

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 welfare.

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

generations of Americans. Entitlements are not rights. Assistance, if needed, must be temporary—2 years and you're out. We need workfare now. If you can work—but won't—don't ask the taxpayer for help. We can no longer afford a government which subsidizes single mothers who continue to have more children. Unwed mothers must identify the fathers of their children and we must rein in deadbeat dads who refuse to support their families.

Mr. Speaker, time is running out, we must act quickly and forcefully to end the liberal welfare state. For the sake of every American, it really is past time to end welfare as we know it.

CONGRESS SHOULD QUIT BICKERING AND GO TO WORK

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received a call from a very angry constituent who had the unfortunate experience of watching yesterday's House proceedings. His message to me was simply: "Quit your bickering and get on with it."

Mr. Speaker, my constituent is right on the money. We do need to get on with it and that is why the renewed conviction I call on my fellow Members to join me in passing a balanced budget amendment.

Because Congress has for years proven incapable of fiscal discipline, only a strong tax limitation balanced budget amendment will force Congress to kick the habit of reckless spending.

I do recognize that Congress has tried in the past to restrain its voracious spending, but somehow these efforts always prove to be in vain. This must not and cannot continue.

The American people have spoken. They want a leaner and less intrusive government. They want us to put our financial house in order. And, finally, they want us to end politics as usual that leads to partisan bickering and gridlock.

NOT ALL MANDATES ARE CREATED EQUAL

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, unfunded mandates have gotten out of control. State and local governments have every reason to be frustrated. They do need relief. But we were elected and have a responsibility to do this right. Too much is at stake to just pass a bill without adequate hearings, without really listening to the people and say it is the answer and just ignore the consequences.

Not every mandate is the same, but this bill paints them all with the same brush. Under this bill, a mandate to prevent communities from dumping toxic chemicals into rivers that then

destroy bodies of water like Long Island Sound and an absurd requirement that New York City has to wash its jail cells three times a day are treated alike. Likewise, the authors of this bill make no distinction between mandates to protect our children from abuse and requirements on the format of government reports.

Not all mandates are created equal, and this bill should not treat them the same. Over the next few days, we are going to discuss this issue.

ME TOO, BUT

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, there are some strange new creatures roaming the Halls of Congress these days. I am going to call them *Metooobuts* because of the peculiar sound they make. We just heard one.

Let me tell you how to spot a *Metooobut*. Their habitat is on the minority side of the aisle. To flush them out, just make a statement of Republican principle, for instance, "We want to end unfunded mandates." The Democrats, who have never met a mandate they didn't like, will say, "Me too, but * * *."

Or say that we Republicans want to balance the budget. The Democrats, who approved all the spending that led to the mess we are in, will say, "Me too, but * * *."

We want to shrink the size of Government. "Me too, but * * *."

We want a middle-class tax cut. "Me too, but * * *."

It is not just a case of the tiger changing his stripes, it is more like the tiger has become a vegetarian.

Mr. Speaker, the American people won't buy this phony conservative conversion by the Democrats and after the American people witness the extraordinary effort we are making to change the Congress and keep our promises, I think the *Metooobuts* may become an endangered species around here.

NO MEMBER IS ABOVE CRITICISM

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I awakened to a national news report that a Republican chairman of a major committee has threatened the President of the United States of America. That chairman, Chairman LEACH, threatened that Republicans will withdraw their support for the bipartisan provision to bail out the peso in Mexico if Democratic Members do not stop criticizing the Speaker.

No Member is beyond criticism. No Member should be placed in a special position where we cannot unveil to the American public what we think is going on. The truth must be unveiled. Instead of threatening us, we need an independent investigation.

UNFUNDED MANDATE REFORM ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCINNIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 38 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5.

□ 1027

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further 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, with Mr. EMERSON in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, January 19, 1995, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in House Report 104-2 is considered by titles as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. Each of the first four sections and each title are considered as read.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that has been printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered as read.

The Clerk will designate section 1.

The text of section 1 is as follows:

H.R. 5

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995".

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any amendments to section 1?

The Clerk will designate section 2.

The text of section 2 is as follows:

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to strengthen the partnership between the Federal Government and States, local governments, and tribal governments;

(2) to end the imposition, in the absence of full consideration by Congress, of Federal mandates on States, local governments, and tribal governments in a manner that may displace other essential State, local, and tribal governmental priorities;

(3) to assist Congress in its consideration of proposed legislation establishing or revising Federal programs containing Federal mandates affecting States, local governments, tribal governments, and the private sector by—

(A) providing for the development of information about the nature and size of mandates in proposed legislation; and

(B) establishing a mechanism to bring such information to the attention of the Senate