

believe the time has come when we must stand up for the rights of victims of gun violence, not the rights of perpetrators of gun violence. We Americans have a basic right. It is the right to be safe in our homes, on our streets, and in our churches.

#### THE MESS IN HAITI

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, President Clinton sent our troops into Haiti, spending over \$2 billion there, and now calls Haiti a foreign policy success.

Three weeks ago, the President rushed 46 armed Federal agents to Haiti to protect President Preval and to purge members of Preval's own United States-trained palace guard who may have killed two opposition leaders.

If President Clinton's agents fail, he may have to salvage this success story by sending our troops back into Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress and the American people are entitled to know just what has gone wrong in Haiti and why.

Regrettably, the President has invoked executive privilege to withhold key documents from our International Relations Committee's oversight review.

This is a blatant abuse of power hiding a foreign policy failure. Neither President Reagan—in Iran-Contra—nor President Bush—in Iraqgate—ever used executive privilege to keep the Congress in the dark.

Our committee will be holding a hearing tomorrow morning to get to the bottom of the mess in Haiti.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RELEASE OF OUTSIDE COUNSEL'S REPORT ON SPEAKER GINGRICH

(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, as Ghandi once said, "Noncooperation with evil is as much a moral imperative as is cooperation with good." Over the course of the last week, I have stood on this House floor and called repeatedly for the release of the outside counsel report on the ethical violation of Speaker NEWT GINGRICH.

My colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER], has stood repeatedly to object to my speaking about this matter. I understand why the gentleman would not want me to discuss this issue; it does such little good for his friend, the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes the rules must be confronted in the face of injustice. This was the case when I participated in the sit-ins and the freedom rides of the 1960's, and it is true today regarding the outside counsel report.

Mr. Speaker, today, once again, the Members of this House have a chance to vote for the release of the outside counsel report. I urge Members to support my resolution. To do otherwise is to risk being accused of participating in a Newt Gingrich ethics coverup.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BARBARA VUCANOVICH

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of a distinguished lady who is retiring after seven terms as a strong voice for Nevada: BARBARA VUCANOVICH.

BARBARA VUCANOVICH has represented the massive Second Congressional District since it was created in 1983. She retains the distinction as the first woman elected to Federal office from Nevada.

Many of you know BARBARA as one of the first women elected to the House Republican leadership and as the only woman to chair an appropriations subcommittee.

But to me and her fellow Nevadans, BARBARA is much more than our Congresswoman. She is a dedicated, warm, energetic, caring, public servant whom her constituents respect and have depended on to advocate the issues vital to the "Silver State."

BARBARA has fought for the jobs of Nevadans by protecting the mining and gaming industries from repeated assaults.

BARBARA led the fight for over a decade to repeal the unfair source tax levied on retirees.

Because of her leadership, the quality of life of our Nation's Armed Forces is better than ever.

Most importantly, BARBARA is a pioneer for women. As a brave survivor of breast cancer, BARBARA has worked tirelessly to educate women about the importance of early detection of breast cancer and to increase the availability of mammograms.

Even though BARBARA VUCANOVICH is heading home, she will continue to serve Nevada in other capacities.

Please join me in thanking BARBARA for her unique contributions and a job well done. I wish my good friend all the best.

I wish her God Speed and God Bless.

#### CALLING ON ETHICS COMMITTEE TO RELEASE REPORT ON SPEAKER GINGRICH'S ACTIVITIES

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, seven times the half Republican, half Democrat Ethics Committee has found speaker GINGRICH guilty: of using the House floor, this Chamber, to advertise his 1-800 number, guilty; using his of-

fice to commingle political and office resources, guilty; using the House floor to advertise his Political Action Committee, guilty.

The bipartisan Ethics Committee rebuked Speaker GINGRICH because he, and I quote, "capitalized on his office and exploited his office for personal gain," when he signed his \$4 million book review with a major Republican contributor.

Now taxpayers have spent \$500,000 to investigate his other activities, yet Speaker GINGRICH has squelched this Government report; \$500,000 of the taxpayers' dollars spent on the investigation, yet Speaker GINGRICH has squelched this Government report.

Mr. Speaker, show us the report. Release the report.

#### THE 104TH CONGRESS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONGRESS IN A GENERATION

(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, this Congress has been the most significant Congress in a generation. We have changed Washington and we have ended the culture of spending.

In less than 2 years, we have enacted congressional reform, the Telecommunications Act, the Freedom to Farm Act, health insurance reform, and genuine reform of welfare.

And when the Medicare Board of Trustees said that Medicare was going bankrupt, Republicans in this Congress listened and we responded with a plan to save Medicare so that our parents and grandparents would be protected. But Bill Clinton vetoed that plan and liberal Democrats here in Congress have resorted to the rhetoric of fear and demagoguery.

Mr. Speaker, this Republican Congress has a record of accomplishment it can be proud of. We have introduced the cool, clear water of common sense into a dry and parched land. And we will continue the fight for a smaller Government and a brighter future for America.

#### REPUBLICANS UNIFIED BEHIND BOB DOLE

(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, people are talking behind your back. They say that you Republicans are not a unified party. That you're running away from the top of your ticket. But, I think you are united behind Bob Dole.

Just look at the way that your hand-picked Ethics Committee is hiding the truth about the Gingrich scandals. It's a page right out of the Bob Dole playbook. Look at the similarities. Bob Dole won't tell us the truth about his tax-cut plan—and the Ethics Committee won't tell us the truth about NEWT's tax-return scam.

In San Diego, Bob Dole tried to write a platform saying that the GOP is a "tolerant" party. He's right. Just look at the Ethics Committee. They'll "tolerate" anything that NEWT GINGRICH does.

Dole wants to build a bridge to the past. So does the Ethics Committee—back to the days when Congress conducted its business in the dark, out of the public eye.

Speaker GINGRICH, you might as well exercise some power and call on the Ethics Committee to release its report on your ethics scandals. After all, once the elections are over, you might not have any power left to exercise.

#### TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, in the United States today, the tax burden on families is at a record high. In 1948, tax rates equalled 3 percent of income for the average family of four, but today it is 24 percent. That is eight times more than it was 40 years ago, and on top of that, our system is complex, it is convoluted, it is confusing. As IRS study estimates that taxpayers spend 5 billion man-hours filling out their return every year. That is more time than is spent in the entire automobile industry in this country in terms of man-hours.

We need significant tax relief, and that is exactly what the Republican plan will do: tax relief, spending cuts, deficit reduction, and the resulting smaller, more efficient, and less intrusive Government.

Ultimately, our plan is simple. It makes sense. Americans work hard for their living and should keep more of what they earn. They do not need the Government telling them how to spend their money.

#### LET THE SUN SHINE IN ON REPORT ON SPEAKER GINGRICH HELD IN ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, the only thing clear at this point in the Ethics Committee's handling of the charges against Speaker GINGRICH are that serious questions exist, and the Ethics Committee does not have the ability to resolve questions involving Speaker GINGRICH.

A couple of commonsense principles commonly expressed where I come from maybe will provide some guidance in terms of how to proceed. The best is that sunlight is the best disinfectant. Here the Ethics Committee has in its possession a report prepared by an outside special counsel, funded by taxpayer expense. There is no quicker, simple—

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. HOKE. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY] will suspend.

The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that discussion of the House Ethics Committee's proceedings on the floor of the House is not in order in the House. Is that correct?

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The Chair sustains the gentleman's point of order. The gentleman from North Dakota may proceed in order.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I make a further point of order that the House rules provide that buttons may not be worn at the time that speeches are made on the floor of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair sustains the point of order. The gentleman should remove the button.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I will remove the button, but I have a point of parliamentary inquiry regarding the first ruling made by the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. POMEROY. Is it the Chair's position that I may make no statement regarding the outside special counsel's report, commissioned and paid for by taxpayer funds regarding the charges against Speaker GINGRICH which is presently held at the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would point out to the gentleman that prior rulings of the Chair have indicated and ruled that no references may be made to the pending matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct Committee unless a question of privilege is actually pending in the House.

Mr. POMEROY. I have a further question along the lines of the gentleman's ruling.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. POMEROY. The report presently prepared and before the committee is itself a component of the committee's deliberations but I was not talking about the committee's deliberations. I was talking about release of the report. That to me would seem to fall outside the Speaker's ruling.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The scope of the gentleman's comments is within the Speaker's ruling and such comments have previously been ruled out of order. The gentleman will proceed in order.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is vital that we establish as a Congress our commitment to publish that report and to release those documents so the country can judge whether or not the man second in line to be President, the Speaker of the House, should be in that position.

Mr. Speaker, I was not called on that last sentence because those were not my words, those were the words of NEWT GINGRICH when he called for the release of the report against Speaker Wright. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Release the report.

#### POLITICIZING THE ETHICS COMMITTEE PROCESS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I would just encourage this House in the closing days of our business as we try to complete the work of the people to remember one thing, and, that is, that there is a very well-defined, well-developed, thoughtfully conceived and thoughtfully planned-out program for examining and dealing with ethical violation allegations in this body, that that process has been going on in a non-politicized way for some time with respect to a broad spectrum of allegations that have been brought regarding many Members of this House with respect to many different issues, and that I would encourage Members on both sides of the aisle to not politicize this process and especially to not pressure their own colleagues to give in to this extremely alluring but very wrong motivation to become part of the political process as opposed to the workings of the House.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, on a day like this when we limit 1-minute, 1-minute are still in order at the end of legislative business, are they not? I would like to do a 1-minute tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. DORNAN. I thank the Chair.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later today.

#### COMMENDING AMERICANS IN COLD WAR

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 180) commending the Americans who served the United States during the period known as the cold war, as amended.