

was started by President Clinton and has been in effect now for a couple of years. About 25,000 AmeriCorps volunteers are earning college money by serving their local communities. The Republican budget proposals, however, would eliminate funding for President Clinton's national service program.

On Pell grants, the President has called for increasing the number and maximum award which would help 375,000 more students benefit from Pell grants by the year 2000. The Republican budget that the President vetoed denies 380,000 deserving students a Pell grant college scholarship.

Head Start is another educational program that on a bipartisan basis President Reagan, President Bush and others on the Republican side have advocated Head Start and encouraged it. Yet the GOP budget would deny Head Start benefits to 180,000 children over the next 7 years.

These are just some of the examples of the education programs that would be cut and should not be cut if we are going to the invest in our students and our young people in this country.

WASTE AND WHITEWATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was important to be home in the district work break to be able to interact and listen.

I would simply like to ask a reasonable question of reasonable men and women. I recall in 1974 when a bipartisan Congress did something that was extremely charging and emotional, and that was to review the Presidency of the United States. It seemed to be in a period of only 1 month they came together in a bipartisan manner to uphold the Constitution. Do my colleagues realize that the hearings in the other body, Whitewater hearings, have cost this country \$900,000, \$900,000?

In addition, it is duplicative of the special prosecutor that continues. And now we have them asking to extend it to July, just a month before the conventions. Might I wonder what this is all about? Politics in the worst sort of way?

When we met with educational officials and students throughout my district, I remember a principal in my district, Anita Ellis of Ryan Middle School pleading for Goals 2000 money and full funding of educational dollars to help children learn. The one thing my colleagues, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, and the gentleman from Texas, Mr. BENTSEN, learned is that public education is alive and well in Texas and in Houston, but \$900,000 for Whitewater?

Have they learned anything? Are they accomplishing anything? Are they not duplicating the special prosecutor? And yet we do not have a budget. Now

there is a question of whether the debt ceiling will be lifted. You know what the crisis in America is all about? People want jobs, and with a debt ceiling that is not lifted, we will not have any jobs.

So I would simply ask the simple question, let us get on with our business and let us stop the folly of Whitewater. Get on with the business of funding education. Get on with the business of the proposed legislation that I have, the Fairness and Equal Opportunity Act of 1996, which will restore the faith of minorities and women that this Government will be open to them for jobs, education, and contracts.

This is the work at hand, not the folly of spending more of our children's education dollars on more work that is already being done by the special prosecutor.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Office of the Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, the Psalmist prays,
The eyes of all look to you oh Lord, you give them meat in due season and, You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

And so this day we look to You, oh God, and also pray. For all that we already possess, we offer our gratitude, for our daily bread and all things we need for life and health, we humbly plead, and, for the peace of mind and soul that surpasses that of human design and construction, we make our petition this day.

Oh God, open Your hand of mercy and grace to us all. Where the great tragedy of hatred causes grief and pain, give comfort and hope. Where the great despair of hopelessness brings about a sense of futility and lack of purpose, bring a reason for being and Your love.

Hear us oh God, for this is our prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] will lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 23, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Friday, February 23 at 1:30 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he reports four deferral and four rescission proposals of budget authority under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

DEFERRALS AND RESCISSION PROPOSALS OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report three new deferrals and one revised deferral, totaling \$3.6 billion, and four rescission proposals of budgetary resources, totaling \$140 million.

These deferrals affect the International Security Assistance programs as well as programs of the Agency for International Development. The rescission proposals affect the Department of Defense.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 23, 1996.

CASTRO: A COLD-BLOODED KILLER

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, last year, on the floor of the House, I

referred to Fidel Castro as a cold-blooded killer. The Cuban military shootdown of two unarmed American planes is not only a contemptible act of depravity but also reaffirms Castro's title of cold-blooded killer. The four Americans citizens in small Cessnas had no chance against the supersonic war planes sent to intercept and destroy them. For what crimes against humanity were they destroyed? Their crimes were in providing private humanitarian assistance to the Cuban refugees drifting in the open ocean. This indecent act reaffirms those old lessons of the cold war period that Communist dictators are totally brutal in their dealing with anyone weaker. They will violate any international law whenever it suits them. Shame on those congressional Democrats who have gone to Cuba in an attempt to normalize relations with this brutal dictator. Shame on President Clinton for waiting for this tragedy before deciding to support the Helms-Burton Cuban liberty bill, of which I was an original cosponsor. Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President of the United States to stop hiding behind the United Nations and send a clear and forceful message to Castro.

MAKE AMERICA STRONGER THROUGH EDUCATION

(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, during the recess I attended an education forum in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Gerald Tirozzi and Democratic leader DICK GEPHARDT at Travis Elementary School in my district in Houston, TX. With the uncertainty over funding levels for elementary and secondary education programs and the likelihood of deep budget cuts, schools all across our country are having a difficult time planning for next year and may even be forced to lay off teachers. The immediate result could be fewer teachers, larger classes, and a decline in the quality of education. We heard from teachers, parents, school administrators, police officers, as well as church officials, who are scared to death that their children will not be getting the proper preparation they need to compete and win in the new global marketplace.

We all believe in a balanced budget, deficit reduction, and cutting bureaucracy, but we all agreed that cutting education programs is the wrong way to achieve these goals. How can we make America stronger if we are not willing to invest in the future of America, with our young people's education?

Mr. Speaker, drastic cuts in title I, Goals 2000, the Safe and Drug Free Schools, and all other educational programs will cause irreparable harm not just to students in Travis Elementary

in my district but students all across the country and Texas. It is wrong, and we should not do it.

THE LOOMING ECONOMIC CRUNCH

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has now been in the White House 3 years, 1 month, and 1 week. Under his watch, the national debt has gone up, taxes have gone up, and wages have remained stagnant. What is up should be down and what is down should be up.

Some economists now predict that the economy is on the verge of a recession. I hope that they are wrong, but let's not fool ourselves. The Clinton administration has pursued economic and tax policies that slow growth and stifle commercial activity. High taxes discourage risk-takers from expanding businesses, hiring new employees, or from starting new businesses.

Since Clinton took over as President, economic growth has been anemic and clearly has not matched the expansion we saw under President Reagan.

Americans are rightly concerned about a looming economic crunch caused by the antigrowth and pro-tax policies of the Clinton administration.

LET US RETURN TO THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

(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, today the House returns from a month-long recess. Our return to work must begin a turn toward the people's business and away from the extremist special interest agenda that has dominated the first 14 months of this Congress.

The Republican majority has been in power for over a year now. And what do the American people have to show for it? Has this Congress given working men and women what they want and need?

American families want to know they can count on the secure dignified retirement they have worked so hard for. But Republicans in Congress want to cut Medicare and Medicaid.

Hard-working American families need a raise—so they can pay their bills. But congressional Republicans are cutting education and training at a time when workers need better skills to get a raise.

Mr. Speaker, in pursuit of their extremist agenda, the Republicans have launched an assault on working Americans struggling to get ahead. The American people deserve better. Let us put Congress where it belongs: back on the side of hard-working American families, not dancing to the tune of special interests.

UNCLE SAM RIPPED OFF AGAIN

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, McDonnell-Douglas, the giant defense contractor, once again has ripped off Uncle Sam big time.

Check this out: For a 4- by 7-inch door hook, \$9,000; a 2- by 4-inch hinge, \$1,090; a small 4-inch handle, aluminum handle, \$1,200. Reports say they charge in excess of 56 times the normal legal rate.

And after all this, McDonnell-Douglas says, "This is a mistake. We are very sorry." Mr. Speaker, beam me up. This is no mistake. This is a crime, and the criminals so responsible, that is right, criminals should go right to jail.

Mr. Speaker, "sorry" don't cut it. At least it should not.

Yield back the balance of all this rip-off.

DO NOT DEFAULT ON OUR DEBT PAYMENTS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome back my colleagues here in the House, particularly the freshman Republicans. I particularly want to give a message of hope to my colleagues over the issue of the threatened default on our national debt payments and the concerns that many senior citizens across this country have that there is an agenda being pursued by this House that will end up forcing the default not only of our debt payments but a default on our commitment to Social Security as well.

I would just issue a warning that if we begin to bounce the checks of our Social Security payments to our commitments to our senior citizens, the senior citizens of this country might very well come back and bounce the freshman class. The truth of the matter is, if we are concerned about balancing the budget of this country, we can get no less than five separate versions of a balanced budget passed on the floor of this House today. It might not be the particular version that the freshman Republicans want, but it will be a version that will look out after the best interests of this country.

Mr. Speaker, let us balance the budget. Let us not default on our debt payments.

LET US ADDRESS PROBLEMS FAMILIES CARE ABOUT

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I guess I am surprised my Republican colleagues are not here today taking note of the fact it was only a year ago that this