

stifled economic growth in our country. For the overtaxed American family, relief is on the way. For overtaxed small businesses, relief is on the way. For senior citizens hit by the Clinton tax hike on Social Security benefits, relief is on the way. And we will cover every dime of these tax reductions by cutting the fat from the Federal Government. It is time to fundamentally change the relationship between Washington and the American people. It is time to listen to the American people.

MORE ON THE SPEAKER AND ETHICS

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every single week seems to bring a new ethics problem for NEWT GINGRICH.

This week, the Associated Press reveals that when Mr. GINGRICH was seeking approval from the Ethics Committee to teach his college class, he failed to tell them that his political action committee would be involved.

Keep in mind: This class was sold as a nonpartisan class.

If it turned out that GOPAC was involved, the course may be in violation of both Federal tax laws and House rules.

But on Monday, the AP reported that not only was GOPAC involved, it raised funds for the class, it sent mass mailings, and it even wrote course-related memos attacking President Clinton.

And Mr. GINGRICH failed to disclose any of this to the Ethics Committee.

Just as he failed to disclose past contributors to GOPAC.

And just as he has failed to disclose GOPAC's expenses.

Mr. Speaker, I say it is time for NEWT GINGRICH to stop playing hide and seek with the American people.

It is time for him to disclose his correspondence with the Ethics Committee.

Disclose the past GOPAC donors.

Disclose the past GOPAC expenses.

And let an outside counsel come in and get to the bottom of this mess.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, is it within the rules of the House to continue to refer to matters that are currently pending before the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not refer to investigations pending before the Ethics Committee.

Mr. VOLKMER. I have a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, is there presently an investigation of Speaker GINGRICH before the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair does not need to respond to that as the Members know the answer to it.

WELFARE

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

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, "Unless we work to strengthen the family, to create conditions under which most parents will stay together, all the rest—schools, playgrounds, public assistance and private concern—will never be enough."

Who do you think said that? NEWT GINGRICH? Ronald Reagan? Actually, it was Lyndon Baines Johnson, in 1965. He understood the dangers of a welfare system that is antifamily, antiwork and antiopportunity.

Republicans agree with President Johnson. We have proposed a plan that is designed expressly to strengthen the family and to give those in need a hand up, not just a hand out. Our proposal will require work for reward, limit time on welfare rolls, track down deadbeat parents, and provide those in need with the skills to build better lives for themselves and their families.

The family is the cornerstone of our country. Strengthening the family through reforming our welfare system benefits us all. President Johnson was right—if we do not help build strong families all the debate, all the money, and all the benefits in the world, will never be enough.

TODAY'S MESSAGE OF NEW EXTREMIST REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

(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, if there was ever a time that illustrated what the new extremist Republican majority is all about, it is today. Here is what they are trying to do. The Republicans in the appropriations bill are eliminating meat and potatoes programs like summer jobs and slashing desperately needed efforts like housing for the elderly while leaving billions of dollars of pork in their spending bill. At the same time the Republicans in the Committee on Ways and Means reported a bill that benefits the wealthy disproportionately.

One of the fairest and finest things done in the 1980's, the idea that the richest and largest corporations would have to pay some taxes no matter what loopholes they used, the Republicans seek to repeal even that.

The old days where huge companies like AT&T and General Dynamics and Mobil paid no taxes while the average working stiff had to ante up each year are coming back, thanks to the Republican majority. Eliminate summer jobs, cut housing for the elderly so the biggest corporations can pay no taxes?

That is today's message of the new extremist Republican majority.

DUELING PHILOSOPHIES

(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, in last year's budget, the President estimated that unless things changed, future generations would have to pay an 82-percent tax rate. So when I got this year's budget, I looked furiously to see just how much the situation had improved. Funny thing is, though, the President failed to include that number this time around. That is because instead of going down, the tax rate future generations would have to pay because of the President's fiscal folly has gone up. It has gone up to 84 percent.

The liberal Democrats in this Congress and in the White House have declared war on the next generation of Americans. Unless we act now to take control of this bloated and inefficient bureaucracy, our children can look forward to a future of higher interest rates, higher taxes, less opportunity, and ultimately a lower standard of living.

Well, we will not let the liberal Democrats make the first generation the first to have a lower standard of living than their parents. We will fight for the future of America. We will not let future generations foot the bill for the liberals' irresponsibility and mismanagement.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT ON CLEAN AIR

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, anyone needing evidence that the Republican Contract on America is a public health accident waiting to happen need only look at a recent study on the effects of air pollution. The news in the study, the most comprehensive ever, is that people who live in the most polluted areas are significantly more likely to die early from respiratory ailments and heart disease. Even here in the Washington area where the air is not that bad, air pollution is likely to steal a year of life from each person.

With this information, in a rational world, one would expect the Government to be doing more to be dealing with the air pollution problem. But not under Republican rules.

Why do I say that? Well, one of the provisions tucked in the bill that we are going to be debating today would prohibit the EPA from ensuring the inspection of cars in the areas with the most dangerous air pollution.

Republicans want to throw out one of the most effective tools we have had in keeping cars from pumping poison into the air.

For those who are not already gagging on the Republicans' so-called Contract With America, hold your breath.

PUTTING GOVERNMENT ON A DIET

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. The facts are in, Mr. Speaker. The Clinton economic plan has not paid off for middle America.

According to a Labor Department report, the median weekly earnings of full-time workers—in real, inflation-adjusted terms—actually declined about 2 percent last year. In other words, Americans are working harder and getting less for it.

What makes this so startling is that it occurred during a time when the economy was growing.

This is just one reason why we need to move forward on our plan to cut taxes and balance the budget.

American families need tax relief.

American savers and investors need incentives.

American workers need more job opportunities.

Our plan will deliver all that. And it will be paid for by real reductions in government spending.

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has put the American family, the American saver, the American worker on a diet. We Republicans will put the Government on a diet.

MORE ON THE ETHICS PROBLEMS OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to serve in the people's House. Here, every Member is equal and directly responsible to his or her constituents to represent them at the national level.

To ensure that we each focus on constituent representation rather than our own or special interests, numerous ethics rules have been established to govern our conduct in carrying out our duties.

For instance: We cannot accept any outside earned income nor can we accept honoraria; we are prohibited from seeking special favors for ourselves from governmental agencies; and nor can we accept any funding from a corporation or person for representing their specific interest before a governmental agency.

Well, Mr. Speaker, given all of these very precise rules—it bothers me deeply that virtually every day a new allegation is reported in the news related to your multiple relationships with so-called think tanks, persons, and corporations that suggest a violation of the House ethics rules.

These allegations have the potential to discredit every Member of this House. Let us clear the air. I ask you to call for an outside counsel to investigate these allegations to clear your name and to lift the cloud over this House and to ensure no harm is done to the good reputations of all of the Members of this institution.

□ 1030

RESCISSON BILL IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, several years ago the American people were rightfully outraged when U.S. Congressmen wrote checks on empty bank accounts. The House Bank scandal was a disgrace to this body and an example of the lack of fiscal accountability common in Washington.

However, there seems to be less anger from the American people and less shame in this Congress today, as the Federal Government continues to write checks on an empty account.

The debt has reached crisis proportions, but President Clinton and the liberals have renounced any responsibility to this disaster—despite the fact that Bill Clinton himself noted in his 1994 budget that if left unattended the debt would force future generations to pay an 82-percent tax rate.

We have a moral obligation to clean up this mess. The rescissions package is a good start. The Republicans aim to rescind \$17.2 billion.

Lobbyists are up in arms. If that many special interest groups hate the rescissions bill, I know we are on the right track.

DO NOT KILL BIG BIRD

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am here to deliver one short concise, simple message to my colleagues: Do not kill Big Bird. Do not kill Big Bird by voting for mean-spirited Republican budget cuts on Public Broadcasting. Do not kill Big Bird in order to help finance tax breaks for the very wealthy in this country. Do not kill Big Bird in order to help finance a star wars program that this country neither wants or needs.

Do not kill Big Bird because millions of American children, including my own three children, have grown up on Big Bird and "Sesame Street" and Mr. Rogers and Public Broadcasting. Do not kill Big Bird because Public Broadcasting works. Public Broadcasting is good for the American taxpayer and good for the American people.

Do not kill Big Bird because the public-private partnership of Public Broad-

casting is what has really proven to be successful in this country.

In short, Mr. Speaker, do not kill Big Bird.

ETHICALLY CHALLENGED ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we would not possibly kill Big Bird if we wanted to kill Big Bird. Nobody wants to kill Big Bird. The fact is that Big Bird generates hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue every single year to the great benefit of the people that created it, and any suggestion that Big Bird is going anywhere is crazy.

We cannot go 1 week, 1 day without another new ethical allegation that is made against a member of the Cabinet. Today it is Henry Cisneros and his problem with Housing and Urban Development. Over the weekend there was a problem with Ron Brown and apparently Federico Peña had hired Mr. Brown using FAA funds to lobby on behalf of Denver back in the late 1980's or early 1990's.

There is a pall, a cloud of ethical problems that hangs over this administration. It is certainly no secret that it is, let us call it in the politically correct language of the day, the most ethically challenged administration of the 20th century, perhaps of both centuries.

RECENT ACTIONS BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago the French Government was complaining about the activities of American Government officials. This came as an enormous surprise. The Japanese, the Germans, and Americans did not know there was any technology in France that anybody needed.

Yesterday the French President hosts Fidel Castro.

Mr. Speaker, we are entitled to doubt whether if there were an island in the Mediterranean with a 30-year dictatorship, with no human rights for any of its people that the French Government would be so understanding.

In the coming years France will have its difficulties in North Africa. Europe has not seen its last internal political problems. I trust that all of the people of the Americas will be similarly understanding and give the same difference to the French Government when it faces its own next crisis.

TAYLOR-DICKS EMERGENCY TIMBER SALVAGE AMENDMENT

(Mr. HERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1