

## A HISTORIC JUNCTION

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this Nation is at a historic junction. Either we can follow the same course we have followed for the last 40 years, a course of tax and spend, a course of rocketing deficits, or we can steer this flagship America into a new direction, a direction of fiscal responsibility, lower taxation and limited Government.

But in order to avoid the rocks of higher taxation and the shoals of bigger deficits, we must have a balanced budget amendment with a provision that requires a three-fifths super majority of both the House and the Senate to raise taxes. A balanced budget amendment without a tax limitation is like a ship without a rudder, at the mercy of the prevailing winds which may blow.

The three-fifths provision is the rudder that will steer America back in the right direction. For the sake of our children, for the sake of our grandchildren and this Nation, let us set a new course. Let us pass the balanced budget amendment with the three-fifths tax provision. Let us make the magic number 290 instead of 214 to raise taxes in the future.

## THE WORKPLACE SAFETY AMENDMENT

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, throughout yesterday's debate, the sponsors of the unfunded mandates legislation told us one thing but in the bill they said something different. They told us that the bill continues to protect workplace safety, yet they do not say that in the bill. They told us in the bill it continues to protect the environment, the air we breathe and the water we drink. Yet they do not say that in the bill. Protection against child labor, insurance against workplace firetraps, and security from hazardous equipment on the job are very serious matters. Yet does it mean what it says? Why do they not say it.

We need to say that in the bill. Clean air and safe drinking water are precious to the lives of American citizens. The sponsors of the bill have a duty to explain in clear, unambiguous, and concise language where in the bill do they provide for the vital protection of the health and welfare of American workers.

I intend to sponsor an amendment which in express language will ensure minimum Federal workplace safety standards, will not be abandoned and will be precise.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment. If they mean what they say, say it in the bill and support the amendment.

## THE ONCE MIGHTY PARTY

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the once mighty party that helped found the Nation now embarrasses itself on station after station. This party of Jefferson, born of ideas, lofty and grand, have been reduced to whining about a book and a man. This party that helped through the Great Depression now fumes and fusses in session after session.

This great party that brought us victory in wars today fights about a book which is not in the stores.

While the American people look to us for inspiration, the party whines on and on about an imaginary publication. The party that for a long this Congress led now acts as if it has gone completely brain dead.

It is sad, Mr. Speaker, but it is easy to see why this once great party is now in the minority.

## WITHDRAWAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 38

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 38.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

## IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 5, A BILL TO OPPOSE UNFUNDED MANDATES

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 5, the legislation regarding unfunded mandates. I believe this is necessary for us to defeat this legislation because it gives benefits to all Americans.

These Federal mandates give benefits to all Americans. Included in these Federal mandates is the Clean Water Act, which is important for us as far as the food we eat, the water we drink, and to millions of Americans whose livelihood depends on working on the waterways in America.

In addition, the Safe Water Act protects the water we drink from the tap. And in addition to that, the Clean Air Act protects the health of every American who lives in the cities. But as we know, pollution knows no geographic bounds. So it is very important for us to have national minimum standards. This is very important for every American, at least every American who eats food, drinks water, and breathes air. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5.

□ 1010

## SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUNDS

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, David Broder of the Washington Post recently wrote a column in which he quoted a lifelong Democrat shipyard worker who switched to be a Republican. Here is what that shipyard worker said.

He said, "Except for roads, everything government has done in the last 20 years has degraded our society," except for roads.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, building infrastructure for America's future is something that Government can do. It is something that Government should do. As we tighten our Government belt, we should be very careful not to weaken our rightful commitment to building assets for the future.

Our population continues to grow. People travel more. Highway travel has more than tripled since the interstate was proposed. Air travel has more than doubled in just the last 12 years. Spending highway aviation and trust fund dollars to build America is absolutely essential to the future of our country. Support the transportation trust funds.

## MEMO PUTS SPEAKER'S INTERESTS ABOVE NATIONAL INTERESTS

(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, in a memo to the White House last night, a senior Republican linked our right to raise important and valid questions about the Speaker's book deal to passage of vital legislation. The memo actually seems to put the personal interests of the Speaker above our national interest. It shows that Republicans would rather do the Speaker's bidding than the people's business.

We seem to have crossed a very troubling line. The Speaker's book deal is no longer merely a personal ethical issue. It is now threatening the vital interests of this country. What is more important for America, the North American economy, or a \$4.5 million check for the Speaker?

After the election, many pundits told President Clinton he should take a page out of Harry Truman's book and call us the do-nothing Congress. At the rate it is going, he is going to call this Republican group the Keystone Cops Congress.

## KEEP THE SUPER MAJORITY PROVISION IN THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(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, it has been interesting to hear the arguments by the keepers of the old order with

reference to a super majority provision in a balanced budget amendment. Some point out that even when it comes to treaties in the other body, a super majority is required there, but that is a very, very special case.

Taking into account that treaties are quite properly the purview of the other body, let me ask this, Mr. Speaker: What is a treaty, after all, if not a compact or a contract?

I humbly propose that our Contract With America is in essence a peace treaty with the hard-working, tax-paying men and women of this country, saying that a super majority should be required to increase taxes. Let us move forward on the balanced budget amendment and enact the Contract With America.

#### THE IMPERIAL SPEAKERSHIP GOES TOO FAR

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, having worked very hard this weekend, having made a special round trip here to interrupt my weekend in my district to work on the Mexico loan bill, trying in cooperation with other Members to put together a set of conditions that would allow us to respond to a potential crisis in a way that met Members' concerns, I was appalled to see a memorandum from the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services on the Republican side threatening us that if we did not desist in our speaking about disagreements with the Speaker of the House, this would jeopardize the Mexico loan bill.

Members on the other side have said that we must do the people's business. There is no inconsistency between vigorous debate where we disagree and working together where we agree. This effort to threaten us into silence by telling us that if we continue to express our views on the unrelated issues we have about the Speaker, we will therefore have them pull the plug on negotiations over the Mexico loan, makes it clear who it is that is interested in blocking things. The imperial speakership is being taken much too far.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT TO CHANGE CONGRESS; DEMOCRATS WANT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT

(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, unfortunately, events on the House floor the last few days may have caused some viewers to think that the people's House is the most expensive day care center in the world. It, of course, is not. The planned disruption by those with no ideas will not keep Repub-

licans from changing the culture of Washington.

Mr. Speaker, the American people elected a Republican majority in November. They sent a clear message: Clean up the way Congress conducts its business.

We promise to bring to the floor issues that the American people want to see, including unfunded mandate legislation and a balanced budget amendment. We are working to change the culture of Washington to bring discipline to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get on with the business at hand. I want to change Congress, while some Democrats just want to change the subject.

#### CALLING FOR OPENNESS AND AN END TO CLOSED DOOR MEETINGS

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

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, following this past week's events regarding the Speaker's book deal it has become clear to us here in Congress that the Republicans do not want the American people to know about the details.

I ask, is it coincidence that Republican members of the House Commerce Committee met yesterday in a closed door session with the CEO's of major telecommunications companies—among them multimillionaire publishing magnate Rupert Murdoch?

And today's Washington Post reports that Speaker GINGRICH addressed the group at a closed dinner last night.

Is it coincidence that Democrats are being silenced and ruled out of order when questioning the book deal?

The Republicans have stated that they want a more open House—should the American people be shut out from knowing what happened last night behind closed doors?

What happened to letting the sunshine in?

Mr. Speaker, the American people want to know.

#### CONGRESS MUST STOP QUIBBLING AND GET TO WORK

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

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I think what we are seeing here today is majoring in minors. The American people want to hear about the business of this House. They want to hear about the promises we kept, or are keeping, that we have made. They are tired of quibbling.

I went home for a few days and found that they go, "why are you guys fighting? Why aren't you working?" I want to tell the Members, the bill before us today, the most important bill, is unfunded mandates. That bill needs to be passed. We need to get to it.

The simple fact is the Safe Drinking Water act is costing one of my little towns nearly \$2 million, and their water already tests clean. Their total budget is less than \$3 million. That is what they care about. They are sick and tired of ignoring what is important. That is getting about the people's business, not listening to book deals.

Let us get to work and stop quibbling. They are starting to ask if we are children, and really, I do not think we are.

#### CHILDISHNESS IN PROTECTING AN IMPERIAL SPEAKERSHIP

(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, I would just like to make the record straight on this, whether or not we are being childish. This morning I read a woman in Vienna was sent to prison for 3 months for criticizing Maria Teresa, who has been dead for 131 years, because the Austrians will not tolerate anyone picking on their royalty, dead or alive.

We all say "Aren't we glad we are Americans? That cannot happen here," except we now have a memo from the other side of the aisle saying they are going to stop all business here if we do not stop pointing out there are some really troubling conflict of interest issues that we have with the Speaker and his continuing fox hunt as he looks to what he is going to do with this book deal.

That, to me, sounds like it is being childish. That sounds like a tantrum. It looks like a tantrum. I think there is a real question about who is being childish in protecting this imperial speakership.

□ 1020

#### TIME TO END WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, when Bill Clinton campaigned for President as a new Democrat he promised to end welfare as we know it. But, unfortunately, he talked right and governed left. His first so-called reform expanded welfare spending by \$110 billion and jettisoned what was left of workfare.

Mr. Clinton isn't the first liberal to promise reform. Since 1965 we have spent over \$5 trillion on welfare and all we have to show is disintegrating families, children having children, burned out cities, and a 30 percent illegitimacy rate.

Last November, the American people said, "enough is enough." They want to stop the vicious cycle of dependence which has morally bankrupted three