

rereading the ruling. It is improving every time he reads. But I would ask this question. Can a Member during the course of a 1-minute make any reference to an activity of another Member, including the Speaker, which has taken place outside this Chamber?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Based on the precedents, only a factual reference can be made.

Mr. DURBIN. A factual reference can be made.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without any suggestions whatsoever of impropriety.

Mr. DURBIN. One further inquiry. Does this limitation in terms of reference to personal conduct beyond factual conduct apply to those who serve in Government and the executive branch as well as the legislative branch?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It applies to the President of the United States.

Mr. DURBIN. Does it apply to anyone else serving in the executive branch?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It applies to the President of the United States.

The gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BONIOR. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker, and this will be the final comment by me on this issue. We are eager to get on with the business of the House. But there are some very fundamental issues, as we have heard on the floor this morning, at stake here. We are being told that the Speaker is being placed above criticism and comments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is incorrect in drawing that conclusion.

Mr. BONIOR. The issue that we have before us in basically closing down voices. The RECORD of this House is being changed arbitrarily, committee meetings are being shut down prematurely. Private meetings on major policies issues are being held outside this institution. Members are being gagged on the House floor.

The question I have, Mr. Speaker, is this going to be the policy of the new majority in the 104th Congress?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Absolutely not. Absolutely not.

The gentleman has not stated a parliamentary inquiry.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will proceed with five 1-minutes per side.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states as follows: That on the first day of Congress, a Republican House will force Congress

to live under the same laws as everyone else, will cut one-third of committee staff, and will cut the congressional budget. We have done that.

In the next 85 days we will vote on the following 10 items. One, a balanced-budget amendment and line-item veto. Two, a new crime bill to stop violent criminals. Three, welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence. Four, family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children. Five, tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle-income Americans. Six, national security restoration to protect our freedoms. Seven, Senior Citizens Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty. Eight, Government regulation and unfunded mandate reforms. Nine, common sense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits. Ten, congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

DOUBLE STANDARD

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we can have two standards for speech, I do not believe that we can change the precedents and the rules of the House arbitrarily, and certainly in this Chamber we should not abridge the first amendment.

I just want to comment that I am not sure that most of our Members and most of the public can appreciate how serious a violation we think the Speaker has engaged in and how deeply we take this issue.

There are, I think, two different areas we have to look at to understand why we would charge this as a total betrayal of trust. Whether it is a total betrayal of trust because of his lack of judgment, or whether it is a total betrayal of trust because of deliberate actions I do not think we know yet.

Those are the words of now-Speaker GINGRICH regarding Speaker Wright on the floor of the House. He went on further to call Speaker Wright a collaborator and a quizzling, and all of these words were spoken after the ruling quoted by the Chair of June 15, 1988.

THE MORE WE KNOW

(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, "I understand you want to write a book. I own a publishing company you know." Could these words have been uttered in the Rayburn Room just off the House floor?

Mr. Speaker, the more we know, the more we have to wonder, what went on in the backrooms of the Capitol. Only a full airing of the facts will determine whether something illicit took place. Only an outside, independent, counsel can tell us for sure.

What was said? What was promised? What is the deal? What is in the con-

tract? It is time that an independent counsel expose the truth.

Mr. Speaker, do the Republicans have a contract with America or a contract with Rupert Murdoch?

No one serves two masters, Mr. Speaker. No one serves two masters.

LET US BEGIN TO SOLVE THE SERIOUS ISSUES FACING OUR NATION

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

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the American people are looking to the 104th Congress more than any Congress in recent memory with hope and anticipation that we begin to solve the serious issues facing our Nation. Hard-working Americans from across the country have come to Washington to discuss tax relief for families, term limits, and unfunded mandates. Members of Congress have also traveled throughout their districts, their respective districts, talking about crime and welfare reform, a balanced budget amendment, and a tax policy that creates more jobs and better salaries.

But, Mr. Speaker, each day on C-SPAN we listen to some—not all, not even the majority, but some Members of the Democratic Party—and all we hear are attacks on our Speaker, attacks on what he teaches in his college course, attacks on what he writes, attacks on what he believes. If these senior Members of the opposing party spent more time working on substantive legislation and less time attacking our Speaker, this would be a better Congress.

DOING THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS IN A TRULY OPEN AND PUBLIC FASHION

(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, 2 weeks ago America was told that this body was taking action to ensure that just about everything we do is done in full public view. No secrets and nowhere to hide—and that is exactly the way it should be.

But now, in an ironic twist, it appears that there is an effort by some to silence any and all discussion of the Speaker's potentially lucrative book deal.

The citizens of this country deserve to know what kind of financial arrangements have been made in this book deal and what has been discussed behind closed doors that may affect public policy.

There are a lot of things we do not know about the book deal. And that has to raise serious questions and concerns about possible improprieties and conflicts of interest.

But today's and yesterday's action on this floor—and today's rulings, the rulings handed down yesterday and today—have all but stopped us from engaging in an honest dialog on this matter.

It is a slap in the face to the public, and to this institution.

If the majority party is sincere about doing the public's business in a truly open and public fashion, I challenge the leadership to back up their words with action.

THE REAL ISSUES

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, what are the real issues facing Americans today? Nonexisting payments for book deals or House historians who are on the job for 1 day? I do not think they really care about that. Americans are concerned about the economy. They are concerned with how our Government affects their lives, they are concerned about their children's future. Republicans are ready to debate the real issues facing Americans today. We are ready to clean up Congress and that huge, overbloated Federal bureaucracy. We are ready to pass legislation that our constituents want, like a ban on unfunded mandates and a balanced budget amendment. I implore my colleagues from the other aisle to join with us in a bipartisan fashion to change Congress, not change the subject.

THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT BE SHUT OUT OF THEIR HOUSE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my Republican colleagues set an unfortunate precedent by gagging debate on the House floor, and disallowed the airing of legitimate questions surrounding a Member's financial dealings.

Today, Republicans and the Heritage Foundation plan yet another closed door meeting with telecommunications executives to discuss future regulation of our public airwaves. The meeting is closed to Democrats, closed to the media, and closed to the public.

But, this is not the only way that the public may be shut out of their House. The Heritage Foundation has recommended to Republicans in Congress that they cut corners by charging admission to the U.S. Capitol. In fact, one Heritage Foundation scholar said this week of tourists who take guided tours of the Capitol, and I quote: "They wear down the steps, they brush against the walls."

Republicans should not be concerned about the American people wearing down the steps.

They should be concerned about how special-interest influence and book

deals are wearing on the reputation of this institution.

THE 10TH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION RE UNFUNDED MANDATES

(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, the 10th amendment states that powers not delegated to the Federal Government will be reserved to the States and the people—not the other way around.

However, the Federal Government has turned this amendment on its head by passing on to the States the costs of legislation it cannot afford. This costs States and taxpayers billions of dollars and countless hours in an effort to comply with extraneous regulation.

The States are being forced to sacrifice their own programs and priorities in order to comply with Federal regulations.

In my own State, we passed the Headlee amendment to the Michigan Constitution in 1978. This prevents the State from imposing mandates on local governments. This has worked to the advantage of the entire State; saving money and cutting burdensome regulation for local governments.

The proposed Federal Unfunded Mandate Reform Act will allow greater flexibility for State and local governments, more accountability for Congress and savings for the American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, if the Federal Government cannot pay for it, we should not force the costs on the States. It is time we take responsibility for our own actions.

BARBIE DOLL HAS MOVED TO MEXICO ALONG WITH 700 UNITED STATES JOBS

(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 Congress plays politics with NEWT GINGRICH, last night's trade deficit showed a record of \$10.5 billion. The 1994 trade deficit, Democrats, will hit a record \$154 billion, which is equivalent to 3 million high-paying American jobs with benefits lost.

It has gotten so bad, Barbie Doll has moved to Mexico. Mattel Inc., from New York, is laying off 700 workers. They will make Barbie Dolls now in Mexico.

Mexico gets jobs, America gets pink slips, and Congress is debating NEWT GINGRICH and balanced budget amendments? Beam me up. There is no intelligent life left in the Congress of the United States.

Where is the trade program of the Democrat Party? We are failing the American workers, and that is why we

are in the minority, quibbling over the Speaker.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, it is with great pleasure that for the first time I call up House Resolution 38 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 38

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to curb the practice of imposing unfunded Federal mandates on States and local governments, to ensure that the Federal Government pays the costs incurred by those governments in complying with certain requirements under Federal statutes and regulations, and to provide information on the cost of Federal mandates on the private sector, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed two hours, with one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendments recommended by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and the Committee on Rules, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each of the first four sections and each title shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

□ 1100

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUNDERSON). The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good