

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.

BIG SAVINGS FOR AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today the 104th Congress will vote to end big government. By the end of the day today, we will have saved taxpayers \$43 billion over the length of the 104th Congress, the largest single cut in government spending since World War II. Translation: \$688 for a family of four.

With passage of today's legislation, this Congress will end over 200 programs, more than 100 in Labor, Health and Human Services alone, \$12 million on a tick eradication program for cattle in Puerto Rico, and \$14 million for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Association.

The bill strengthens priority programs that our constituents said are important to them: An additional \$400 million for veterans medical benefits, support for our troops in Bosnia, and antiterrorism programs in Israel.

This bill does not just put the brakes on runaway Federal spending, it reverses it. Finally America's values have triumphed over Washington, DC, values. This truly is a historic day.

GIVE AMERICA A RAISE

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Harry Truman used to say that the Republican Party supports the minimum wage: The lower the minimum, the better. Now that we are at a historic minimum, the Republicans will not even give the American people a vote on the floor of the Congress so we can give America a raise, and that is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when I was a boy, and minimum wage jobs, when the minimum wage went up 20 cents, it was a raise. It gave you something to be proud of. It gave you a little extra money.

For Americans to get an extra one buck an hour is \$1,800 a year. That is the average 40-hour workweek. That is a lot of money for families. You can buy a lot of food and health care with \$1,800. That is \$1 an hour.

Give America a raise. Give people who make the minimum wage the decency of allowing them to fulfill Harry Truman's promise for this country.

PRESIDENTIAL PROMISES NOT FULFILLED

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

Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today is Take Your Daughter to Work Day. Being a position role

model and raising a child's self-esteem are noble objectives. However, for too many of those who represent our weakest links in our society, there is no father in the house to bring a child to work, and the mother, she gets a quasi-minimum wage increase by simply having another baby.

Once upon a time there was a candidate for President who said he would end welfare as we know it. Since that slogan apparently helped Mr. Clinton get elected in 1992, I guess the 1996 slogan will be "Really, folks, some day I want to end welfare as we know it." The record would show that Mr. Clinton took 2 years to even introduce an outline of a bill, and he has vetoed welfare reform twice.

Truly the only missing ingredient between taking the first step toward welfare reform and the continuation of this vicious cycle of government dependency is President Bill Clinton.

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, once again I rise to support the minimum wage. People will tell you that while this is just an issue about young teenagers, that is absolutely untrue. Seventy-five percent of the people who make the minimum wage are adults. Fifty-eight percent of them are women, and they head households.

Do you know how much you make a year off the minimum wage? \$8,400 a year, doing some of the dirtiest, most unpleasant, hardest work we have in this country.

Now, I cannot understand why we cannot increase the minimum wage. There are bipartisan majorities in both Houses willing to support a \$1 increase in the minimum wage. So why will the Republican leadership not bring it up?

The fact is that the Republican leadership makes over \$100,000 a year. People on minimum wage make \$8,400 a year. Is it too much to ask to give these people, these women, these hard-working Americans, a raise of \$1? I do not think so.

Again, I reiterate, we ought to raise the minimum wage.

A GOOD DAY FOR THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today is a good day for American taxpayers. It is a day they have waited for for many, many years. Today the House and the Senate will consider and pass the omnibus appropriations bill.

This bill represents the values of ordinary American taxpayers. It represents the values of people who work hard and play by the rules. It rep-

resents the values of people who are tired of seeing one-quarter of their income going to a Federal Government that has racked up a \$5 trillion national debt.

This bill rejects the values of Washington. It is a departure from the tax, tax, spend, spend philosophy of the true extremists, the status quo Clinton liberals. This bill rejects the values of all the liberal special interests who have dominated this House for 40 years.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress can be proud that we are making the changes demanded by the American people. This new Congress is saying no to Washington's values and yes to American values.

RAISE MINIMUM WAGE NOW

(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, yesterday NEWT GINGRICH and his leadership team stiffed America's hardworking families once again. These are the families who work hard; they play by the rules. They are working longer and harder to pay the bills to save for education and for retirement.

These families support an increase in the minimum wage. Eighty-four percent of the American people favor raising the minimum wage, everyone, that is, except for the House Republican leadership.

Yesterday the Republican majority leader said he will not schedule a vote on the minimum wage. Why do House Republicans continue to give working families the back of their hand rather than extending a hand? Because, as a top business lobbyist said yesterday, we made them, and this is a quote, "We made them the majority." Republicans continue to pay off their special interest pals rather than helping America's hardworking families.

Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House, not the House of special interests. Stop hurting working families in this country. Raise the minimum wage now.

MEDICARE'S PENDING BANKRUPTCY

(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, how long are the Clinton Democrats going to ignore reports that Medicare is going broke? How long are they going to jeopardize the future of our parents' and grandparents' health?

Mr. Speaker, new Government reports show a \$4.2 billion shortfall in Medicare for the first half of this fiscal year, \$4.2 billion.

Just last year the Clinton administration predicted Medicare would take in \$45 billion more. It seems the Clinton administration was wrong. When