

Ben Franklin, Abe Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

This past week marked the 27th anniversary of the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, a simple American who tried to do what was right.

I wonder what the bus drivers, I wonder what the waitresses and teachers and people who work think about what we have done.

I tell you what they want, and I hope that we go forward to make sure that we have summer jobs for our young people this summer and not long, hot summers. I hope we will get an energy policy that will help create jobs in this Nation so that people can truly work. I hope that we will have job training for those people who have lost their jobs because of transition and technology and put the middle-class working man and woman back to work who have lost their jobs.

And then I hope we do something about children who are being molested in our streets and develop a national registration for child molesters so you will know when they come into your neighborhoods.

Lastly, I hope this country recognizes that each and every American deserves an affordable house to live in.

That is what this Government should be about, not about gimmicks and admiration of one man who is the Speaker, because we think we are following campaign pledges.

I hope the next 2,000 days in the U.S. Congress will be representative of the people of America, diverse, different, speaking different languages, looking differently, but caring about one thing, and that is freedom and opportunity.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA WAS WILDLY SUCCESSFUL

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the Contract With America was a wildly successful effort in large part because the American people were promised something specific in terms of legislation, not generalities, but specific promises, and those promises were kept.

Day in and day out on this floor a group of politicians came together and kept their promises to the American people.

Today we have heard the reply of the Democrats on the floor. The Democrats can reply only out of fear and only with negativism.

Time and time again we have brought to the floor pieces of specific legislation, and all we have heard is criticism. They have no program. They have only criticism. They have no positive view of America. They have only negativism. They have no program for the future. They have only fear.

Day in and day out we have heard them bring this to the floor, and we have heard it again today. That is too bad.

If we are going to have a real debate about where America should go, they ought to have a program.

I heard a little bit of a program in one speech earlier today. It sounded to me as though they are willing to countenance across-the-board cuts in Social Security. Now, that would be an interesting debate. I hope that we have that kind of debate on the floor.

Republicans have said in our budget we will protect Social Security. We are going to balance the budget by the year 2002. That is going to be the chief work of the days ahead. We will not touch Social Security.

Today I heard on the floor the beginnings of an effort by some Democrats to say that what they are willing to do is balance the budget and do it by countenancing an across-the-board cut in Social Security. It should be a very interesting debate.

We would like to hear something positive out of them, not just criticism.

YES, AMERICA, WE ARE LISTENING

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Texas spoke about hopes. She enumerated hopes. We all share the hopes for our country. We all have great aspirations. We all are doing our best to meet the challenges of this Nation. I think it is fair to say our hopes are the same.

It is just how we achieve those hopes is a little different. We come to Washington with a plan. We are putting that plan into effect, and we hope it is going to solve problems rather than sustain problems, which is what the program of the previous 40 years has done.

This is a great country, and this is a great Chamber. We can express different views here and still have the same hopes for our great Nation.

The gentlewoman has said that we have followed the polls. That is backwards. The polls have followed us in this.

The gentlewoman has said that our agenda is somehow gimmickry. I do not think so. It has achieved a great deal of bipartisanship and support. If you look at every single vote that was taken, it had people from both sides of the aisle supporting our agenda.

The difference is we have been listening to America while they have been defending 40 years of programs that do not work.

Yes, America, we are listening, and we are beginning, and we are going to go forward, and together in a bipartisan way we are going to achieve reality for those hopes so that everybody in America is truly an American with a quality of life that measures the American dream we all have.

WE KEPT EVERY PROMISE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, to listen to the strident shrieking, incredibly hard words and tone from the other side of the aisle, you would think there was only one party that was voting for the items that we call the Contract With America.

But when you analyze the votes, you find out some very interesting things. First of all, this had bipartisan support for every single vote that was cast. If you look at the average vote for contract legislation in the House, excluding eight contract items the very first day, you had an average of 316 "yes," 110 "no." If you include those eight items from the first day, you have an average of 337 "yes," 90 "no." Seventy-seven percent, 77 percent of the House voted "yes" on contract items.

That means that we were not voting as Republicans and Democrats, but occasionally we were also voting as Americans, Americans first, and when the gentleman from Florida says that we were listening to America, he is absolutely right, because there was another very powerful intuitor of what the American people want, in 1992, and he promised to end welfare as we know it, he promised a middle-class tax cut, he promised to lift the Social Security earnings test, he promised a line-item veto, and he reneged on every single promise, and we have kept every single one of those promises.

JOIN US IN MAKING AMERICA STRONG

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, this is a new day in America, a great new day. It is a day where we talk about promises made and promises kept.

The speaker before me made the point this is not a contract that was partisan. It is a contract which captures the American people's dreams and begins the process of starting change in America.

The eight first-day reforms received an average of 397 votes; 160 of my colleagues on the other side joined us in those reforms. The average of the bills in the Contract With America received 316 votes. That is more than 70 of our Democratic colleagues who joined us in passing those reforms.

Our predecessors promised to end welfare as we know it. They promised a middle-class tax cut. They promised to begin making Government smaller and more responsive, and they failed over and over again.

The American people want change. The Contract With America delivered change. It is the beginning of a tremendous process.

Now, the challenge ahead of us is to balance the budget. I invite the American people, I invite my colleagues to join us in that challenge. It is immoral to continue to put the burden of the debt and the deficit they created in the last 40 years on our children and our grandchildren.

Join us, I urge you. We are going forward to make America strong and better and to give it back to the people, the people who own it, the people who made it, the people whose taxes make it run and who believe in this agenda and in us.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speakers' table the bill (H.R. 1345) to eliminate budget deficits and management inefficiencies in the government of the District of Columbia through the establishment of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, and concur in the Senate amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendments, as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 7, line 2, strike out "or"

Page 7, line 6, strike out "States." and insert "States;"

Page 7, after line 6, insert:

(3) to amend, supersede, or alter the provisions of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code, or sections 431 through 434, 445, and 602(a)(4) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (pertaining to the organization powers, and jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts); or

(4) to authorize the application of section 103(e) or 303(b)(3) of this Act (relating to issuance of subpoenas) to judicial officers or employees of the District of Columbia courts.

Page 10, strike out lines 7 to 9 and insert:

(4) maintains a primary residence in the District of Columbia or has a primary place of business in the District of Columbia.

Page 12, strike out lines 17 to 24, and insert:

(C) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT LAWS.—

(1) CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—The Executive Director and staff of the Authority may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(2) DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT LAWS.—The Executive Director and staff of the Authority may be appointed and paid without regard to the provisions of the District of Columbia Code governing appointments and salaries. The provisions of the District of Columbia Code governing procurement shall not apply to the Authority.

Mr. DAVIS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

the Senate amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], to explain the nature of the Senate amendments.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

The Senate has passed the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act with several technical and clarifying amendments and has returned it to the House.

The Houses are not in formal disagreement on the issue. I do not find the amendments to be in conflict with the nature or the purpose of the bill as passed by the House, and I am prepared to accept them and send them, send the bill, to the President for his signature.

The amendments deal with such items as ensuring that the courts are protected, the application of District laws to the Authority, and a clarification of the qualification of the members of the Authority.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I further reserve the right to object.

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I, too, have examined the amendments, and I will not object to them.

I am inserting a statement from the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS], the ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] at this point in the debate.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. NORTON. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief.

I just would like to say that it has been my great pleasure to work with the distinguished Delegate from Washington, our Nation's Capital, who serves with such grace and distinction, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON], and it has been my pleasure also to work on this bill with the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], a freshman Member from Virginia, and the people of Northern Virginia showed great wisdom in sending this young man to us at this time.

This was a bipartisan bill, passed unanimously by the House under the leadership of the committee chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr.

CLINGER], who guided all of us in this endeavor.

This will bring closure to the first step in restoring our Nation's Capital City.

I have enjoyed working with all the Members and with the truly responsible members of city government.

Again, it is a bipartisan effort that we all can take pride in, and I urge unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1345, the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act of 1995, as amended by the Senate last night.

The amendments made by the Senate are, for the most part, clarifying in nature. The amendment on page 7 involves the relationship of the Authority with the District of Columbia courts. The amendment on page 12 clarifies the applicability of certain employment and procurement laws to the Authority's Executive Director and staff.

The amendment on page 10 of the House engrossed bill modifies a provision of the legislation dealing with the required qualification for appointment to the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. As the bill now before us reads, persons appointed to the Authority must all "be individuals who maintain a primary residence in the District of Columbia or who have a primary place of business in the District of Columbia."

This is a useful change because while maintaining the requirement that all appointees have clear ties to the District, it at the same time broadens the pool of persons eligible to be selected. In that regard, I think it is clear that having "a primary place of business in the District" is broader than having to own a business here. There are certainly many people who are not the actual owners of a business located in the District, but whose primary place of business is there. For example, an accountant who works for an accounting firm in the District of Columbia can surely be said to have the District as their primary place of business.

Owning a business, and doing business are not necessarily the same thing, and not everyone who has a primary place of business is the owner of that business.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good compromise with the Senate and I urge my colleagues to agree to H.R. 1345 as amended by the State.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. NORTON. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the distinguished chairman of the full committee.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

I just want to rise and commend you and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS], the gentleman from New York [Mr. WALSH], and the gentleman from California [Mr. DIXON] for a truly, I think, historic bipartisan effort to bring to the District of Columbia the kind of control that I think is going to be necessary to restore the District to fiscal sanity.