

a promise to institute wage and price controls?

The increased taxes and wage controls will take money out of the pockets of the Mexican workers. And price controls will reduce the profits of their businesses. It will not work. It is a bad plan.

Mr. Speaker, the working people of this Nation are saying no to the peso prop up.

CANNON ROTUNDA EXHIBIT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR AND MISSING IN VIETNAM

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I have sponsored an exhibit in the rotunda of the Cannon Office Building on our American prisoners, of war, with special emphasis on missing throughout the entire decade of the war in Vietnam. We have been fortunate to extend it for 2 more weeks.

There is much construction around the Cannon Building. Most of our new Members in both parties are in the Longworth. Please try and go through the Cannon Building. And for the senior Members in the Rayburn Building, it is very important that they see this exhibit.

Yesterday on the House floor, I made reference to my pal from California, Mr. FAZIO, about men who had been tortured or beaten to death, and mentioned Commander J.J. Connell and Major Earl Cobeil. I want to mention the other one, Ron Storz, who tapped out with a broom, "God bless you; see you someday in heaven," who was left in "Alcatraz" like Sam Johnson was.

Ed Alterberry was beaten every day for 38 days until there were exposed pieces of flesh from his neck to his heels.

I will put in the names of all of the others, including a woman, and then do a 5-minute special order to conclude on that theme and the Medal of Honor.

[From P.O.W., by John G. Hubbell]

Norn Schmidt, "Freddy" Frederick, Ken Cameron, Betty Ann Olsen, Hank Blood, and Top Benson.

Reader's Digest Press, 1976.

□ 1440

BAILOUT FOR MEXICO MUST BE REJECTED

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the \$40 billion bailout for Mexico must be rejected by the Members of this House. It is not in the best interests of the American people or our economy.

The Mexican bailout is about hot money, just as the REIT collapse in the late 1970's and the Latin American debt crisis in the early 1980's was also about hot money.

Junk bonds, savings and loans, it is all about hot money.

The Mexican peso's crisis is about a lot of Wall Street wise guys in \$1,000 suits and \$1 million bonuses who have more money than brains and very poor understanding of political history or ethics. Unfortunately, the money they have is other people's money, money from hard-working Americans who trusted the Wall Street wise guys who, as always, were more interested in the commissions and fees than the results of their investments.

What Wall Street wise guys are asking us to do is to extend the full faith and credit of the United States of America not only for their bad investments but also to the economies of the emerging Third World nations.

This is not a minor consideration, and we should reject it.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEPARTING PAGE CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOSS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in my capacity as chairman of the Page Board to remind our colleagues that today is the last day of service for many of the pages currently serving the House of Representatives. The semester is at an end, and those who have been appointed to serve for a semester will be returning to their homes and what I call a new crop of pages will be arriving over the weekend to begin their service on Monday.

I think it is fitting to note at these junctures the fine and outstanding service that is rendered, very often unsung, to the Members of the House by the pages who serve us here. Their experience is a wonderful experience. They have the opportunity to learn by being here and observing and seeing and absorbing what goes on.

I would maintain, having been a page myself many, many years ago in the 83d Congress, that this is one of the best types of educational experiences that one could possibly have.

So on behalf of the Page Board and, indeed, I think for the entire membership of the House of Representatives, I want to express to the pages the thanks of the House for the great service that they have rendered and to wish them well in their future endeavors.

I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE], the former chairman of the Page Board and currently the minority member of the Page Board.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank the pages for their outstanding service this year. You have been just tremendous. Each and every one of you can be proud of yourselves, and I am very proud of each and every one of you.

I see a former page, the former Clerk of the House, Donn Anderson, standing back there with them, one who has really taken them under his wing and given them his wisdom and his guidance.

You have seen history at work here. You have seen the House of Representatives at work here. You have seen us at our best and at our worst. You have seen us working together trying to make this a better country.

You have witnessed some real history. You have seen Nelson Mandela walk down this aisle and speak from the podium where every President since Woodrow Wilson has stood, a man who had been in prison almost half his life who spoke of love and reconciliation. You heard the State of the Union Message here, a very long State of the Union Message here, just the other night, and you witnessed the orderly transfer of power in this House from one party to another after 40 years. That is democracy at work.

And in that orderly transfer of power, you saw me being transformed from chairman of the Page Board to the ranking minority member of the Page Board to be followed by the one for whom I have great admiration, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON], who is now the chairman.

I look forward to working with you in the future. Anytime any one of you need a letter of recommendation, I will give you each one a great one. You are good people.

Eight or nine years from now you can be a Member of this House, and as I look around, Mr. Speaker, some of the new Members, they look almost that age, some of the newer Members this year. That was a great transfer of power, too.

Thank you for what you have done. You are great people. God bless you. Godspeed.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona, a newly appointed member of the Page Board and a former page himself.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Missouri yielding to me.

I did have the opportunity this morning to attend my first meeting as a member of the Page Board, and it is a great honor for me as one who began his service back here as a page too many years ago. We will not mention the particular year. But Donn Anderson, Ron Lasch, and I all graduated from the page school.

I just wanted to join with my colleagues in saying to the young men and

women that are with us here today, many of whom will be leaving, some of whom will be staying with us for their second semester and the rest of this session of Congress, or this first part of this session of Congress, that you had an extraordinary experience, and I think you probably all recognize that.

As I look back on the experience myself, I think back to things that have had a formulative part, been a formulative part, of my life, and I think non has been more important that the experience that I had here as a page. In terms of giving me an appreciation for how the American Government works and an appreciation for the political process and a better understanding of those who serve us in Government, that they are humans, they are good, and some are bad, and some are indifferent, but they are humans in every single way, and I think that perhaps more than anything else that I took away from that experience it was that.

I hope as you go back to your States and to your communities you will try to convey that to the young men and women that you will be in school with this year and next year and on into college, that there is so much that we are fortunate to have in our country, so much in our Government that is good, and that it is so important for all of us to participate in that.

You have been given a rare opportunity that very few young men and women have in their lifetimes, to be a part of this, not just to observe, but to actually be a part of this process, and I know that you will take away from it a great deal.

The test is really how you will use this in the future and to what good you will put it. It does not have to be in government. You can put it to good use whether you are in medicine, whether you go into law enforcement or business or whatever career you might be in. But I suspect that this is an experience you will find later in life will be one of those defining moments for you. So take that message back and think about what you have learned here and how you can put it to use.

I will make this prediction, Mr. Speaker, and my chairman of the Page Board, my colleague, at least one or two of these people will be back among us one day, probably after we are gone, but back among us one day as Members of this body.

I wish you all very well, God bless you. Thank you.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank my colleague for this contribution.

Let me yield now to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. KANJORSKI], my friend of 42 years with whom I had the great privilege of serving as a page in the 83d Congress.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Thank you very much, I say to the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON].

I guess the pages should know that there is a long traditional history in this House that pages do come back to serve, and they come back as the

guardians of the memory of what this House is about.

The gentleman from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON], the new chairman of the Page Board, and I had the pleasure of meeting on this House floor on the great day of January 20, 1953, as the American people were witnessing the inauguration of Dwight Eisenhower as President of the United States.

He and I have had the pleasure through our lifetime to have served and known personally every President of the United States since Dwight Eisenhower, every Speaker of the House of Representatives since Joseph Martin of Massachusetts, every majority and minority leader of the House of Representatives since Charlie Halleck of Indiana, and I believe at that time John McCormack of Massachusetts, or Mr. Rayburn, at that time, was minority leader when we served as pages.

The opportunity you have been given by this Congress and your individual sponsoring Members is something special, and as I think of it, it is one of the few assignments or appointments we can make as Congressmen that will, indeed, affect our future.

As my friend from Arizona has pointed out, there is not any question in my mind that one of you will rise at least to the service of this House, if not to the Senate or to the Presidency of the United States.

□ 1450

What you have learned here and what you have observed here is most important because you will carry it as probably the most important and significant experience of your lifetime.

As you go on from this place, you will return to your schools, and it is important that you exercise the greatest capacities you have to gain all the knowledge and information you can gain there, then go on to college and graduate school, as you may, so that you too may have the opportunity to come back and serve the American people.

As my friend from Arizona indicated, you have had the opportunity to be the fly on the wall to see democracy in action in its very form. You have also had the opportunity, as the gentleman from Missouri, BILL EMERSON, and I did as 15-year-olds, to see the orderly transition of democratic power. That experience may not happen for another generation to come. So, for all time in the future, you will be able to say you were there in the 104th, this Congress, when 40 years of domination by the Democratic Party turned the gavel over to a new Speaker and a new majority and that it operated without the threat or the sound of one gunshot.

It is a tradition that has continued for more than 200 years, the longest uninterrupted parliamentary democracy, the House of the people, in the history of the world.

I join with my friend from Missouri [Mr. EMERSON] and all my fellow pages, some of them came after us—they are the young guys—in wishing you well

and congratulating you on your great public service, recommend that you carry on in that tradition and you have the opportunity to see that democracy and representative government continue in this democracy forever in the future.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to add my comments of commendation to the pages who are leaving this Chamber. I have only been here some 3 weeks with this crop of pages, but you are part of a proud tradition that dates back—it is hard to believe, Mr. Speaker, that it was some 27½ years ago that I was here as a page. Lyndon Johnson was President of the United States, there were giants who walked the floor of this Chamber, such as Gerald Ford, John McCormack. There were people who fought partisan fights very vigorously, but they were patriots and loved this country above all. I know that you will look back on your experience with the same memories that I have. Some of you will come back to this body as Representatives of the people. Most of you will go on to other careers, perhaps medicine, the military, some of you in public service in other areas, in education perhaps. But whatever you do, this time that you have had will be an invaluable moment in your lives and you will always look back on it with treasured memories.

If I could, I would like to echo the remarks of the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. KOLBE] and my colleague from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] that it is a very historic moment that you have witnessed in these past few months. You saw only yesterday a balanced budget amendment enacted in a bipartisan vote that has been before this body for some 15 years. You saw the fruition of that just yesterday.

This is about the orderly transfer of power, and it only happened 40 years ago prior to this. It is truly historic and truly profound when you have an opportunity to see the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] pass the gavel to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] and the troops were not called in, air raids were not required. But the solemn act of the voters across this country made that decision. It was accepted by the most powerful leaders of the land.

So you have been here, I would say to each and every one of you, at a very historic time and you have performed a very valuable service to your Nation and to this Congress, and I commend you and thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS].

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Missouri, Mr. EMERSON, for bringing this to the House's attention.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important day. It was not that many years ago that I left this Capitol Hill as a page in the other body. Actually, it was many years ago, 1967, about the same time the gentleman from Mississippi was leaving.

Mr. Speaker, though I learned a lot in my 4 years, I remember a lot of things: I still get lost in the Rayburn Building, moving around in my first weeks here. But I keep running into pages who keep me on the straight and narrow as I make my way about.

Mr. Speaker, pages still work many hours. I do not think people appreciate the long days that they put in. School starts at 6:30, they have to get up before that. They have long days, and longer days since the session began, sometimes into the evening. So, after getting their studies at night, a 12-hour day is not unique in the life of a page. It is very exciting, but it takes total commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend their knowledge and their industry and the commitment they have shown just in the 3 weeks since I have joined this body. I think the test is going to be for them to build on the basis of knowledge that they have obtained here. They have been given an opportunity to observe and serve in a way very few ever have. It will be a defining moment in their lives.

I hope many of them will seek public service and find the same kind of commitment many of us have, but at the same time find the kinds of joys you can get from serving other people which brought many of us into public service.

I know some of these individuals will return in the future to this House. It is a sad time to see some of them go. But I know that when I left here, I had hoped to return one day. So the fact that I can make it will inspire others. It is an achievable goal.

I thank the gentleman from Missouri for bringing this to the House's attention.

Mr. EMERSON. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, let me wish all the pages all good things. I hope you will achieve your life's goals and ambitions and that your lives will be filled with good health and happiness and success.

Work hard, and do the very best you can. I hope that this experience has been for you everything that we hope it has been. I think as you get older and reflect back on it, you will probably find it is one of the best experiences you could ever hope for.

Mr. Speaker, I say to all the pages: "God bless you all, God speed to you in your future endeavors."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOSS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. CHAMBLISS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. CHAMBLISS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VOLKMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DORNAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. TUCKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to associate myself with those remarks by my colleagues and congratulate the pages also. They certainly do a fine job here on the floor of the House. There were some things in my colleagues' comments that I thought were somewhat remarkable and worth mentioning and worth underscoring when they talked about the bipartisanship with which this House has, last night, passed a balanced budget amendment. Also the bipartisanship in the whole democracy, contextually, in which the gavel was passed from Mr. GEPHARDT to Mr. GINGRICH.

Certainly this is highly reflective of and symbolic of the kind of democracy that we so wonderfully enjoy here in the United States of America. Whether we like something or not, whether we voted for something or not, the majority rules, and so it goes.

Last night, Mr. Speaker, I did not support the balanced budget amendment, but, thank God, we live in a country where I can say that democracy had its will and its way. As to the reasons why I did not support it, they are precisely because it did not prohibit things like Social Security being on the chopping block. In other words, it did not take Social Security off the chopping block. So everything is on the table, Social Security and other things are on the table.

The other reason I did not support it is it allows for a three-fifths rule, which would allow for a minority to have control over whether or not you are going to expand budgetary outlays.

Certainly, from my standpoint it was unconstitutional and it provided a scenario under which you can have minority controlling a House that I believe should be controlled by a majority.

□ 1500

But nonetheless the majority did make that decision, and so the majority ruled, but it brings me to the point, Mr. Speaker, of what I would like to talk about today, and that is precisely how important it is for this House to weigh out what it does.

Last night a lot of people were happy about the balanced budget amendment passing, and to them I say, "Congratulations." They certainly did a lot of hard work, persons like my colleague, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. STENHOLM].

But the rather interesting excitement and inebriation, if my colleagues will, that they experienced last night, I just hope that they continue to feel those feelings of joy after they wake up from that moment of inebriation to the sobriety of the reality of what they have done, for indeed, Mr. Speaker, we are going to make some very hard choices in the months ahead for how we balance the budget, and my reason for not supporting that amendment was precisely the same reason that I say today, that we must not balance the budget on the backs of the poor and the needy.

The balanced budget amendment is only a prelude to what we are going to be dealing with very shortly when we start talking about welfare reform. It is going to be another tough choice, another very difficult decisionmaking process through which and by which we are going to have to ask the difficult questions. How can we come up with the right solution, by the right means?

And so, Mr. Speaker, what we are saying is, "You can have a right goal, and you can have a right objective in mind, but we can't accomplish it by the wrong means, and certainly everyone in this House talks about welfare reform and the fact that we need to overhaul the system that is arguably antiquated and that has some indicia of fraud and abuse, and we understand that, and it's not only the Members in this House that believe that, but the surveys show and are very replete with information that all of America, just about, feels that welfare is in need of an overhauling. But we have to look at some of the specific points about welfare, and we need to be very, very careful."

Mr. Speaker, as we start reforming and retooling our welfare system so that we can be fair to the welfare recipients, and be fair to this country, and indeed be fair to the principles of democracy, let us start off, first of all,