

genuine partnership, a comprehensive partnership, between the new Europe and America.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, Members of Congress, in the wake of the victory over nazism, the United States contributed more than any other country to the shaping of the post-war world with the setting up of the United Nations and NATO, of the IMF and the World Bank, and with the implementation of the Marshall plan. These were key contributions, and the 50 years of peace and prosperity that ensued owe a great deal, a great deal indeed, to this American commitment.

Today, as then, the world needs the United States. Your commitment is as necessary as ever in order to build the uncertain post-cold-war world and to further the cause of peace, democracy, and development.

These are great challenges that lie ahead for all of us, and we will meet them if we are united and as one. It is only with this sense of solidarity and union that we can leave to our children the legacy of a better world, a world in which they can flourish, a world of liberty, justice, and peace.

I thank you very much for your attention.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 12 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m., the President of the French Republic accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet.

The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until 1 p.m.

□ 1303

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceed-

ings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces there will be five 1-minutes on each side.

TAX CUTS FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in defense of the middle-class tax cuts that the middle class gets. They keep getting promised these tax cuts, but they never seem to get them.

It is a fact that hard-working people in this country are overtaxed. The Federal Government continues to rip off hard-working people in order to benefit special-interest elites. This Government taxes families in my community in Cincinnati so that Hazel O'Leary-types can continue to jet around the world on five-star junkets. The Government continues to tax people in Cincinnati so that huge corporations can get subsidies to advertise their products around the world, advertising that they would do anyway. It is an absolute outrage.

We continue to rip off the American people to give tax subsidies and price supports to people who do not need them. Taxes are absolutely too high in this country. The special-interest groups and their fellow defenders here in Washington will now scream, tax cuts for the rich, tax cuts for the rich, but I think the American people know better; they know the people in this country are overtaxed.

We need to cut taxes now.

HOLD HOLLYWOOD RESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, many of us over the course of service in Congress have come to this floor as Members of this body and as parents to strongly condemn some of the types of films that are coming out of Hollywood and New York for their vulgarity, for their lack of content, for their lack of values, and their message to the American people.

While I have done that in the past, I also do not claim to be a Siskel or an Ebert or even an Arch Campbell. But I also think we should come to this body, as Members of Congress, when there is a good movie, and encourage our citizens and consumers of this country that when Hollywood does do

the exceptional thing and make the exception and make a Frank Capra-like move, like Mr. Holland's Opus, about how one person can make a difference, how education is important in America, and about values, I think we should all reward those types of messages in America today.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, we all know that we cannot balance the budget without the political will to address and to reform a failed welfare system in America, yet the President, the same President who, as a candidate, promised to end welfare as we know it, vetoed the House-Senate-passed welfare reform bill.

The reason, ostensibly, is that the bill does not do enough to provide child care for working parents, particularly single mothers who many times struggle against heroic odds, to provide child care for their children. However, the American people should know that the bill the President vetoed provided \$2 billion more for child care for working parents than current law, and \$1 billion more than the bill that the Senate passed and the President praised last September.

The President has a very simple choice. He can join us in reforming welfare on a bipartisan basis, or he can continue to pander to the left wing of his party.

ADDRESS DEBT CEILING LIMIT NOW

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the House is on the verge of leaving town before addressing the problem of our debt limit. Instead of working to raise the debt limit and protecting the full faith and credit of the United States, the Republican majority has spent the past few months in a game of brinkmanship with the White House.

For awhile it was: Give us what we want or we will close down the Government. Now it is: Give us what we want or we will default on our debt.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to resist this approach. It will reduce the public opinion of Congress even further, and it has real and adverse consequences.

The main point of raising the debt ceiling is to pay our current obligations, to pay those Treasury billholders and to pay those U.S. savings bond purchasers. It is not about increasing our future spending.

I have cosponsored a resolution to keep the House in session until it considers a clean bill on the debt ceiling,

and I urge my colleagues to support it. I have also signed a resolution asking our Republican leaders to let a clean debt ceiling bill come to the floor.

We must pass a clean debt ceiling bill to send a message to the world that we will keep our word and pay our bills. Do not default on America.

AMERICA'S LUMBER MARKET IS DYING

(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, in very simple language, America's lumber market is getting killed. I think we understand that word. Canadian lumber is everywhere.

Now, check this out: Canadian provinces own the timber, so they sell the timber to the Canadian mills below market cost. Then the Canadian mills sell the timber in America below market value. As a result, Canada now owns 40 percent of America's lumber market.

America has lost 35,000 jobs and experts say, listen to this, America will continue to lose jobs in this industry. No kidding, Sherlock.

With a policy like this, how can American timber mills end up competing with Canadian timber that is subsidized and being sold in America, dumped in America? Beam me up. This is another fine NAFTA ploy.

BETRAYAL IN GEORGIA

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a betrayal of Benedict Arnold proportions.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution reported today that the Democratic leadership in the State of Georgia—that is, the vanguard of the Dixiecrats—is actively recruiting people of the right skin color to challenge our colleague and two-term Democratic Member of Congress, SANFORD BISHOP.

I want to say that again. The leadership of our party in the State of Georgia is recruiting white primary opponents to unseat a sitting Member of Congress of the same party. And why? Only because SANFORD BISHOP is black.

Georgia Democratic House Speaker Tom Murphy is reported to have said that he would support the candidacy of Ray Goff who happens to be white. In fact, Murphy is willing to support Goff against Bishop even though Goff has not declared whether he is a Democrat or Republican.

How's that for party loyalty, Mr. Speaker? Once again Tom Murphy and his fellow dinosaurs have demonstrated that black Democrats are no more than spare parts for their whites-only party machine.

LET LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS DO THEIR JOB

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

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Speaker, last week in New York, a Federal judge threw out key evidence that would prove a defendant guilty of Federal drug charges. The defendant had over 4 million dollars' worth of cocaine and heroine in her car, and voluntarily confessed on videotape that she had made the trip over 20 times to pick up drugs. The arresting officers witnessed four men putting duffle bags into the trunk of her car at 5 a.m. in the morning. They did not speak to her, and then fled the scene when spotted. Unbelievably however, the judge decided that the police had no cause to be suspicious. Even the New York Times called the judge's reasoning, tortured.

It is absolutely incredible that this case was dismissed, and the defendant will go unpunished due to a technicality, which would be corrected if the Exclusionary Rule Reform Act was in effect. Last February the House passed this bill, which extends the exclusionary rule's good faith exception to warrantless searches. If the police have a reasonable good faith belief that a drug crime is occurring, as in this case, common sense should dictate that they be allowed to act accordingly.

As a former Suffolk County assistant district attorney, I have seen firsthand the effects of drugs on our communities. It is about time we let our law enforcement officials do their job without tying their hands. We need this bill to become law so we can avoid such outrageous situations in the future.

MAJORITY PURSUING CONTRADICTORY STRATEGY

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the majority is pursuing a contradictory strategy. Everything they have hinged on eliminating the deficit, but an increase in the deficit would be the first result of default. The official position of the United States of America today is under threat of default. Moody's has certainly recorded it that way, because it has returned the threat itself.

The shutdown strategy will not work this time. The only way to hang something on the debt limit bill is to get an agreement in advance from the President, yet I see no meetings occurring.

Moody's action shows that the delay alone can be costly, and worse, dangerous. If we mean to balance the budget, if your purpose is to eliminate the deficit, let us start by taking away the threat of default.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2745

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2745.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 652, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 353 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 353

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 652) to provide for a pro-competitive, de-regulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSEN], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 353 provides for the consideration of the conference report for S. 652, the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The House rules allow for 1 hour of general debate to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Commerce and Judiciary Committees.

In addition, the regular rules of the House provide for a motion to recommend with or without instructions as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, what we have before us is a complex piece of legislation that is the product of many long months of negotiation. I believe that the conferees have worked in good faith to create a balanced bill which equalizes the diverse competitive forces in the telecommunications industry.

This entire process has involved countless competing interests which include consumers long distance companies, regional Bell operating companies, cable, newspapers, broadcasters,