

that occurs, we should also recognize that the Republicans want to stop the debate from the Democrats, who ask, where is the ethics report on Speaker GINGRICH?

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD DROP CONSIDERATION OF PAR- DONS FOR WHITEWATER FRIENDS

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, this May, a Little Rock jury returned guilty verdicts on a total of 24 felony counts against President and Mrs. Clinton's Whitewater business partners, James and Susan McDougal, and the President's successor as Governor of Arkansas, Jim Guy Tucker.

It must have come as great comfort to Susan McDougal and her codefendants earlier this week when, in a televised interview, the President refused to rule out the possibility of pardons for them if he is reelected.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a resolution that would declare that it is the sense of this House that President Clinton should specifically, categorically, and immediately disavow any Presidential pardons for his former Whitewater business partners and to former Governor Tucker. By passing this resolution before we adjourn to go home and face our constituents, we can send the right signal—that in this country, no one is above the law, and convicted criminals do not walk free by virtue of having friends in positions of power.

YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

(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, last week the Ethics Committee concluded for the third time that the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, violated House rules in his use of a political adviser for official business. The committee concludes—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CHRYSLER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, referring to matters before the Ethics Committee, which is specifically forbidden in the House rules, is my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will reiterate the principle in this matter. The Chair will repeat the admonitions of the Chair from June 26, 1996, September 12, September 17, and September 24.

It is an essential rule of decorum in debate that Members should refrain

from references in debate to the conduct of other Members, where such conduct is not the question actually pending before the House, by way of a report from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct or by way of another question of the privileges of the House.

This principle is documented on pages 168 and 526 of the House Rules and Manual, and reflects the consistent rulings of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses and applies to 1-minute and special order speeches.

The fact that a resolution has been noticed pursuant to rule IX does not permit such references where that resolution is not actually pending.

Neither the filing of a complaint before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, nor the publication in another forum of charges that are personally critical of another Member, justify the references to such charges on the floor of the House. This includes references to the motivations of Members who file complaints and to members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

As cited on page 526 of the Manual, this also includes references to concluded investigations of sitting Members by the Standards Committee. (July 24, 1970). Clause 1 of rule XIV is a prohibition against engaging in personality in debate. It derives from article 1, section 5 of the Constitution, which authorizes each House to make its own rules, and to punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and has been part of the rules of the House in some relevant form since 1789. This rule supercedes any claim of a Member to be free from questioning in any other place.

On January 27, 1909, the House adopted a report that stated the following: "It is the duty of the House to require its Members, in speech or debate, to preserve that proper restraint which will permit the House to conduct its business in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members," from Cannon's Precedents, Volume VIII, at Section 2497. This report was in response to improper references in debate to the President, but clearly reiterated a principle that all occupants of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses have held to be equally applicable to Members' remarks in debate toward the Speaker and each other.

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The Chair asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House.

The gentleman from Georgia may proceed in order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, quote, the committee concludes that your conduct of allowing the routine presence in your office of Mr. Jones demonstrates a continuing pattern of lax administration and poor judgment that has concerned this committee in the past, unquote.

NEWT GINGRICH has repeatedly shown his willingness to break House rules to suit his needs. The charges being investigated by the outside counsel, James Cole, are far more serious and involve violations of the law, including tax fraud.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CHRYSLER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, he is referring to matters that are before the House Ethics Committee which are specifically forbidden in the House rules, is my point of order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, may I be heard on the point of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will hear the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me say to the gentleman from the other side, there comes a time when an injustice is so great, when you must even challenge the rule to demonstrate that injustice. I know the gentleman from the other side and the Members from the other side would not like for this report to come out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. The Chair again sustains the point of order, and the gentleman will proceed in order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. There now exists a \$500,000 report from the outside counsel. Later today or tomorrow, the House will once again consider a privileged resolution I have offered calling for the release of the outside counsel's report. The public deserves the right to see that report. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for the release of the secret Gingrich ethics report.

ISSUES OF ETHICS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, and I certainly hope that the Democrats who are so hung up on bringing down NEWT GINGRICH to the extent of breaking House rules in terms of issues in front of the Ethics Committee, will show equal compassion and curiosity when we review the Gephardt ethics allegations and a lot of other ethics allegations on some of their Members. If we are going to bring this House down to such partisan ferocity, then maybe my colleagues want to consider that.

Why does the Democrat Party not concern themselves with why the President will not reveal his health care records? Why Susan McDougal will not talk but would rather go to jail even if, as the President has publicly said, a pardon is out there? Why do my colleagues not have any curiosity of who hired Craig Livingstone?

Let us just admit, this is politicking on taxpayer time, with taxpayer equipment, in a taxpayer-paid facility. I

hope my colleagues will also wonder why they do not have drug testing at the White House. If we are going to get into this, Mr. Speaker, this is a double-edged sword and I hope the House does not fall for this.

HOLDING THE LINE ON INTEREST RATES

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have occasion to rise and commend the Federal Reserve Board, but the decision yesterday to hold the line on interest rates certainly merits commendation.

We all know the Federal Reserve Board is allergic to good economic news. If too many Americans find jobs, the Fed ominously warns of runaway inflation when there is no evidence of inflation, and cranks up interest rates to slow the economy down. The Fed has seemed determined to maintain an unemployment rate, to guarantee an unemployment rate of at least 5.6 percent or more. To keep this in perspective, every percentage point of unemployment represents 1.3 million Americans.

That should be a cause for concern to anyone in this Chamber who has been conscientiously cutting the deficit or scrapping the Nation's social safety net in the belief that their efforts will lower interest rates and put people to work.

So my congratulations to the Federal Reserve for enduring the economic good news with restraint. Hopefully this is a sign that in the future we may be able to begin to count on the Fed to help, not hinder, the effort to improve the lives of all Americans.

And as a consequence of this, Mr. Speaker, I again ask and I join my colleagues in asking that the Ethics Committee stop covering up and release the Gingrich report.

MAJORITY OF CONTRACT WITH AMERICA NOW LAW

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, our friends on the other side would like the American people to believe that this 104th Congress has been a failure and that Republicans are running from the Contract With America. Well, they are wrong, and here is why.

In this Congress, the Republican majority has given the American people tax cuts for small businesses, an adoption tax credit, the Congressional Accountability Act, the line-item veto, unfunded mandate reform, the Personal Responsibility Act, health insurance reform, lobbying reform, the gift ban, welfare-to-work tax credits, food safety reform, et cetera, et cetera, et

cetera, and they are now all law. In fact, fully 65 percent of the Contract With America has been signed into law, but some of the most popular measures, like tax cuts for working families, have been vetoed by Bill Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are delivering on our promise to change the spending culture here in Washington DC. In fact, just yesterday when reporters pressed a Member of the Democrat leadership to name another Congress as productive, he could not name one, and he said "I know there have been several. I will get back to you."

CAN THE PEOPLE TRUST THIS CONGRESS?

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in these final days of the 104th Congress, the American people need to remember what this Congress has been all about.

Time and again Members of Congress who have tried to speak out on issues of concern to the American people in fact have been silenced. We have seen it today when Members of Congress attempted to discuss the very serious charges of Federal tax fraud documented in an independent counsel's report which the Ethics Committee refuses to release to the public.

A year ago, Republican zeal—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CHRYSLER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is violating House rules by referring to matters before the Ethics Committee which are specifically forbidden by House rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will sustain the point of order, and asks the gentleman to proceed in order.

Ms. DELAURO. A year ago, Republican zeal to silence debate in the people's House resulted in the arrest of senior citizens who came to speak out against Republican plans to cut \$270 billion from Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax cut for the privileged few. And with the Medicare bill still on the chopping block because the Dole plan would require even deeper cuts in Medicare than the \$270 billion in Medicare cuts proposed last year, the American people should ask themselves if they can trust this Republican Congress when it is so afraid of the truth, whether it be on Medicare or whether it be releasing the ethics report from the committee.

A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, last week President Clinton's Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt, endorsed a plan to tax anything having to do with the great outdoors. The plan he endorsed called for a 5-percent tax on everything from binoculars to canteens to sleeping bags to birdseed.

Birdseed, Mr. Speaker? What is next? The air we breathe? It is true that Bill Clinton, the great conservative Republican that he is, has backed away from the plan, but is this just a glimpse of the future if Bill Clinton were to stay in power? Higher taxes, bigger government and more regulation. Mr. Speaker, they say it is hard for a leopard to change its spots. It is also hard for liberals to change their tax-and-spend tendencies, as Interior Secretary Babbitt has so eloquently proved.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the Clinton administration wins reelection, tax and spend will be back again. Welcome to the future, Mr. and Mrs. America.

CALL FOR RELEASE OF ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, normally what goes around comes around. Normally people who abuse their positions of power to destroy political rivals in underhanded and dishonest ways ultimately become the victims of their own corruption. The snake that they unleash from their souls invariably comes around to bite them as well. But that natural law of justice has been thwarted in this body. It has been thwarted because Speaker GINGRICH has suppressed the release of an Ethics Committee report that details activities that makes Speaker Wright's improprieties pale in comparison.

Mr. Speaker, we have a number of quotes from Speaker GINGRICH that identify the reasons why Speaker Wright was charged. They are far more applicable to the charges that have been leveled against Speaker GINGRICH. If you take Speaker GINGRICH at his words, we would release this Ethics Committee report today.

TROUBLING STATISTICS RELEASED ON TEEN DRUG USE

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I am greatly troubled by the statistics recently released on teenage drug use. How can we feel good about ourselves as a society when teen drug use has increased 78 percent since 1992? By the time teenagers reach 17, 58 percent know someone personally who uses acid, cocaine or heroin, and 43 percent have a friend with a serious drug problem.