

Say a prayer and do what you can for those unfortunate children of God who are addicted to tobacco and other deadly drugs. They will die before their time or wish they could.

As I prepare to yield back the sacred office in which I have been privileged to serve for nearly a third of a century, I wish you all Godspeed. You will remain in my heart and in my prayers forever.

CLINTON NAMES CASTRO APOLOGIST AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, the real President Clinton showed himself by his appointment of Alan Sagner to head the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Mr. Sagner is proud of having been a founder of the so-called "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," the most active U.S. pro-Castro group in the history of the Castro regime. In fact, Sagner formed this group during the worst moments of Castro's mass murders and confiscations.

It would have been expected that by this time Sagner would at least admit his mistake, recognize that he failed to see Castro at the beginning of his dictatorship for what he was, a murderer, which he still is. But no, to this day Sagner proudly defends the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Here is a fellow who still refuses to acknowledge the gulags, the mass executions, the political prisons, the totalitarian oppression, as the essence of the Castro regime; and he is now the head of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Shameful appointment, Mr. President. Find someone else.

THE IRS BUREAUCRACY

(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, the IRS told Joan Kilburn of Nevada she owed \$92,000 that she said she did not. The IRS says, look, pay the \$92,000, and we will leave you alone. Joan Kilburn said, you are wrong. And they said, prove it.

After 18 months, thousands of dollars, Joan Kilburn proved a very simple fact. Her ex-husband owed the money and owed the money before they were married. They finally agreed.

Ladies and gentlemen, tell me what has happened in our country when a Government bureaucrat can look at a citizen and say prove it. Prove it, and we will leave you alone.

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God Almighty, if we want to reform the IRS, then change the burden-of-

proof law. In America, a person is innocent until proven guilty. Where did we allow the IRS to go off half-cocked, accusing our citizens of wrongs without proving it? Joan Kilburn, bravo.

I yield back the balance of all those penalties.

AMERICANS LIKE TAX REFORM

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, throughout the 104th Congress no issue has struck a chord with the American people like tax reform: Fundamental radical tax reform to make paying taxes simpler and fair, tax reform that will get rid of the IRS.

This does not come from tax cheaters. It comes from hard-working Americans who are tired of being intimidated by their own Government in the form of the IRS.

During one of my meetings in August, I was given this very beautiful piece of modern art that I am wearing today, this T-shirt, to show how strongly people feel about the IRS. They said, take this back to Washington and tell them that we want the IRS gone, and to do that, we want a different tax system; and this particular group preferred the sales tax system. This should be a top priority of the 105th Congress.

They also gave me an additional shirt, a little lady come up to me and said, would you please take this shirt to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] for his hard work to get rid of the IRS? So I have to put up with the gentleman's popularity even in my own district.

ETHICS COMMITTEE SHOULD RELEASE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL'S REPORT

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, over a year ago, I pointed out that this House has a severe dark cloud hanging over it, all because of the inaction of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct on complaints that have been filed against our Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH. They have been stalled and stalled and stalled. Now we have a report that has been filed by the independent counsel, and they are not releasing the report.

POINTS OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has been here long enough to know the rules of the House. He shows it on the floor of the House all the

time. He is abusing the rules of the House by referring to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair sustains the point of order, and would permit the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] to proceed in order.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, one newspaper in Connecticut appropriately describes the chairperson of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct as "Stonewall Johnson." That is a perfect, appropriate description of the gentlewoman from Connecticut, and she has handled well the delay so that none of the ethics violations by the Speaker will ever be seen in the light of day.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LINDER. The gentleman is continuing to refer to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would sustain the point of order of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] and would remind Members that it is inappropriate to refer to the Members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and their work.

TAX CUTS SHOULD REDUCE TAXES

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, if a politician says that he wants to cut taxes, it would really help his case if the tax cuts would actually reduce the tax burden. President Clinton says he wants to cut taxes, but if you seriously look at his proposals, you will see not a tax cut, but voila, a tax increase.

A report released this week by the Joint Committee on Taxation shows that Bill Clinton's tax proposals will increase taxes \$64 billion. Bill Clinton's bridge to the 21st century is evidently paved with the hard-earned tax dollars of the American family. Bill Clinton and the liberal Democrats have absolutely no intention of cutting taxes on any American family. Despite all the fancy terminology and all the sweet sounding words, Democrats remain the tax-and-spend liberals they have always been. Nothing has changed; they love big government. And the liberals claim that they want to cut your taxes in order to continue robbing the people of America to feather their nests here in Washington. This report proves it. Shame on you liberal Democrats.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL'S REPORT PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today or tomorrow the House will consider a privileged resolution I have introduced calling on the Ethics Committee to release the report of the outside counsel investigating Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. I would like to read the text of that privileged resolution:

Whereas on December 6, 1995, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct agreed to appoint an outside counsel to conduct an independent, nonpartisan investigation of allegations of ethical misconduct by Speaker Newt Gingrich;

Whereas, after an eight-month investigation, that outside counsel has submitted an extensive document containing the results of his inquiry;

Whereas the report of the outside counsel cost the taxpayers \$500,000;

Whereas the public has a right—and members of Congress have a responsibility—to examine the work of the outside counsel and reach an independent judgment concerning the merits of the charges against the Speaker;

Whereas these charges have been before the Ethics Committee for more than two years;

Whereas a failure of the Committee to release the outside counsel's report before the adjournment of the 104th Congress will seriously undermine the credibility of the Ethics Committee and the integrity of the House of Representatives;

Therefore be it resolved that—

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall immediately release to the public the outside counsel's report on Speaker Newt Gingrich, including any conclusions, recommendations, attachments, exhibits or accompanying material.

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT MUST COMPLETE ITS WORK

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

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] earlier, are absolutely correct. I would like to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in publicly stating that the American people and this Congress have not only the right, but we as representatives of those people have the responsibility to see the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct complete its process, when it is complete. I repeat, when it is complete.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, chaired by the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON], our colleague, has conducted this investigation in accordance with the rules established by this House.

When the committee has completed its responsibilities, I am confident that the report will be made public and then the American people and the House of Representatives will have the opportunity and the responsibility to respond to those conclusions.

Until such time, I would call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to

let the rules of the House and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct complete its task and its responsibility. I believe that will be done properly.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR A REASONABLE INVESTIGATION?

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I listen to my words of my friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. GUNDERSON], and I would agree with him that clearly we do not want any half-baked anything here. But as I get ready to leave this body, I am beginning to think about what I could will to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and I am thinking about willing them an outbox. I guess the question is, how long does it take for a reasonable investigation? Our problem is 2 years seems like a very long time.

In the past, and we can bring those charts to the floor except they probably would be ruled out of order, but we have charts showing that all sorts of serious complaints before were dealt with in a matter of weeks or months, and sometimes days. But 2 years, 2 long years? And there is some suspicion that we may not see this until after the term is over and that people will then think, oh, well, it is moot now and we start all over again.

I think, if that happens, this body will really be operating under a very dark cloud.

"DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER FROM THE PAST APPLIES TO PRESENT ETHICS COMMITTEE SITUATION

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, three of the previous speakers, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LEWIS], and the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], were all signatories to a letter that goes directly to this point that they are now arguing the other side of with respect to disclosure from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. It was written just a few short years ago.

Mr. Speaker, it says:

As the Ethics Committee prepares its recommendations to the full House, it should only release the information which the Committee agrees is relevant and necessary to support its findings.

Why is that? Because, it goes on, to ask a Member, any Member, to also respond in the court of public opinion to allegations, rumors and innuendo not deemed worthy of charge by the Committee would be totally unfair and a perversion of the process. Especially in a time of press sensationalism.

Public release of material not germane to formal Committee action

In the Wright case,

would be similar to the process used during the Joe McCarthy era: Ignore the discipline of the process and firm evidence and dump unproven allegations out in public and let the ensuing publicity destroy the person's reputation and character.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield for just one second?

Mr. WYNN. I am delighted to yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to respond that in the Wright case it took 2 weeks to get a special counsel, and in the Gingrich case we talked about 15 months. I think there is a great difference. Thank you.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, people often wonder: Is there a difference between Democrats and Republicans? There absolutely is. That difference is being played out in the closing weeks of this year's session.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats are trying to get more money for education, about \$3.1 billion for education and job training. No, it will not unbalance the budget. The budget will be fine. But it will enable us to provide funds for basic math and reading skills. Head Start, summer jobs for kids, dislocated worker assistance, school-to-work initiatives, and Pell grants for college students.

Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot of rhetoric about our children's future. The Democrats care about our children's future. That is why we are fighting for education. The American people want more Federal support for education. Strapped local and State governments want more money for education.

We have an opportunity in the closing weeks of this session to provide that assistance without affecting the budget. We ought to do it.

Mr. Speaker, there is a difference between the Democrats and Republicans: Democrats favor aid to education.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION RETREATS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, after a decade of progress under Ronald Reagan and George Bush, Bill Clinton is leading the full-scale retreat on the war on drugs.

Upon arriving in the White House, Bill Clinton began by dismantling the war on drugs. He began by slashing the U.S. military's drug interdiction budget by 1,000 positions. In February 1993,