

One of the big differences between the seniors and the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts and everything else, if I may point that out, versus defense contractors, is defense contractors do it for profit. Defense contractors make money on this. The others are doing it because they are good citizens volunteering, and think they have something to add.

That is not why I really came. I just saw that while I was waiting my turn. What I really wanted to talk about is the fact that here we are, it is fiscal New Year's Eve. Fiscal New Year's Eve comes the same time every single year. Guess what? Of the 13 funding bills that we should have reported and should have done by now, and a year ago all 13 were done and President Clinton had signed them, we are still in this very queasy, queasy, queasy position of what is going to happen. Yet, we are all going to take off and go out of here. I think that is ridiculous. We ought to stay here, get our work done.

I think it is ironic that the only spending bill, the very first spending bill we got through, and we got through in both bodies first, was our own pay and our staff's pay. That looks a little piggy to me.

Today we just voted down two spending bills because there was no consensus. Now we are going to go out for 10 days and come back, and we still have 11 bills hanging out there. We also have the debt ceiling looking at us. All of this is going to come to a smashing crash in November.

My guess is what is going to happen is that there will be so much confusion when people come back, and it will be so action-packed and everything will be so jammed in, that the hope is that no one asks about details, we will all get stampeded like buffalos, we will be terrified if we do not go along, they will shut the Government down, it will be high drama, maybe we should have Academy Awards for who can give the best scene, but it is really frightening.

If we look just at Medicare, we have not had the Medicare markup. It was supposed to be this week. They are saying Democrats are trying to scare them. I think it is scary when they will not show you, A, a bill, and B, they will not have the markup so people can go home and talk about it. We just had a hearing out on the lawn where we asked the trustees, "Have you been asked in front of Committee on Ways and Means to testify on their bill? Have you seen the new bill on Medicare?" No, they have not seen it, and no, they have not been asked to testify.

We heard everybody saying, "We have to do this, we have to do this because the trustees say we have to do this." Is it not interesting they did not ask the trustees if this is the right thing to do? They accuse us of playing politics, but my goodness, the trustees are the nonpolitical ones. You would think if you really want to be nonpolitical about this, take it to the

trustees. Yet they have not heard the first thing.

My guess is when we get back, they are going to cram that thing out of there. They will say, "There is no more time." Of course, they just came back from 10 days off. "There is no time, we can have no more hearings, we do not need to hear from the trustees," and we will shove it all into this huge, big snowball that they are going to call reconciliation.

One of the good things that is happening is the O.J. Simpson trial is cranking down. Maybe the news people will start tuning in and finding what is happening here. But I think the average American is not going to be happy to know we ended the fiscal year without having our work done, with 11 bills not having passed this House, with a continuing resolution hanging out there, with no information about the details in Medicare. I do not think that is anything to go home and be proud of. I am not, and I am really sorry we do not stay and do our work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON REESE, NATIONAL YOUTH OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise on a happy note and proudly congratulate a truly outstanding young man, Jason Reese, who last week was named the National Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Mr. Speaker, Jason grew up in public housing in the east Tennessee city of Morristown, abandoned by both his father and stepfather. When his mother went back to school while continuing to work, he took on a great deal of household responsibility, including caring for his two younger brothers.

But Jason has done so much more than help out at home—he became a leader at school, in his community, and in the Boys and Girls Club of Morristown.

Among other honors, Jason maintained an excellent 3.83 grade point average in high school, was awarded the prestigious National Merit Scholarship, and won the east Tennessee High School physics competition.

In the community, Jason has conducted programs for the elderly, helped restore a local park, and he currently volunteers his time helping young children with their homework.

Jason Reese's incredible ambition and strong morals—coupled with the support and guidance of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America—helped him overcome adversity and become the role model he is today. I hope troubled youth around the Nation take Jason's example to heart.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. TATE], who is going to continue to

discuss many of the freshmen's outrage over welfare for lobbyists.

WELFARE FOR LOBBYISTS

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly right. How it works, the hardworking people of America work hard, they pay their taxes, send it back to Washington, DC, then some bureaucrat to Washington DC grants that out to some organization that turns around and spends that money to lobby for more money from the Federal Government, to the tune of \$39 billion, that is billion with a B, billion dollars every year spent by organizations in the form of public grants.

We had a hearing yesterday. The opposition to our changes, ending welfare for lobbyists, resorted to calling us names, "intimidators", an "Imperial Congress". Let me tell you, we tore down the walls of the Imperial Congress on November 8, 1994. We are trying to change the way things are done.

It is unfortunate they have to throw out things like "red herrings" and accusations and calling us names. I learned a long time ago if you have to start calling someone names, you really do not have much else to say. That is what is happening here in Congress. They do not have much else to say, so they have to call us names. The fact is your tax money, the working people of the United States, is going to organizations.

Let me show you one of these organizations. For example, the National Council of Senior Citizens receives \$70 million—in fact, it is even under, here it is \$72 million every year—and 96 percent of that money, of their budget comes from the Federal Government. That is outrageous. Then they turn around and donate to political campaigns, to the tune of over \$400,000 over the last couple of election cycles.

The fact is they are involved in partisan political activities, including in my district, they are running as another organization, and they are involved in it under a different name, over \$85,000 in television ads spreading the big lie. It is basically taxpayer-funded political advocacy on the dime of the taxpayers.

When I ran for office I knew that the defenders of the status quo would spend every penny they had to try to stop what we are doing, but I had no idea they would be using the taxpayers' money in my district to try to fight it. That is the problem. I am not against political advocacy, and I am not against them lobbying, but what I am against is them using my dime at my expense. It is time they do it on their own dime and on their own time.

It is time to end welfare for lobbyists. It is time to end the dirty little secret in Washington, DC that costs \$39 billion every year. They are the defenders of the status quo. They will do everything they can to stop the changes that the people have demanded. If they

want to do it, do it on their time and on their own dime.

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REPORT CARD ON CONGRESS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, what we have seen here in the House of Representatives today is truly remarkable. With the Federal fiscal year drawing to a close, the Republican leadership had a responsibility to put on President Clinton's desk 13 appropriations bills. How did they do?

Well, they got 2 of 13. Where I come from, 2 out of 13 is not a very good grade. In fact, I do not even know that it is high enough to earn an F. Down in Texas we would probably give it an F-minus for 2 of 13 bills, and the quality of Republican leadership that it represents. And when you look at those two bills, you find the quality is as sorry as the quantity.

The first bill they sent over there was the legislative appropriation, protect the Congress first, worry about the rest of the country last. And the second one was a military construction bill so loaded with pork barrel you could hear the pigs squeal all the way to Arlington, TX.

Today, this Republican leadership has had a truly unparalleled accomplishment, perhaps in the entire history of this country. They have come forward with conference reports on two appropriations bills for consideration in this House this afternoon, and they have had two appropriations conference reports defeated. Two up two down. Two very down. In fact, the last one of those appropriations bills, they could not even command a majority of the Republican Members, much less the Democrats.

So, here we are this afternoon, exactly 1 week after Speaker GINGRICH went up to New York and declared "I do not care what the price is. I do not care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 60 days. Not this time."

We have had plenty of alarming rhetoric, but not very much responsible leadership. On appropriations, that leadership is 2 bills out of 13, as this fiscal year draws to a close this week-end.

Much of this is because at every stage in the budget process, the Federal Budget Act, the statute on the books, has been looked at as something to flaunt, something to ignore, something to violate from top to bottom. The keystone of this Republican plan to balance the budget is to take \$270 billion out of the Medicare system.

Can you believe that at this late date the Republicans at the end of the fiscal year have yet to even introduce the bill, to take that \$270 billion out of the pockets of America's seniors and America's disabled? They have not even filed

the bill that is the centerpiece of their budget.

From at least the first morning that the Committee on the Budget considered their budget, it was presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. Bipartisanship was out the window, because they had their plan and they were going to accomplish it no matter how many seniors or disabled people or people they viewed as powerless got in the way and got run over.

What about that great successful campaign ploy, the Contract on America? Well, they have not had quite as much success once they rolled it out here in the Congress. We have had 2 bills passed out of 11 in the planning. The first one was to repackage a Democratic idea that would have been law at the beginning of this Congress if the Republicans had not killed it last time. It is called the Congressional Accountability Act. It is a good bill. It passed on day 1 of this Congress and became law.

The second, an unfunded mandates bill, which passed with significant Democratic support. We have a third bill, a line-item veto bill, but Speaker GINGRICH is afraid that President Clinton will use it to slash and slice out some of that pork barrel that has been put into the bill. So he held up and delayed appointing conferees for that bill.

So we have two bills passed, two bills dead and gone, and seven lingering somewhere in the legislative process.

But nowhere has the lack of leadership been more obvious than when it comes to lobby control, when it comes to gift ban, with the relationships between legislators and lobbyists, when it comes to ethics. There we find, as we have just heard this afternoon, that the lobbyists they want to control are the Girl Scouts, the National Council of Senior Citizens, Catholic Charities, and the YMCA.

What about the polluters, what about the lobbyists who keep writing special loopholes in the Tax Code? What about those that loaded up these bills with pork barrel? That lobby control is nowhere. It has not been brought to the floor of this House. And we have the chairman of the Committee on Ethics telling us in her own words this week the letter of the law is not compelling to me; my goal is to have a process that the committee members feel good about.

Well, America does not feel good about what this Congress is not doing or what it is doing, and the way it has ignored ethics and proceeded to pursue a right wing extremist agenda.

WELFARE FOR LOBBYISTS AND A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, once again on the issue of welfare for lobbyists,

the facts remain, the President of the United States does not want to balance the budget. My good friends across the aisle are not serious about wanting to balance the budget. The fact is the Republicans have shown a proposal to want to balance the budget. What I do not understand is when we are \$4.9 trillion in debt, and if my daughter Madeline continues to live to 72, which she will live probably to 172, she will have to pay in her lifetime \$187,150 just to balance the budget.

So why in the world would we subsidize lobbying, when we have all of these other needs out there? Why would we provide taxpayer funds for lobbyists?

Basically in my district, as you can see, they are running advertising, \$85,000 in television ads and Medicare ads and telephone calling. But it is the National Council of Senior Citizens that shows up again as one of those groups that receives over \$70,000.

Mr. MCINTOSH. If the gentleman will yield, are you telling me this group who receives 96 percent of its funds from the Federal Government has bought television campaign ads in your district?

Mr. TATE. That is absolutely correct.

Mr. MCINTOSH. That is incredible. No wonder it is difficult to get to a balanced budget when you have all these federally subsidized lobbyists out there fighting us tooth and nail.

Mr. TATE. The point to keep in mind is we are sending out tax dollars to groups to lobby for more of our tax dollars. There is something wrong there.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota, also a member of the subcommittee that held the hearing yesterday.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. I would like to thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to talk a little bit about some of the testimony we have heard. I do not remember the exact number, Chairman MCINTOSH, of hours of hearings we have had about this issue, but there are several things that surprise me, and frankly just shock me, in the testimony we have heard.

First of all, there are, in fact, groups out there receiving over 96 percent of their entire budget in Federal grants and then turning around and engaging almost exclusively in what I would describe as political activity. That is shocking enough.

But I will tell you what surprises me even more, and that is that some groups have come to Washington and have lobbied against this bill, and some good groups that do good things that we all know the names of, the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, that they would come to Washington and in effect defend this kind of activity. This is an affront I think to every taxpayer. It is in an affront to every democratic loving American, that groups can literally use and abuse the taxpayers' money to advance