

Mr. Speaker, these are all honorable people caught in a difficult position because they all have close personal ties to the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Committee has had this since last December. It will never get resolved any other way.

It is not just DAVE BONIOR and others here who are calling for it. Public Citizen, the New York Times, Richard Phelan, Roll Call, Robert Scheer in the L.A. Times, Al Hunter in the Wall Street Journal, Common Cause, the Hartford Courant, the San Francisco Chronicle, the list goes on and on. The Atlanta Constitution, his home newspaper. All have called for an independent outside counsel. It is time that we had one.

A STREAMLINED BUT UNCOMPROMISED FOREIGN AID BILL

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, since the start of the 104th Congress, Republicans have made no attempt to hide our conviction that the Federal Government has grown out of proportion to its responsibilities. The conviction is not limited to domestic programs.

Just as spending at home has come under intense scrutiny, our spending habits abroad should not escape notice.

Although foreign aid is only a small part of the budget, it still consumes billions of dollars. Republicans will streamline this part of the budget, and insure every penny going overseas is wisely and responsibly. We propose to eliminate repetitive bureaucracy by closing three agencies and ending dozens of useless, silly named programs like the Permanent International Association of Road Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, while our plan streamlines, it does not compromise America's position of world leadership. We can only be the world's leader if we do what is right by our future and by our children, and that is the essence of our plan.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, after the Supreme Court ruled yesterday on the issue of term limits, you heard a lot of complaining.

One who protested the loudest was the distinguished majority leader.

In fact, Mr. ARMEY promised that a vote on term limits would be the first vote in the next Congress.

In January 1997—if he is reelected—Mr. ARMEY will get sworn in for his seventh term, then turn around and vote for a bill that says that serving more than six terms is hazardous to the political health of our Nation.

If you think term limits is such a good idea, here is the solution: Here is a map of Washington.

Here is the Capitol. Here is the airport.

It is a short drive, and parking is a breeze because Members of Congress still have that perk.

From there, you can go back to the Sixth District of Georgia, the Eighth District of Florida, or anywhere else where someone got elected by talking about term limits.

Remember, my friends on the other side of the aisle—the Supreme Court decision will not bar you from acting honorably, from following through on your campaign promises and Republican rhetoric.

That decision is still in your hands.

TERM LIMITS IS NOT DEAD

(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, this morning in the Washington Post we read that the former Speaker of this House, Tom Foley, believes that term limits is dead. Actually that should be term limits are dead.

Either way, so speaks the man who did not understand the term limits movement when he was the Speaker, and he still does not get it. The citizens of Washington State and 21 other States passed term limits, and they are not ready to concede defeat on the issue.

Yes, yesterday's decision by the Supreme Court shows an unfortunate disconnect between the judicial branch and the majority of Americans who favor term limits. That type of thing has happened before and Congress has fixed it. Now it is up to Congress to act.

The ruling gives us a clear course: the term limit constitutional amendment. We have seen the arrogance of power here resulting from a system where longevity, not merit, determines clout. Let's return to the idea of citizen legislators who go to Washington to serve and then go back home to live among the people that they have worked for. That is what the people want, and they are the people we work for.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS HURT RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Medicare plan places a major burden on rural America which will literally squeeze the lifeblood out of America's rural hospital system.

Almost 10 million American citizens who live in rural America depend on the Medicare benefits they receive to stay healthy. Under the Republican Medicare plan, significant cuts in Medi-

care revenue will cause a great number of rural hospitals to either close or increase their cost.

It is wrong to make rural America pay such a high price. My Republican colleagues say all they are doing is shifting the cost to the private sector. What they really mean is that they are shifting the cost back to the taxpayers who have already paid that cost through monthly deductions.

Rural America deserves good health care and good hospitals. That is why the Republican plan must be defeated.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET CLOSES DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, most American families cannot leave their children a fortune. What we try to leave them is a set of values and an opportunity.

Last week, the Republican budget resolution closed the door of opportunity for millions of American kids. The Republican budget resolution cut college student loans by \$18 billion. That is right. At a time when America needs a well-educated generation to lead us into the next century, at a time when our kids need the opportunity for education for a good-paying job, the Gingrich Republicans make the biggest cut in student loans in our Nation's history.

And why have the Republicans done this? Why are the Republicans increasing a student's cost of financing a college education by an average of \$5,000? Because the Republican student loan cuts fill the Republican piggy bank to pay for tax breaks for the privileged few.

Cutting college student loans may be the GINGRICH view of America. How does your family feel?

THE FOREIGN AID BILL

(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, today and through tomorrow and the next day, the House takes up a historic foreign affairs bill that for the first time in many, many years actually authorizes the spending that we take on behalf of the interests of the U.S. policies in respect to foreign lands.

There will be much debate as to whether we are doing it the way other people wish us to do it or we are cutting too deeply, but the fact of the matter is that less than 1 percent of our entire budget is invested in foreign affairs. That is the issue we need to begin to take to the American people.

It surprises me when you ask Americans what they think is the largest item in the Federal budget and they consistently say foreign affairs, and indeed it is perhaps the smallest. When

you ask people if we spend too much on foreign affairs, in one recent poll, 79 percent said yes. The second question was, how much do you think we should be spending, and they consistently said about 5 percent, and indeed we are spending 1 percent.

There will be honest debates as to whether we are giving too much support for one country or another, but the fact of the matter is it is cheaper to support nations in peace than it is to buy more bombers and missiles, and I believe that we are on the right track.

CHANGE IN STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is dead wrong to turn our back on our Nation's students by eliminating the in-school interest deferral on student loans. The student loan program is not for children from wealthy families. It is for those who qualify, namely those from middle- and low-income backgrounds.

Watching Members of Congress my age who I know back when they were students took advantage of these programs now vote to repeal them to give tax breaks to their rich friends makes me sick. I think it is dead wrong for those who took advantage of programs now to vote to essentially pull up the ladder and deprive those who follow of the same opportunities that they had.

This hit to student loans comes at a time when the importance of education has never been greater, but the cost unfortunately has never been higher. We should not get to a point where our college campuses bear a sign, "Only the wealthy need apply." But unfortunately the Republican plan financing tax breaks by eliminating student loan interest deferral brings us much closer to that sorry state.

MORE ON THE STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I spent some time in the district talking to and working with students who simply wanted an opportunity to be educated.

I rise this morning to read a letter just received from Eric Lee Nickell, a Houston constituent of mine and a student at the University of Houston.

He writes:

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LEE: I am a university student who is obtaining an education with the aid of subsidized student loans. I am afraid that this may not be possible for much longer, judging from what I have heard of the rescission bills currently working their way through both Houses. My hope and the

hope of many thousands of students is that you will consider the potential leaders and scientists and doctors this country will lose if they cannot obtain an education. Please vote against any cut to student aid. Our future depends on you.

Mr. Speaker, considering the fact that Republicans plan to eliminate 18.7 billion dollars' worth of student loan interest deferral will end up costing students about \$5,000 apiece, I want to promise Eric that you will have my support. I will fight against the loss of student loans. Finally, I think Eric's letter speaks for itself.

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GOP SACRIFICES FAMILIES FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are asking working families to sacrifice in order to pay for their tax giveaway to the wealthy. The GOP cut in student loans will result in the largest increase in college costs in history for working families—families like the Baxters of West Haven, CT.

The Baxter children, Heather, Joe, Heidi, Scott, and Donnie come from a single parent family. Their mother, Gail, has already worked to put one daughter through college, and, next fall, her four remaining children will all be attending college. And, yes, Gail and her children rely on student loans to help pay tuition.

The Republican plan to cut student loans by \$18.6 billion will increase the cost of a college education by an average of \$5,000 per student. For the Baxters, that is an increase of \$20,000. The Republican budget asks the Baxters to pay \$20,000 more, so the richest 1 percent of Americans can pay \$20,000 less. That is wrong.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT IS MIXED BAG

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the American Overseas Interests Act legislation that we will be debating today is a mixed bag at best. In some respects the bill represents a retreat from America's role of promoting democracy in those lands that were formerly part of the Soviet Union.

The bill authorizes \$145 million less than the administration's fiscal year 1996 request and \$76 million less than the 1995 level. We need to draw a distinction between Russia and the other Soviet Republics. After spending billions guarding against Moscow's aggressive expansionism during the cold war, I believe it is still an important American interest to continue promoting the transition to democracy in the

former captive nations of the Soviet Union.

Also I do want to express praise for one provision of the bill included by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH], known as the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. That act would withhold U.S. aid to nations which are blocking congressionally approved humanitarian assistance to other countries. It requires all of U.S. aid recipients to allow unencumbered delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Republic of Turkey has imposed a blockade on the neighboring Republic of Armenia, preventing delivery of food, medicine and other humanitarian relief supplies from reaching Armenia. Much of this aid originates in the United States.

This Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act would prevent countries like Turkey from receiving aid if they prevent this aid from getting through.

ETHICS COMMITTEE STONEWALLING

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, here we go again, I am shocked and dismayed that by a straight party line vote the House Ethics Committee failed to appoint an independent counsel in the case of our Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH. It is obvious to me the majority members of our Ethics Committee have made the decision to stonewall this case. Why? Well, Mr. Speaker, could it be because the chairwoman of the committee nominated Mr. GINGRICH to be Speaker and also contributed to his campaign?

Could it be that two majority members of the committee are involved in GOPAC either as a contributor or a recipient? Could it be that one majority member is a potential witness in one of the cases against the Speaker involving influence peddling?

I remind my colleagues that Speaker GINGRICH himself said an independent counsel is required for any investigation into the position of the Speaker. I quote "this investigation has to meet an higher standard of public accountability." The clouds are darkening over our Capitol and can only be lifted with the appointment of an independent counsel. The stonewalling must stop now, Mr. Speaker.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule.

The Committee on Agriculture; the Committee on Banking and Financial Services; the Committee on Commerce;