

one full percentage point. In America we imported 27 percent of the goods we consumed. That is up from 20 percent in the last 5 years. Led by the Department of Commerce, U.S. Export-Import Bank, U.S. Trade & Development Agency, and the Small Business Administration, all are encouraging opportunities for our small businesses and our communities.

We should be about this, Mr. Speaker, instead of saying that we are taking away from growth and quality of life. We should be expanding jobs and economic development.

□ 1120

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY SEEN AS CONTRACT WITH AMERICA MOVES AHEAD

(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, what a great week last week was. The House took a major and crucial step toward fiscal responsibility by passing the balanced budget amendment. If the Senate does the same, then fiscal restraint will be the law of the land.

But also important last week was the fact that the Republican Party delivered on a campaign promise. This is a lesson that all politicians need to learn in today's society. But a second thing that was very important about it was that it was done with a bipartisan vote. We had about 70 to 80 Democrats voting for this, and as we look at the other elements of the Contract With America that we will be considering this month, finalizing the unfunded mandates bill, passing the line item veto, criminal justice reform, review of our national security situation, and regulatory reform, let us hope that that same bipartisan spirit still prevails, because as the speaker before me said, we have a major trade deficit problem. We need to work on that.

Mr. Speaker, we need to work in a bipartisan fashion. We always do so much better when the Democrats and the Republicans work together.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE THE CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the President called for a smaller, leaner, smarter government. I think we all agree. So today I am introducing a bill to eliminate the dumbest program in the entire Federal Government, the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

This piece of petrified pork was put in the budget in 1903 during the Spanish-American War, Mr. Speaker, to teach Americans how to shoot straight. Ninety years later high-tech weapons have replaced rifles. It is time to de-

clare victory and delete this wasteful program.

While we are fighting very hard to get guns off the street, Mr. Speaker, this program hands out 40 million rounds of free ammunition, sells surplus guns, and conducts an annual shooting match. We have too much debt and too many needs to subsidize recreational shooting.

This program is nothing more than a special interest boondoggle. Any Member who has ever campaigned against special interest politics should be embarrassed to vote for it.

TIME FOR THE HOUSE TO STOP BICKERING AND LEGISLATE

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, how silly we must look to the people beyond the beltway. They sent us here to govern and to make changes, but what do we do? We bicker, we quarrel, we argue. And over what? The things that the American people really want? No. We argue over pointless points of order, we offer a multitude of meaningless amendments. We bicker over supposed insults to each other's honor and integrity in ways that make many people wonder whether we have either.

To the folks back home this place must seem more like the children's playground than the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the minority to get over it and get on with the business of the people, because if we continue to make this august body look more like a playground than a legislature, the American people who have already lost their patience will also lose their hope. The time for play is over.

Let us get down to real work.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ALLOW HOUSE MEMBERS TO RETURN SURPLUS FUNDS TO THE TREASURY

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Speaker GINGRICH said that he wanted to start a new idea in the House of Representatives and call it "Correction Day." He said to the American Hospital Association that he wants to start 1 day a month where Congress can act on a list of "the dumbest things the Federal Government is doing and just abolish them."

I would give the Speaker a recommendation that starts right here in this body. I have introduced a bill, H.R. 26, that has 52 Democrats and Republicans as cosponsors on it which would say that when we as Members of Congress save money in our office accounts and return money to the U.S. Government, we can have that money go directly to the U.S. Treasury to reduce

the deficit rather than back into a slush fund that is spent on other Members of Congress who exceed their mail accounts.

Mr. Speaker, let us look in a bipartisan way to pass H.R. 26 and continue our efforts as we started last week to balance this budget.

THE UNITED NATIONS TAKES OVER IN HAITI

(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, I read in the paper this morning that the United Nations is going to take over the Haiti mission because things are stable and secure in that country now. Of course, they are still going to rely mainly on U.S. troops down there, but there will be new rules of engagement. We are only going to use weapons in self-defense.

But then we read on a little further, and our Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador Albright, says, "But if this U.N. force is pushed, it has the leaders, the mandate, the firepower, and the will to push back."

Now, I call that doublespeak. That is the kind of thing that confuses our troops, it confuses us, it confuses our allies, but it probably does not confuse our enemies.

It raises the specter of our troops under foreign command in another country, under U.N. command, under Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and it causes us problems because we do not know what their mission is.

Ambassador Albright also said that Aristide has wide popular support, and that is true. But she failed to say that apparently the United Nations is unaware that there is intense brutal opposition to Aristide as well. So all is not well, and we should keep our eyes on foreign policy in Haiti.

WHAT IS TRULY BEHIND THE \$40 BILLION?

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

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, what is truly behind the \$40 billion in loan guarantees to Mexico? Some have called it a bailout for Mexico, but I might call it a bailout for the banks and wealthy financiers and investors in the Mexican markets.

Mr. Speaker, there is risk involved in every investment. These institutions and individuals knew full well what was in front of them. They made the investments; we did not. And now that the investments have soured some, it should not be the responsibility of the United States to make up their losses.

Now the President is going to act on his own. He is going to bypass Congress because he knows it is not going to pass the U.S. Congress.

We are not talking about peanuts. Forty billion dollars is a lot of money, and what happens if Mexico defaults on these loans? What assurances do we have that we are protected by their oil reserves or any other kind of collateral? Forty billion dollars—that could be used to control crime, offset the shortfall in defense, make our streets safer, immunize our children, and make job training and continuing education available for more Americans.

CHANGING BUSINESS AS USUAL— PUTTING AN END TO UNFUNDED MANDATES

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, we were elected to represent the people of our districts, and that means changing business as usual. Changing business as usual means no more unfunded mandates.

Every community in America is suffering at the hands of Congress. Currently, State and local governments must comply with 185 Federal mandates. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, in 1993 alone more than 150 new mandates were introduced in Congress.

How can a community that spends approximately 13 percent of its revenue on these mandates afford to finance everyday priorities? Communities are being forced to postpone public safety programs and programs for children and senior citizens. They have reached their limit and have started fighting back. Some are even challenging Congress' authority to impose these mandates, and others are simply refusing to comply.

Mr. Speaker, let us join the fight and pass the unfunded mandate reform legislation for the good of our country.

A PLEA FOR REAL CHANGE, NOT FAKE CHANGES

(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, 1 week ago the President had the courage to talk about real change—not the fake, pretend change that my friends on the other side of the aisle have been promoting.

The American people did not send us here for fake change, and the American people cannot be fooled. They sent us here because they want a Government that understands their problems and is working to make their lives better. They want a House of Representatives that is not afraid to improve the way it does business so that it can improve the way it does the people's business.

Real change means altering the way campaigns are financed, the way we deal with lobbyists, the ethics laws that govern us, and the free gifts and perks we are allowed to take.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk from the other side of the aisle about change but not a word about these changes, real changes. This institution can be judged by answering a simple question: Will we provide a government that is ruled by Americans with extraordinary influence of a government that is influenced by ordinary Americans? The answer so far is not very promising.

□ 1130

KEEPING THE PROMISE

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

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, last week we brought to the floor and passed the balanced budget amendment. In doing so, we kept our promise with the American people throughout our Contract With America. We took that giant first step and passed what the American people have been demanding for years—for Congress to get its financial affairs in order.

I am proud to be a part of the bipartisan team that pulled together to pass the balanced budget amendment. And I look forward to continuing in this bipartisan fashion to pass the rest of the Republican's Contract With America.

This week we will be voting on the unfunded mandates bill. Through this bill, we are going to stop putting intolerable burdens on State and local governments and the private sector. I hope all my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and keeping the promise with the people.

RESTORING PUBLIC'S TRUST IN THE HOUSE

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in strong support of House Resolution 40, which seeks to ban gifts to Members and staff from lobbyists and lobbying firms. This legislation will ban all meals, entertainment, travel, legal defense fund contributions, and other gifts. It also seeks to ban House Members from accepting any royalties for any published work.

In his State of the Union Address, President Clinton stated that we do not need a law for everything and challenged Members to take it upon themselves not to accept any gifts from lobbyists.

For my part, I have decided to take the President up on his challenge and will follow the lobbyist gift ban. I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will follow suit.

Let us begin anew, and work to restore the people's trust in this House. This legislation is a strong first step.

FEDERAL MANDATES PRICE TAG

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

Mr. CREMEANS. Mr. Speaker, last night was a very long night, and I have three words for my colleagues in the 104th Congress, and that is, Mr. Speaker: "Stop the insanity." Stop sending State and local governments insane Federal mandates with insane price tags. For over the last 9 years, Congress has imposed over 72 unfunded, burdensome mandates to the States. In the 16 years preceding that, only 19 of these oppressive mandates were passed.

Mr. Speaker, this is a disturbing trend. The Federal Government is increasing its demands on the States while actually sending them less money. In fact, the Federal aid to State governments has decreased by \$27.2 billion in the last decade. For the past 40 years, Congress has forced States to pay for the Federal Government's mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop passing the buck. Let us stop the insanity.

DEMISE OF THE BAILOUT?

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned that the Clinton administration and Republican leadership here in Congress have abandoned their plan to seek congressional approval of \$40 billion in loan guarantees to Mexico. Workers and taxpayers of America prevailed in our first round of debate over the proposed Mexican bailout. But President Clinton is scheduled to reveal an alternative plan when he addresses the Nation's Governors this afternoon.

We should watch carefully to ensure that he defends the American people against Wall Street speculators. At the same time, the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee is meeting right now and is likely to raise your interest rates. That is the seventh time over the past year. What this means to you is that if you bought a \$60,000 home a year ago on a 30-year mortgage, your payments today will be about \$100 higher than they were a year ago.

Now, why are interest rates rising when inflation has not gone up and your wages have not gone up? The reason is because the markets have discounted the cost of the \$40 billion bailout, and more, that is related to NAFTA and Mexico.

Too much hot money from Wall Street was bet on a gamble in Mexico that we are all having to pay for now.

SUPPORT LINE-ITEM VETO

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