Americans.

The school lunch program works, it feeds hungry children. As the saying goes, "If it's not broke, don't fix it."

FEDERAL REGULATIONS SHOULD USE COMMON SENSE

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, allow me to read a few OSHA rules written

about chain saws for the logging industry. The chain saw shall be fueled at least 20 feet from any open flame; the chain-saw operator shall be certain of footing before starting to cut; prior to felling any tree, the chain-saw operator shall clear away brush or other potential obstacles which might interfere with cutting the tree; the chain saw shall be carried in a manner that will prevent operator contact with the cutting chain. Mr. Speaker, Federal regulators should use common sense, not regulate common sense. If American taxpayer's hard-earned money is going to pay for someone to write rules like these, then I know where the budget chain saw should be put to use next.

MALICE: SAYING NO TO A DECENT LUNCH FOR CHILDREN

(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, my colleagues talk about a "second Reagan Revolution."

Well, they are right—when it comes to providing decent food and nutrition to the children of America.

In the mid-1980's, millions of children suffered because the Federal Government cut funding for the school lunch program.

Now, today, to pay for more defense spending and tax giveaways to the rich contributors to the Republican Party, we are going to let kids go hungry again.

Maybe what we need is a revolution that reaches back a little farther in Republican Party history.

In 1865, facing an enemy far more dangerous than our Nation's school children, our greatest President—a Republican President—stated that we would heal our Nation's wounds "with malice toward none, with charity for all."

I say to my colleagues in the majority—saying no to a decent lunch for our Nation's children is malice, pure and simple.

With malice toward none, with charity for all.

How empty and distant those words seem to the party of Abraham Lincoln today.

THE TOP 10 LIST

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, the top 10 excuses liberal Democrats have for not voting for the balanced budget amendment.

No. 10, we might really have to slow spending.

No. 9, the dog ate my homework.

No. 8, fiscal responsibility phobia.

No. 7, the devil made me do it.

No. 6, if so many of the American people want it, it cannot be any good.

No. 5, contract-envy.

No. 4, it wasn't me, it was a space alien with a remarkable resemblance to me.

No. 3, I did what?

No. 2, let's feed big government bureaucrats instead of little school children.

And the No. 1 excuse liberal Democrats have for not voting for the balanced budget amendment, they want early retirement in the next election.

CONGRESS SHOULD PUT AMERICAN INTERESTS FIRST

(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, while one House committee voted to forgive a \$50 million loan for Jordan, another House committee voted to kill hundreds of thousands of American youth jobs in our communities, kill the home-ownership counseling program that saves the family home and saves taxpayers \$35,000 on every foreclosure. They also voted to kill all veterans' outpatient clinics that treats millions of American veterans.

Now think about it. Fifty-three billion dollars for Mexico but pink slips for American youth. Twelve billion dollars for Russia, but, ladies and gentlemen, mortgage foreclosure for American families. Fifty million dollars for Jordan, but cuts in health care for American veterans.

Think about it. No wonder America's bankrupt. Congress is either brain-dead or they're starting to drink some of that Boris vodka.

I say, ladies and gentlemen, take care of our own people before you take care of everybody all around the world. Beam me up on these cuts.

SUPPORT THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that the work and far-reaching goals of the 104th Congress are being compared to that of the Congress of 1933. Not since that time has Congress accomplished so much in so little time, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt presided over our Nation and steered the Congress to pass a bold new agenda called the New Deal, much of it during the first 100 days of his administration.

As we compare what happened then to what is taking place on the floor of this great House now, I am reminded of the prophetic words of FDR when he said, "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another, but above all, try something."

"Above all, try something." Those four simple words cut right to the heart of the objectives of this Congress, the Contract With America, and in particular the balanced budget amendment. Only what we are proposing is to try something that works, something done by almost every State in the Union not to mention households and business.

For far too long, the U.S. Congress has been trying a method of balancing the budget which, quite simply, is a resounding failure.

Today the other body has an opportunity to do something magnificent for the future of this country, to do as FDR said, admit frankly that what we have tried in the past has failed and to try something new.

□ 1115

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT FAILS TO ADDRESS NATION'S CORE CHALLENGE

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, it is time we talk about this so-called Contract on America. Income has not increased as a result of this contract. Not one single job has been created because of this contract. No family in America is more secure as a result of the progress made on the Republican contract. The quality of life has not been improved for hardworking middle-class Americans because of this contract.

The bottom line is the contract has no meaningful impact on the lives of average Americans. The Republican contract fails to address our Nation's core challenge and that is raising our standard of living as a people.

In western Pennsylvania, cities like Beaver Falls, Aliquippa, and New Castle have up to 25 percent of their households living in poverty. Yet the contract will whack people on Social Security, whack Medicare, whack school lunches. This truly is a Contract on America, Mr. Speaker.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN AMERICAN FLAG DESECRATION

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

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join many of our colleague here in the House in support of a constitutional amendment to ban the desecration of the American flag.

Mr. Speaker, I just left an announcement on the left side of the Capitol with a group of Members, House Members, Senate Members, Republicans and Democrats, and hundreds of thousands of veterans from all over the country who are in support of this amendment.