

□ 1140

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I request that the gentleman's words be read by the reporter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the words.

The CLERK. 'Mr. Speaker, We are here doing the people's business on a regular basis, and what we have just heard is a great hypocrisy coming from the other side of the aisle. The fact that I, in the 103d Congress, which is the only Congress I have had the privilege of being a part of."

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I object.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, the gentleman claims to have heard and therefore claims that it was spoken, a hypocrisy, by the previous speaker. If the gentleman does not apologize for those words, I will object to his withdrawing them.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to apologize for the use of the word "hypocrisy," and ask unanimous consent to remove those words.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there further objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE]?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] may proceed in order.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I think it is a great curiosity that the previous speaker, who presided over this body as the majority leader in the 103d Congress, knows full well that during that Congress we were under the 5-minute rule many, many, many times, and during that time we never, never once suspended under the 5-minute rule so that we would not be able to sit in committee. So I think it is a great curiosity that today we should hear that this is a complete undermining of all of the reforms that we are bringing forward, that we are somehow going back on the business of the people's House, when in fact that is the only way that this place was run during the 103d Congress. It was never run another way.

DO NOT GAG AMERICA

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I have here the fundamental contract with America, the Constitution of the United States. And the first amendment of that contract says that the Congress shall make no laws abridging the freedom of speech. But what is going on in this House in the past 2 weeks is a clear violation of the spirit of that contract.

Last night the Republican leader reneged on one of the first promises of reform and instituted a policy that will

make it impossible—impossible—for Members of either party to be on the floor or to be in committee to debate important issues. This is just one, just one in a series of efforts by the Republican majority to shut down debate and gag the voices of the American people. Committees are being adjourned prematurely, the right to hearings is being refused, and minority Members are being denied the right to question witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Contract With America cannot be used as an excuse to gag America or shut down the Constitution, and we will not stand for it.

SEALY TIGERS WIN TEXAS CLASS 3A STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

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

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a unique 1-minute in that this is a positive 1-minute.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment today to salute the members of the Sealy High School Tigers football team, who recently won the Texas class 3A State football championship before a cheering crowd of 12,000 people in Houston's Astrodome.

Sealy defeated Atlanta, TX, to win its first State title since 1978. When this year's season was complete, Sealy had attained a 16 and 0 record, the best in school history. While the excellent coaching staff and the tenacious players themselves are responsible for this outstanding season, news reports indicate that Sealy had a secret weapon that its opponents lacked. Before each game, Sealy's football team listened to a motivational speech from the movie "Patton."

I am proud of the young men of this football team, and I know you, Mr. Speaker, will join with me in saluting the Sealy High School Tigers on their Class 3A State football championship title.

OBSERVE NORMAL RULES OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, last night something happened that has never happened in my 12 years as a Member of this body: The Republican majority totally shut out the minority for debate on a bill, unprecedented and incredible.

Mr. Speaker, speaking out against this incredible transgression is not obstructionism; it is called democracy, civility, the normal rules of parliamentary procedure.

If this type of gag rule continues, I can assure Members that the minority will not stand for this, and neither will the American people. If the majority thinks that a king and his court were elected to do anything they wanted, they will soon discover that the family friendly Congress will only be a dream.

BALANCING THE GOVERNMENT'S CHECKBOOK

(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, every month millions of Americans go through the same ritual. They take out their bank statement and the records they have kept and they balance their checkbook. It can be a difficult task, and occasionally the numbers just do not add up right. However, for the Federal Government, the numbers have not added up right for over a quarter of a century.

The rest of America understands what it is like to live within a budget. They understand that they cannot spend more money than they make.

Mr. Speaker, every American household must balance their checkbook. It is time the House balanced its checkbook. When the time comes, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in voting yes for the balanced budget amendment and restoring a sense of reality to this House.

WHERE IN AMERICA IS FREE SPEECH IF NOT ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, free speech, free debate, the free flow and exchange of ideas, has once again been denied the American people by the majority party.

Last night our Democratic leader asked to debate the majority leader. As is customary, 1 hour was set aside for debate. The new majority leader only granted our leader 3 minutes to debate, 3 minutes to debate.

Why will the majority not engage in debate on this floor? Why can we not debate the Democratic alternative to a balanced budget amendment? Why can we not debate the Democratic line-item veto, which was passed twice in the last session? Why will the majority not let America debate the Contract with America?

If there is no free speech, if there is no free debate, if there is no free exchange of ideas on this floor, then I must wonder where in this great Nation will the majority leader allow any free speech?

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO EMULATE GOVERNOR WHITMAN AND FIND A WILL AND A WAY TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING

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

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, tonight Gov. Christie Todd Whitman will give the response to the State of the Union Address. She was chosen because of her determination to work for a smaller, smarter, less costly government in New Jersey.

It has been said "for democratic nations to be virtuous and prosperous, they require but the will to do it." Governor Whitman has displayed that will by her actions in making the tough decision. I can only hope tonight the President will come to Capitol Hill with that same determination to work with the new majority in Congress to once and for all transform the Federal Government.

Since January 4 the new Congress has demonstrated that type of will. This was apparent in the passage of the Congressional Accountability Act, as well as our willingness and determination to move forward to pass the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and the balanced budget amendment.

Mr. Speaker, after the speeches are done tonight, what the American people will be looking for is not more talk, but rather for our President to cooperate and reaffirm the simple but effective lesson taught to us by Governor Whitman of New Jersey: Where there is a will, there is a way.

TIME TO PLACE FAIR VALUE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(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, tonight our President will come to this Chamber to speak on the state of our Union. Many pundits have suggested that this is a time to re-evaluate our President. Let me suggest that perhaps it is time to place fair value on what he has accomplished.

In the storm of myths and misrepresentation, much of it from the other side of the aisle, we lose sight of real accomplishments that affect real people.

President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, fought for an earned income tax credit that brought tax relief to 40,000 families in my congressional district alone, and millions in this Nation.

President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, has achieved the largest deficit reduction plan in history, while still creating almost 6 million jobs.

President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, has expanded Head Start for the children of Chicago and America.

And President Clinton, despite partisan opposition, has battled to take guns off our streets and put more police officers on them so we can be safer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Clinton not to re-evaluate but to continue to work for working people.

WHILE REPUBLICANS TRY TO CHANGE GOVERNMENT, DEMOCRATS TRY TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the biggest bankruptcy in the world today is not occurring in Orange County or even in Mexico, but on the minority side of the aisle right here in this Chamber. With their petty parliamentary pranks, the Democrats are driving themselves into the intellectual bankruptcy.

However, while the Democrats are busy committing slow political suicide, Republicans are making good on their promises to the American people to pass an unfunded mandate bill and a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

I have news for my friends on the other side of the aisle. No amount of partisan sniping is going to distract us from doing the real work the American people sent us here to do.

After we finish blowing the dust off the 10th amendment the Democrats for years have ignored, by passing an unfunded mandates bill, we are going to pass a balanced budget amendment as an encore.

While we are trying to change the Government, the Democrats just want to change the subject.

CALLING FOR MEMBERS' ASSISTANCE REGARDING FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF WEAVER FAMILY KILLINGS

(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, in 1992 Federal agents attacked the Weaver family in Idaho. They killed 14-year-old Sammy Weaver. They shot him in the back. They then shot an unarmed Mrs. Weaver and killed her, shooting her right between the eyes as she held her infant baby. They even killed the dog. Court documents now prove the FBI lied in court. Federal agents fired first. Weaver was entrapped into a gun violation.

Mr. Speaker, is this the Justice Department or is this the KGB? I always thought in America our Government does not shoot 14-year-olds in the back. Our Government does not shoot unarmed mothers while they hold their infant.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked for a Federal investigation of this matter, and

both sides of the aisle need to provide some oversight to the agencies of our Justice Department. I would appreciate the Members' help.

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE GOALS OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I have read a few news reports in recent days that suggest the Republicans are cooling on their commitment to the Contract With America. Let me just say, speaking for this newly elected Republican Congress, that just ain't so. Any reports that the Republican majority is backing away from the contract is wishful thinking on the part of those who support the status quo.

The fact is the new Republican majority is here to bring revolutionary change to the Congress. The Congressional Accountability Act has already been signed into law, making applicable to Congress laws from which Congress had exempted itself for years.

We will soon pass the bill to restrain unfunded mandates. Later this week or next we will take up and pass a balanced budget amendment containing, I fervently hope, a restriction on additional taxes. One by one we will work our way through the contract and fulfill our pledge to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington establishment and many of the guardians of the old order in this House may wish that the Republican majority failed, but we will not. The American people will not allow it to happen.

CONGRESS SHOULD STOP PARTISAN QUIBBLING AND PASS REFORMS SOUGHT BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

(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 have been in this office now for 20 days, and I have been keeping a list of all of the things that are supposed to be kept in the budget, as the minority has listed day by day just about everything to be left in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I think what I find is they did not get the message this last November. Balancing the budget and getting rid of the national debt was the No. 1 issue the American people sent us here to do. We cannot spend our way to recovery.

Let us talk about what people really want. They want a strong America, an America in the future that will be able to pay its debt, and not have an America that cannot take care of its children; an America that can take care or