

He says the biggest mistake they made in the 104th Congress was backing off of the Government shutdown.

"We should have stuck it out," he says, "our calls were 400 to 5 in favor of the shutdown. The worst moment was November 19. I was cooking steaks for five or six Members at my condo." That is right, he is having steaks. Federal contractors and employees and all are eating peanut butter, but he was having steaks. "The TV was on. All of a sudden there's NEWT and Dole and the President, and everybody is shaking hands and saying they've reached agreement to reopen the Government. I'll never forget it as long as I live."

Radical? Extreme? Yes, the shoe fits.

PAYBACK TIME?

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

Ms. GREENE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, in February 1995, the Clinton administration settled a 212-page draft criminal complaint against the Laborers' International Union. The Justice Department listed some 80 criminal convictions of Laborers officials over a 20-year period. The convictions were for major felonies like racketeering, extortion, tax evasion, and attempted murder.

To reform the union, career prosecutors asked for appointment of an outside administrator. Instead, Clinton let Union President Arthur Coia off the hook, and told him to clean up the union in which he had—according to Justice—created a "climate of fear and intimidation."

Federal Election Commission records show that the Laborers gave the Democratic Party soft money contributions of \$460,000, for the 18-month period ending in June, more than any other union, and more than all but seven other donors.

Could the connection be more obvious?

SO MUCH FOR THE REPUBLICAN CONTROLLED 104TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the Speakership of the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, like the 104th Congress and the Contract on America, are all beginning to unravel. The ethics probe has been dramatically expanded, and now the committee believes that the Speaker may have been lying to the outside counsel.

Even committee Republicans, who have seen all the evidence and who still refuse to release the report, supported the decision to expand the probe. Republicans obviously have decided to throw the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] overboard, as long as they can postpone the bad news until after

the election. Throw NEWT overboard, use their little gray buckets to bail themselves out with the American people.

The charges are very serious: Tax fraud, money laundering, corruption, and now, lying to the outside counsel. So much for personal responsibility, so much for a reform-minded Congress, and so much for the Republican-controlled 104th Congress.

PUERTO RICO AS THE 51ST STATE?

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, have Members thought about Puerto Rico as the 51st State? That is what we are going to be voting on today.

Now the proponents are going to say, this is not for statehood, this is solely a plebiscite. They have had three plebiscites in Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth has won every one. The rules are going to be structured so statehood finally has a chance to win. If I can set the rules, I can win any game.

This is a very serious issue. It is like the old Communist system, the Communists lost, lost, lost and when they finally won, no more elections, no more plebiscites. That is the way it is going to be here.

I hope the people take a look at this bill when it comes up today, and just not rush over into the sea like a bunch of lemmings. I have a question, too. How do the American people feel about this? When we add a State to the United States, I think that is a very serious question. I hope the people in this House today take a look at this bill and vote with their conscience.

THE SPEAKER'S ICE BUCKETS AND WATER BOYS ARE ON THE WAY OUT

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, why is Speaker GINGRICH still smiling over his ice bucket? It is true, he has collected many an ice bucket, and even though he has had all that ice to try to put that ethics report in deep freeze, he has not been successful. It is sizzling through.

Like any time when the ice begins to melt, it turns into dirty slush. What we find in this Congress is one Member after another who is still carrying around the slush, or the water, the water boys for NEWT on one issue after another, as they have done through this entire Congress.

After all, it was NEWT's water boys who carried pails like those I see Members carrying around Congress today who carried the water to shut down the Government and cost the taxpayers \$1.5 billion. It was NEWT's water boys who wanted to cut student loans by

over \$20 billion. It was NEWT's water boys who turned over the writing of our water laws and our other environmental laws to the polluters, to sit right here in this Capitol and write those laws.

NEWT's water boys are still going, but not for much longer.

THE DEMOCRATS' CHANGE OF HEART ABOUT THE NEED FOR A BALANCED BUDGET, AND CELEBRATING THE 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as we draw this 104th Congress to a close, I think it is appropriate to remember where we were 2 years ago, before Republicans became a majority in this House. The Democrats were not talking about a balanced budget. In fact, the President's balanced budget at that time, 2 years ago, had a \$200 billion deficit every year into the foreseeable future.

In 1995, the new Republican majority came in and insisted that Government do what Americans have to do in their personal family budgets—that being—balance the Federal budget. The Democrats, the President, did their focus groups, they took the polls. They decided, Americans do want a balanced budget. They think it is reasonable. Two years ago, nobody on the liberal side of the aisle was talking about a balanced budget, and now everybody is talking about it. That is progress.

The liberals and big Government advocates try to belittle this Republican Congress, and criticize the Contract With America. We are going to celebrate our 2-year anniversary of the Contract With America today. Let us just remember that most of the brag items of accomplishments that President Clinton mentioned in his acceptance speech were passed by the Republican-controlled 104th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the Contract With America items signed into law in the last 2 years.

The material referred to is as follows:

The Contract With America has significantly contributed in making the 104th Republican-led Congress one of the most productive ever. Of 75 Contract legislative provisions considered in the House, 49 (65 percent) have been enacted by statute or rules change, 20 (27 percent) have been vetoed by President Clinton, and 6 (8 percent) await Senate action. The bottom line: two-thirds of the Contract is now law.

CONTRACT MEASURES SIGNED INTO LAW

Congressional Accountability Act—Applies civil rights and job protection laws to Congress. (H.R. 1)

Congressional Reforms—Host of "opening day" reforms approved as part of House rules, including a one-third cut in committee staff (saving \$45 million), term limits for the Speaker and committee chairmen, a ban on

committee proxy voting, a three-fifths vote requirement for tax increases, public and media access to committee meetings, and authorization for an audit of the House books.

Line-Item Veto—Gives the President line-item veto authority beginning January 1, 1997 to eliminate wasteful discretionary spending, targeted tax benefits, and new or increased entitlement programs. (H.R. 3136)

Mandatory Victim Restitution—Requires federal judges to order convicted criminals to pay restitution to their crime victims. (S. 735)

Effective Death Penalty Enforcement—Places reasonable limits on appeals filed by violent criminals seeking to overturn their convictions. (S. 735)

Criminal Alien Deportation—Improves current laws to make it easier for the government to deport criminal aliens. (S. 735)

Truth-In-Sentencing State Prison Grants—More than \$400 million provided in FY '96 to help states build prisons, provided violent criminals serve at least 85 percent of their sentences. (H.R. 3019)

Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants—\$503 million provided in FY '96 to give local law enforcement officials greater flexibility in fighting violent crime in their communities. (H.R. 3019)

Sexual Crimes Against Children Prevention Act—Instructs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to increase the recommended penalties for making or trafficking in child pornography. (H.R. 1240)

National Security Revitalization—The FY '96 defense appropriations bill reversed Clinton's "hollow" military by restoring \$7 billion in Clinton defense cuts and providing an additional \$600 million for anti-missile defenses. (H.R. 2126)

Unfunded Mandates Reform—Ends intrusive federal mandates that require local governments (i.e., taxpayers) to pick up the costs. (H.R. 5)

Paperwork Reduction Act—Reduces federal reporting requirements by 40 percent over six years. (H.R. 830)

Regulatory Flexibility Act Amendments—Provides judicial review of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and allows expedited congressional review of new regulations costing more than \$100 million. (H.R. 3136)

Small Business Tax Relief—Increases equipment expensing from \$17,500 to \$25,000 and clarifies the tax treatment of home office/product-sample storage costs. (H.R. 3448)

Securities Litigation Reform Act—Prevents class-action lawyers from abusing the rules to extort settlements from innocent companies whose predictions of corporate performance are not fulfilled. (H.R. 1058)

Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act—Requires welfare recipients to work within 2 years or lose benefits, limits lifetime cash welfare to 5 years, gives states tools for reducing out-of-wedlock births, reforms the fast-growing food stamp program, and ends most welfare to non-citizens. (H.R. 3734)

Drug Abusers Collecting Welfare—Ends SSI payments to drug and alcohol abusers. (H.R. 3136)

Adoption Tax Credit—Allows up to a \$5,000 tax credit to offset adoption expenses for families with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$75,000 and prohibits adoption agencies from making placements based on race. (H.R. 3448)

Spousal IRAs—Increases from \$250 to \$2,000 the amount non-working spouses can contribute to IRAs. (H.R. 3448)

Social Security Earnings Limit—Phases in an increase of the earnings limit to \$30,000 in 2002 for seniors who choose to work between ages 65 to 69. (H.R. 3136)

Long-Term Care Tax Incentives—Encourages more people to buy long-term care in-

surance and allows chronically or terminally ill individuals to receive life insurance benefits before death without a tax penalty. (H.R. 3103)

Housing for Older Person Act—Protects senior citizen communities from discrimination lawsuits by defining in law "senior-only" housing complexes. (H.R. 660)

CONTRACT MEASURES VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT

A Balanced Budget by 2002—The balanced budget amendment included in the Contract required a balanced budget in 2002. Falling short by one vote in the Senate, Congress approved the Balanced Budget Act to balance the budget in 7 years. (Vetoed 12/6/95)

Family Tax Cuts—\$500 per-child tax cut, marriage penalty relief, \$1,000 eldercare deduction, and American Dream Savings Accounts. (Vetoed 12/6/95)

Economic Growth Tax Cuts—Reductions in capital gains and inheritance taxes, among others. (Vetoed 12/6/95)

Lawsuit Abuse Reform—Reforms product liability laws to lower litigation costs to employers and end abuses by trial lawyers. (Vetoed 5/2/96)

Ballistic Missile Defense—Protects America's cities from accidental or terrorist nuclear attack (Vetoed 12/28/95)

U.N. Command of U.S. Troops—Prohibits the president from placing U.S. troops under foreign command. (Vetoed 12/28/95)

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER GINGRICH 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, these are the last hours of the Gingrich Congress. American families are breathing a sigh of relief that this extremist Congress is leaving town. Two years ago Republicans marched up Capitol Hill, taking over the people's House and shouting for revolution. But now the American people understand what they meant.

It meant \$270 billion cuts in Medicare to pay for a tax break for the wealthiest Americans. It meant cutting student loans by \$10 million to put college even further out of the reach of working middle-class families hoping for a shot at the American dream, and then exposing workers' pensions to raids by corporations, making retirement even less secure, rather than honoring a lifetime of hard work.

But the most amazing revelation of all comes from the House Republican whip, the gentleman from Texas, TOM DELAY, who says, "We wouldn't change a thing." The American people cannot afford another Gingrich Congress.

TIME FOR MEMBERS TO STOP PERSONAL DISPLAYS OF PARTISANSHIP AND GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, one more time today we have seen a pathetic dis-

play from the Democrats, who for the last 2 weeks have been demanding that a report, that now we know did not exist at the time, be published. The report was published yesterday, and we now know what it says.

It says, signed by two Democrats and signed by the special counsel:

It is important to understand that this action does not mean the subcommittee has at this point made any determination that there is reason to believe Representative GINGRICH committed any violation within the jurisdiction of this committee.

The fact of the matter is the Ethics Committee has asked for more time to look into other things. It does not say, as the gentleman from Michigan pointed out, it does not say anything about tax fraud. It does not say anything about corruption. It does not say anything about money laundering.

It says, "This action does not mean the subcommittee has at this point made any determination that there is any reason to believe that Representative GINGRICH committed any violation within the jurisdiction of the committee."

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop the personal displays of partisanship and get on with the business of the House.

THE GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I was asked the other day, what is the greatest accomplishment of this past Congress? What came to mind was a big stop sign.

The greatest accomplishments of this Congress were stopping the extremist majority from ripping away at what the American family, the average family, needs. The greatest accomplishment of this Congress was stopping them from cutting and decimating Medicare. The greatest accomplishment of this Congress was stopping them from raping the environment. The greatest accomplishment of this Congress was stopping them from taking away the few rights that working people in America have.

Unfortunately, unfortunately, the great accomplishments of this Congress were not positive things that made the average family's life better, but were negative things: Stopping the extremist majority, the Gingrich majority, from doing things that would have helped the top few and hurt the rest of America.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that most American families hope we will not have another 2 years of this. I am sure that most American families wish and pray that we can get back to doing certain things that will make their lives better in terms of their health and in terms of their pensions and in terms of their ability simply to pay the bills and raise their families.