

OFF TO A GREAT START ON THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, Americans want change. They want a balanced budget amendment, unfunded mandate reform, a line-item veto, and a middle class tax cut. People want change to make their lives easier and to get government off their backs. People want less government, lower taxes, and more control over their lives.

Just look at the November election results. Last night I was listening to President Clinton express the same ideas. He suggested that we stop imposing mandates on States, that we adopt a line-item veto to slash pork-barrel spending, and that we work together for a \$500 middle class tax cut.

Mr. Clinton, welcome to the Republican philosophy.

This is the Contract With America. The Republican Party campaigned for and the American people supported our contract. We are off to a great start, so let us begin working together to achieve these goals for the people by starting with the balanced budget amendment.

RUSH TO JUDGMENT ON MEXICAN LOAN GUARANTEE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Contract With America does not include a \$40 billion bailout provision for Mexico, and, therefore, I cannot fathom the need to rush to judgment that we are seeing in this House.

This proposal is moving faster than a bullet train without brakes, and we are talking about \$40 billion of U.S. loan guarantees.

Now, there is a hearing today, but it is only with administration witnesses. No dissenters need apply. The International Relations Committee, I understand, is holding no hearings. They are going to go direct to the Rules Committee and on to this floor.

Each Member has a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of this country, and it is not to rush to judgment on \$40 billion of loan guarantees. We heard the Mexican Government say they want no conditions. I cannot go to a bank, you cannot go to a bank and say you want to impose the conditions under which you get a loan.

Mr. Speaker, let us not rush to judgment. Let us think about what we are doing. Let us exercise our fiduciary responsibility.

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GIVE PEOPLE CHANGE

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor last night to sit in this Chamber and listen to all three of the President's speeches: The one to the Republicans, the one to the Democrats, and the one to the people. Clearly the President has heard the real State of the Union, which was given by the people last November 8.

However, the President failed to comprehend how serious the people are about passing a balanced budget amendment with a strong tax limitation. Without a supermajority to raise taxes, Congress will be tempted to balance the books on the backs of working families and the middle class, and they just cannot afford for that to happen again.

Instead, each of us needs to make a commitment to spend the people's money as if it were our own. We need to sit down in a bipartisan manner and get the scalpel out and begin to cut government. Like the President said last night, let us change the government; let us make it smaller, less costly, and smarter, leaner, not meaner.

I am here because the people of Kansas wanted real change. Now let us put it into action. Let us given it to them, with a balanced budget amendment and a strong tax limitation.

DO NOT RETURN TO UGLINESS OF THE PAST

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday members of the Congressional Black Caucus took a stand against allowing a symbol of segregation and racial division to be honored in the House of Representatives. I refer to the decision which was made earlier by Members of the new majority party to replace the portrait of Claude Pepper, a great humanitarian and champion of civil rights and older Americans, with a painting of a renowned segregationist and outspoken defender of slavery, former Representative Howard W. Smith. I commend Representative LEWIS of Georgia for speaking out on this issue, and let me also point out that the new chairman of the Rules Committee, our colleague GERALD SOLOMON of New York, to his credit, heard our grievance and agreed to remove the portrait. We appreciate his response, but I am disturbed by what appears to be a pattern of turning back the clock on the progress in racial relations. This incident comes on the heels of the controversy over the hiring of the House Historian, Christine Jeffrey, who insisted that schoolchildren must be fair to the Ku Klux Klan, a secret society who appears in white sheets and who have terrorized African-Americans, Jews, Roman Catholics, and others they find unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I hope these incidents are just the result of errors made in haste during the rush of the first 100 days, and not a more sinister campaign to return to the ugliness of the past.

ACT NOW ON CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, last night President Clinton gave a great marching speech. Left-right, left-right, left-right. At times he was Reagan, at times he was Dukakis. But in the end it was the same old stuff, the White House weather vane rides again. In the final analysis of his 1½ hour vague, meandering, heartwarming tales of innuendo, insinuations and soft truths, we were led to nowhere.

In contrast, New Jersey Governor Christine Wittman said "Actions will always speak louder than words."

Let us today start with actions by passing the balanced budget amendment, go on to prohibit unfunded mandates, follow it up with the line-item veto, and the rest of the elements of the Contract With America, which is what the American people wanted and how they spoke November 8.

SPELL OUT PLAN FOR BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, amending the Constitution is always very serious business. The balanced budget amendment is particularly serious when, as proposed in the contract, it is to be joined with an increase in military spending, a cut in taxes, and a promise not to touch Social Security. And, to boot, we are supposed to make it almost impossible ever to consider even an emergency tax increase on upper income Americans if that were necessary to reach balance. In other words, it is all to be done, all \$1 trillion-plus, by 2002 by cuts in spending.

Now the advocates of this approach say it can be done. Assuming they are speaking in good faith, that must mean they have some plan for getting it done, and if they have such a plan, it seems to me they ought to let the American people know what is in it.

Let us know where this road leads before we start down it, promising to get to the other end. And if they do not have a plan, then let us know that now too.

Unfortunately, however, the Committee on Rules refused to make in order an amendment that would give the American people the right to know.