

chairman of Maryland's Legislative Black Caucus, the youngest person ever to attain that position.

As vice chairman of the House Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee and as vice chairman of the Economic Matters Committee, he has acquired a wealth of expertise and experience that he will now bring to bear on the considerable problems facing this Nation. Most recently, he became Speaker Pro Tem of the House of Delegates, the second highest position of leadership in that body.

I am delighted to join my other colleagues in welcoming my neighbor to the House of Representatives. I am sure he will follow in the proud tradition of his district and enjoy a long and distinguished career here in the people's House.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield to a gentleman who served with ELIJAH in the House of Delegates and then was his colleague as a member of the Maryland State senate, will now be again his colleague here in the House of the people, the distinguished Representative from the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland, Mr. ALBERT WYNN.

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

In 1983 I was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. As I looked around the orientation, I noticed another young man who really impressed me. That man stands before you today.

So I can tell you from personal experience, having stood shoulder-to-shoulder with ELIJAH CUMMINGS, that he is a true worker for people. I do not have to tell you a lot. Let me simply say that I have watched this man and worked with this man. He has worked for economic development, but he has never forgotten the needs of the downtrodden or the less fortunate. He brings to this House tremendous compassion.

All Members need to know about ELIJAH CUMMINGS is that he is a man of tremendous sincerity, commitment, compassion, and faith in God. He will do a wonderful job for the people of the Seventh Congressional District. He will do a wonderful job for the people of this country. I am looking forward to working with him. Congratulations and welcome, ELIJAH.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the last person before I introduce Mr. CUMMINGS or yield to Mr. CUMMINGS is the dean of the Republican delegation. We are one delegation, but the dean of our Republicans, the distinguished gentlewoman from Montgomery County who herself served with Mr. CUMMINGS, CONNIE MORELLA.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for giving me the opportunity to congratulate not only Congressman CUMMINGS but all of us in the 104th Congress for having him added to our numbers. He will speak in a very strong voice, with compassion, with justice, with knowledge.

Indeed, it has been mentioned that he has been handed quite a legacy. Our very good friends who have represented

that district so well who are here today: Kweisi Mfume, whom I consider one of my dearest friends, who was elected with me and BEN CARDIN to the historic 100th Congress; BARBARA MIKULSKI, our Senator who also represented that district. Senator SARBANES, did you represent that district? You did in your heart, that is for sure.

But we all reflect the kind of fine work that has been done there, and I did have the grand opportunity to serve for 4 years with Congressman CUMMINGS in the House of Delegates. Very proud of your background, the temperament, the compassion, and I particularly like the fact that here is a man who is going to work for the American people, both sides of the aisle. He is not predisposed to any one specific myopic kind of philosophy. He wants to work for the American people, for the people of Maryland. I salute him and I congratulate him.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. I might observe that our senior Senator has always served every district in our State.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honored to introduce to you a very fine human being who we will be privileged to serve with and walk with, ELIJAH CUMMINGS.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Members, to the Maryland congressional delegation, to two of my mentors, both of whom I love. Their spirit is a part of my spirit. Their hopes and dreams are part of my hopes and dreams.

To Kweisi Mfume and Parren J. Mitchell, I just want you to know that I love you, and I thank you for all that you have done for the city of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, the Nation, and the world. I appreciate you.

To my family and friends and to the members of the Maryland Legislature who are up there, only God could create this path, only God. Only God could create a path where the son of two sharecroppers from Manning, SC could rise to represent the people of the Seventh Congressional District in the Congress of the United States of America. Only God, and so I must first thank God for this opportunity.

I also thank Him for giving me the strength, the humility, and the courage to walk the path that He has given me. So often we in public life forget that we are very fortunate to come upon this Earth and have an opportunity to serve. So often we forget, because we get so caught up in our battles and our struggles, that so many people wish they could have the problems we have.

So I am just a happy, happy man. I am also very happy, they tell me it is unusual for Members of the other body—I have got to get this language right—to come over, but my two Senators, I want to thank you for being here and for all that you have done. It is not just that they are here today, but they have been walking with me for a long time, and I appreciate you.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a diverse district, a very diverse district. We have people who have a lot of problems. We have people who have very nice homes. We have people who are struggling just trying to make it. It honors me tremendously to know that they would send me here to represent them.

I have often said on the floor of the Maryland House of Delegates that our world would be a much better world and a much better place if we would only concentrate on the things we have in common instead of concentrating on our differences. It is easy to find differences, very easy. We need to take more time to find common ground.

So my mission is one that comes out of a vision that was created long, long ago. It is a mission and a vision to empower people, to make people realize that the power is within them, that they, too, can do the things that they want to do. So I am about that mission. I am looking forward to joining with all of you as we travel this road I often call journey, which I define as life.

There is a poem that Parren Mitchell said many, many years ago, that I say sometimes 20 times a day, and it is a very simple poem but it is one that I live by. It says: "I only have a minute, 60 seconds in it, forced upon me, I did not choose it, but I know that I must use it, give account if I abuse it, suffer if I lose it, only a tiny little minute, but eternity is in it."

So I join you as we move forward to uplift not only the Nation but the world. May God bless you all and may God bless America.

#### RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) laid before the House the following resignation as a Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 22, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign my position on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 414) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 414

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and that they are hereby, elected to

the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland; to the Committee on the Judiciary, MAXINE WATERS of California; and to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, ELIJAH CUMMINGS of Maryland.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that he will take ten 1-minutes on each side.

#### DELAY TRUMPETS SPENDING BILL

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, last night the Appropriations Committee did a great job in working with the President and forcing him to be fiscally responsible. By getting an agreement to curtail spending in the 1996 omnibus appropriations bill, Republicans were finally able to cut back on Washington spending, and I am very proud of that.

Today we will save the taxpayers \$43 billion from last year's spending levels. We zero out 200 programs. We will keep on track to a balanced budget. And, most important, we will take a giant leap toward fiscal sanity.

Mr. Speaker, the American people put the Republicans in the majority because they wanted more responsible Government from their Congress, and we have delivered on our promises. My friends, this is the biggest taxpayer savings since the end of the Second World War, and we did not raise one dime of taxes.

By passing this spending bill, we take a giant step forward for the American family, and I just want to commend Chairman LIVINGSTON and his committee for his patience and great work on this legislation.

#### LET US PASS A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the radical right of the Republicans is at it again. Although the vast majority of the American citizens, the majority of the Members of this House, the majority of the Members of the other body, and the President of the United States all say we should have an increase in the minimum wage. Well, imperial Speaker GINGRICH and the Presidential nominee of the Republican Party, BOB DOLE, say, "No, we are not even going to let you vote on it." The minimum wage is presently at a 40-year low as far as buying power. They will not even

let us have a vote on it. That is the radical right of the Republican Party.

I say let the House vote on a minimum wage. Let us vote on it now. Let the other body vote on a minimum wage. Let us vote on it now. What are you afraid of? You are afraid of giving the working poor a little more money for their work. That is what you are afraid of. You do not want to do that. You want to give the wealthy a big tax cut. You say that is who needs the money. I say let us pass a minimum wage.

#### THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, it is fascinating, the gentleman from Missouri was not here 2 years ago asking to help the working poor with an increase in the minimum wage, because he had the House controlled by Democrats, the Senate controlled by Democrats, and the White House. They were not concerned about them then.

Let me tell you what the Wall Street Journal Review and Outlook call them in 1996. Remember when Bill Clinton claimed he was a new Democrat precisely because he did not favor a higher minimum wage? Time Magazine, by Michael Kramer, from an earlier speech by Bill Clinton: "It"—raising the minimum wage—"is the wrong way to raise incomes of low-wage earners." I think the President was right then. I think he is right now.

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The increase in the minimum wage by the President's own chief economist will cost low-income earners 100,000 jobs. That is not the way to raise the income of workers. Cutting taxes is.

#### AMERICA SUPPORTS RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, again I do not understand what the argument is about which Congress tried or did not try to raise the minimum wage. The bottom line is we know now we have a majority in both Houses, mostly Democrats, but also enough Republicans, so that we could pass the minimum wage if it was only brought up for a vote on the floor right now.

The problem is that the Republican leadership, Speaker GINGRICH and the others, do not want to bring it up for a vote. They had a meeting yesterday and all the newspapers today say they refuse to bring it up for a simple up or down vote. The reason they will not bring it up is because they know it will pass.

The American people favor this, four out of five in all the recent polls, and the majority in the House of Rep-

resentatives and the Senate and the President of the United States. So why not bring it up?

Very simple: They do not want to do it. Instead, they have come up with some bureaucratic cockamamie proposal to essentially use a government subsidy to help certain families, but not everyone.

Why in the world are we talking about a government subsidy to employers so that they do not have to pay a higher wage, a living wage? It makes no sense.

#### CHANGING THE WAY GOVERNMENT IS DONE IN WASHINGTON

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today we will end months of intense negotiation with the administration on the omnibus appropriations bill, which provides funding for the Departments of Commerce, Interior, State, Labor, Justice, Housing and Urban Development, Veterans, and Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has achieved historic savings in the Federal budget. We have saved taxpayers \$43 billion, resulting in the lowest projected deficit in 14 years and the single largest cut in government since World War II.

Please remember, the President does not spend one penny; the Congress spends the money, and this Republican Congress is responsible for cutting the deficit \$43 billion, keeping our word, and changing the way government is done in Washington.

#### BACKWARD ECONOMICS

(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, see if this makes any sense: Uncle Sam gives billions of dollars to Russia in foreign aid; Russia then uses American money to build weapons. Uncle Sam then gives billions of dollars to China through the most-favored-nation trade program; China then buys weapons from Russia with money made in America.

Now, China makes money, Russia makes money, and, meanwhile, to stay afloat, America borrows money from Japan. America then uses that borrowed money from Japan to protect Japan and to protect Japanese oil in the Persian Gulf. That is right, Japan gets 95 percent of their oil from the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, back in America, Americans are not only paying higher fuel taxes, they are now paying \$2 for a gallon of gasoline.

Beam me up here. Somebody in Washington, DC, does not need to see any more economists, they need to visit a proctologist. Folks, this thing is all screwed up.

I yield back the balance of all these Btu's.