

first weeks of the new year, guns equipped with laser sights have taken lives and evoked fear amongst families in my district and my local police forces. That is why I am introducing this vital legislation.

Laser sights have become a new rage, the latest deadly fad. By dramatically improving the accuracy of deadly weapons, laser sights turn street thugs into sharpshooters.

The Laser Assisted Gun Crime Penalty Act directs the U.S. Sentencing Commission to increase penalties for individuals convicted of crimes involving laser sights. This bill does not ban laser sight technology or guns equipped with laser sights. This measure punishes the criminal, not sportsmen and sportswomen or law-abiding gun users. This approach to crime and guns can be supported by both pro and antigun control advocates.

My legislation will deter the use of laser sight technology in street crime and require the sentencing commission to collect data on the use and frequency of laser sighting devices in criminal activity throughout the Nation.

My legislation has received strong endorsements from leading police organizations like the National Fraternal Order of Police, the International Brotherhood of Police, the Center for Prevention of Violence and Handgun Control, and the Violence Policy Center. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill and make our streets safer by cracking down on criminals who target law abiding citizens with laser sighting devices. Not gun owners.

We must send a strong signal to the criminal element that we will not tolerate the proliferation of this new brand of high-tech violence. Enacting this legislation will send a clear signal to anyone who would use a laser sighted super-gun, "If you do that crime, you will do real time."

□ 1630

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 1834.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DOGETT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SHADEGG] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHADEGG addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### WE MUST NOT WASTE MONEY ON WHITEWATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the first thing that I would like to acknowledge is my full and complete appreciation for the oversight responsibilities of this body. Likewise, I think those of us in public life, those who have offered themselves for elected office and for appointed office, do owe a special obligation of responsibility to the American public, to this Nation.

Might I also add, however, that those who offer themselves, particularly Presidential appointees and Governmental officials, have always exhibited to the best of their ability, I believe, the highest degree of integrity. We realize that there may be exceptions and that we should not falter from the responsibility to ensure that the American people have the truth. But might I just for a moment reflect upon the ongoing proceedings in the other body, the Whitewater hearings.

The hearings have to date in the Congress cost \$900,000. This is separate and apart from the moneys being spent by the Independent Counsel. I might ask the American people this question: Oversight is one thing; but abuse is something else. We have determined today that the FDIC has decided not to sue the Rose law firm on issues dealing with Whitewater. We have already had previous reports by law firms that have not been dominated by any particular politics that have found no fault on behalf of the Clintons. Yet we now know there is an ongoing discussion about extending the debate and the proceedings of Whitewater, extending it and spending more money.

What the American people should be asking is what are the ultimate results? Will there be a criminal indictment? Is there a need to get more facts, or have we totally exhausted all facts that we could possibly find?

What we now see is a sense of redundancy, calling the same witnesses over again and, in actuality, trying to create perjury where none exists.

The reason why I say this, Mr. Speaker, is that we have some troubling times. First of all, we have no budget. We are funding education for our children at 75 percent of the need. In my State in Texas, Harris county,

the area that I represent, stands to lose some \$13.8 million in education funds because this body, this entire Congress, has no budget.

We are losing on Goals 2000 moneys. We are losing on title I moneys for disadvantaged children. We have already determined that public education does work. It has educated many in this body. I have had the privilege of being educated by the public schools, and I would say there are many teachers whose shoulders I stand upon that have allowed me to enter into the door of opportunity.

Yet we spend \$900,000 on Whitewater, and they are asking that we spend some more, with no resolution, with no conclusion, and no solutions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would say it is time for this body to get down to business. We must deal with education. We must deal with the Justice Department funding that has the Cops on the Beat Program, another program that has helped citizens in Harris County, the sheriff's department, the police department, cops on the beat. That program is not funded and is threatened. The DARE Program, the Drug and School Safety Program, all of these are trying to meet the test of legitimacy in serving the American public. Yet, may I say it again, we want to spend another \$900,000 on Whitewater.

We now face, I think, a very interesting question; many of us have been discussing it for a long time. That is the issue of job creation in this Nation. We hear it in the very disjunctured chords of the political process. In fact, many have said to me we are frustrated by this ongoing debate that we see in the Republican primary.

I think it is good that these issues are on the table. But let me say to the American public, we have been discussing, those of us who have been concerned about job development, for a long time, the issue of raising the standard of living for citizens in America. I do not think we can do that without raising the minimum wage. I know that is a difficult question for small- and medium-sized companies. But I do believe if we look at the small fraction of the amount of raising the minimum wage and the number of years where we have not raised it, we will find that Americans will be fair and will realize that giving Americans a fair standard of living is in reality helping America move forward.

Then the job creation, does it come from total protectionist policies? No, it does not. Does it come from a fair assessment of the fair trade? Yes, it does. Does it come from an internal analysis of corporate America in dealing with the investment process, that it is not just the dividend, but it is in fact job creation. We must work with corporate America to develop jobs with America, we must not waste money on Whitewater.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must caution all Members that although factual descriptions of Senate action is permitted, debate may not include characterization of Senate actions or suggest courses of Senate action.

## THE WITCH HUNT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the witch hunt is over and the accused has been found innocent. The charges by the Federal Elections Commission and trumpeted by the liberals regarding Speaker NEWT GINGRICH and GOPAC have been found to be baseless.

In his ruling regarding this case, Judge Lewis Oberdorfer found that there "is no proffer of admissible material evidence in the record that the material and services which GOPAC provided to support Congressman GINGRICH's work as GOPAC General Chairman were ever used by GOPAC or by him to support his reelection campaign."

In other words, the FEC's case held no water.

Mr. Speaker, while this attack on GOPAC and Republicans by the liberal Democrats is not surprising, the fact that the case was summarily dismissed exposes it for what it really is, an effort to change the subject.

Ever since Republicans first won control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years, liberals have tried every trick in the book to derail our agenda for real change.

They have filibustered, fear-mongered, and filed lawsuits. They have convinced their outside activist allies, the trial lawyers, the labor unions, the Naderites, to put every ounce of energy, every bit of money, and every kind of demagoguery, into derailing our agenda.

This ruling by Judge Oberdorfer finally exposes the truth, that this distortion campaign is false and it is malicious.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are not interested in GOPAC. They are not interested in smear campaigns. They are tired of partisanship and bickering. They want the budget balanced. They want lower taxes. They want more opportunities for jobs. They want better schools for our children. And they want us to do the jobs we were sent here to do.

It is time to quit while you are behind. Stop this Ethics Committee abuse and start debating the real issues of the day.

KEEPING YOUR EYE ON THE  
PRIZE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, nine Members of this distinguished House of Representatives leave for the Balkans, for Bosnia and several of the surrounding countries, in about an hour and 40 minutes. Although I was able to get to Germany over New Year's Eve and meet with the troops at several locations from the 1st Armored Division that are deploying down to Bosnia, I have been blocked, literally stopped, by Mr. Clinton through his gentlemanly Secretary of Defense on four different occasions, Christmas, New Year's, I repeat, I got as far as Germany, and twice in the month of December.

I would love to be participating in the debate in South Carolina tonight for the honor of the Republican nomination for the Presidency. If they tear at one another's faces and despoil one another's reputations, my presence will be missed, because at every Presidential debate I have literally done everything but beg my worthy competitors to focus on, as Martin Luther King would say, "Keep your eye on the prize," the Presidency on November 5.

The 11th commandment of Ronald Reagan, and he generously offered it to the Democrat family, was "Do not tear yourselves up." You can discuss issues and be substantive on that, but do not try to raise your opponent's negatives, because there are two unintended consequences: Your own come down, and then it depresses the overall voting.

They were anxious to vote in New Hampshire, but in Iowa it was down to 17 percent participation. So I wish I could be there in South Carolina.

It is not this trip to the Balkans, this promised trip that precludes me alone. South Carolina is the only State in the Union demanding over \$1,000, which was the New Hampshire entry fee, to participate in their State primaries. They want \$7,000.

My younger brother, who is a junior high school teacher, he has got to tell all of his young men and women who dream about running for the Presidency some day that there is the entry fee in South Carolina.

It appears that we have learned one thing in this Presidential season, that \$25 million without a message does not get you very far. But a solid message like mine, that I have generously allowed all of the other candidates to appropriate, the message of faith, family, and freedom, and that GOP doesn't mean old anything, it means growth, opportunity and productivity, that those solid messages are not much good without some money.

As our distinguished colleague in the Senate, Mr. PHIL GRAMM, said when he left the race, that he now goes back to his work in the Senate, my statement is simply I never left my work here, Mr. Speaker. I passed at least 12 Dornan amendments in the defense appropriations bill alone. We voted about 302 times more than the other distinguished body during the year of 1995.

We never did recess. For the first time in two sessions, we simply went out of business on the floor here on January 3; constitutionally the second session started at noon January 3. So we were in session the whole year. We actually met in this Chamber about 45 times more than the U.S. Senate.

I have no regrets watching the process from the inside out, making not a single money call. What was the sense of making money calls when I saw I could not compete on the ground, but only in the debate-electronic war and trying to stay very positive with my colleagues at that.

I look at my countdown watch, and I have seven on order to give to the remaining candidates, it says that the election is 250 days away and the inauguration is 326 days. From November 5 to January 20 is 76 days. Mr. Clinton may get to feel the pain that George Bush felt when the voters rejected him after 4 years.

Two-hundred and fifty days is an eternity. The Republican Party is not collapsing. Anybody can still win. There could be a brokered convention. Who knows what can happen and who will come in?

But I offer this to my GOP party, growth, opportunity, and productivity; I offer this theme for the fall: Our team beats Bill's team. To build a team, we are going to have to do something historical. If this bloody infighting, this fratricide continues, we are going to have a very badly wounded standard bearer, and he is going to have to do something historical.

□ 1645

He is going to have to do not only more skillfully than what Ronald Reagan did, and that is name a Vice Presidential running mate. Reagan did that in 1976. It did him no good, because he named a moderate from Pennsylvania that nobody knew. I think our frontrunner is going to have to name five people, the Vice President and four Cabinet officers.

I will close with their names: John Engler of Michigan; the gentleman from Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, as Secretary of Defense; distinguished colleague, Colin Powell as Secretary of State, not Defense, State, and he will not get in trouble with domestic issues; a Treasurer that Wall Street and the common working man will trust and another colleague from here for 10 years, Dan Lundgren for Attorney General, the attorney general of our biggest State. That is the team. The front five. Our team beats Bill's team.

## GOOD COMMUNITY FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HANCOCK] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, we pretty consistently hear about a lot of negative things that are going on in this