

to the welfare of their citizens. Unfortunately, this is a lesson lost on President Clinton.

When it comes to welfare waivers, the President refuses to allow States to do it their way. He has denied waivers outright in Illinois, Massachusetts, and Wyoming, and has forced other States to come to Washington on bended knee.

His plan would not allow States to limit benefits to less than 5 years nor would it provide for any new flexibility in operating child protection programs.

Madam Speaker, there was a historical reason why this country was named the United States of America, and we should do everything in our power to prevent it from becoming the united state of big Bill Clinton government.

WHITEWATER AND THE WHITE HOUSE, SOMETHING IN COMMON

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

Mr. OXLEY. Madam Speaker, the bodies keep piling up on the porch of the White House. Yesterday, three more people were convicted in the Arkansas savings and loan scandal that has threatened to envelop more and more people. This is just one more example of what has happened with the White House's mishandling of this terrible incident. Something stinks in Arkansas, and that stench is stretching all the way to the White House.

Whitewater and the White House, something in common staying together, and yesterday was one more example of that fact.

COMPLAINTS ON WHITEWATER ARE REPUBLICAN ATTEMPTS AT DISTRACTION FROM THE REAL ISSUES

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

Mr. WARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I am not surprised that what we are hearing about from the other side of the aisle is what we are hearing about. Anything, anything to avoid the subjects that we have been talking about on this side. Those subjects are the incredibly slow work that we saw in increasing the minimum wage. Those subjects include the incredibly slow work we have seen about truly protecting people who rely on Medicare and Medicaid, and people who have relied on the strides that we have made in the environment, and in education.

What we have seen over this last 1½ years makes us wonder, it makes us wonder, but today it all becomes clear. What becomes clear is that they are trying to distract us. The efforts that are being made again in these 1-minute this morning by the other side are simply to distract us from these main issues. Madam Speaker, I would hope

that we can stick to these main issues and work to do these things.

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WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I started political life as a county commissioner in Kent County, MI. We had a county welfare department that won a number of awards for providing better services at lower cost than most counties across the United States.

But most of the programs that we instituted required a waiver from Washington, and we had to fight and kick and scream in order to get those waivers. I thought it strange that we would have to fight with the Federal Government in order to save them money.

I went to the State legislature, and once again I got involved in battles at the State level requesting waivers from the Federal Government to improve the welfare program and to provide better services at less cost. Once again I thought it strange: Why should we have to fight the Federal Government to save taxpayers money?

Now that I am here, I strongly support giving the States and local communities more to say about operating their welfare programs, because I am convinced that they can do a better job at less cost than we have with our current system. I applaud the Republicans in the House for introducing a bill which will bring that about and make it possible for us to save money for the people of this country.

WORK TO BE DONE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I think it is important this morning and this afternoon to emphasize that there is work to be done. I realize that the headlines of yesterday evening, that we would hear a lot of spin talk and dragging Whitewater and a variety of other issues all the way to the White House.

But I really want to speak about what the American people have said to me when I go home to the 18th Congressional District, and that is about senior citizens who are appalled that we are still talking about cutting \$166 billion from Medicare, about medical professionals who will say to me that the medical system is in an uproar because they cannot care for sick and the needy. I also hear from young people who say that they are looking forward to an entry level job, but they have got families and they need an increase in the minimum wage. They are gratified that we did some work last week after long, long months of trying.

So I hope my Republican colleagues will get down to the business of working. As we approach this omnibus science bill, I hope they will realize that science is the cutting edge of the 21st century. I hope we will not drag Whitewater into our work. I hope we will work for the American people.

IT IS TIME TO SAY "NO" TO THE STATUS QUO AND REFORM WELFARE NOW

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, this Congress has twice passed welfare reform legislation that emphasizes work and personal responsibility. President Clinton, who told America that he would "end welfare as we know it," has, on both occasions, vetoed that legislation. Now he tells us once again that he's ready to keep his promise that he really is willing to reform welfare. Well, we'll see.

We will soon give President Clinton another opportunity to put his money where his mouth is. We will make one more effort to send him a bill that will move millions of Americans from that cycle of dependency on big government to a life of productivity and responsibility for self and family.

Madam Speaker, let's hope for the sake of generations of Americans caught in the welfare trap that the President isn't just pulling our leg once again. Let's hope that he'll finally agree to keep his oft-repeated campaign promise to "end welfare as we know it."

WHITEWATER CONVICTIONS

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, 4 years ago President Clinton kicked off his Presidential campaign. His theme was honesty in government, and the example he pontificated about was the S&L debacle that was then costing the taxpayers tens of billions of dollars.

The conviction of President Clinton's cronies in Arkansas suggests that while candidate Clinton was making honesty the theme of his campaign, his own gang was engaged in looting a savings and loan institution in Little Rock. We have come to know, unfortunately, that our President, President Clinton, is a politician that has absolutely no shame.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees

be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: Committee on National Security; Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

ORDER OF CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS AND POSTPONING VOTES ON AMENDMENTS DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3322, OMNIBUS CIVILIAN SCIENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. WALKER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 3322, pursuant to House Resolution 427, following disposition of the amendment offered by Representative WALKER or his designee and specified in House Resolution 427, the following amendments or germane modifications thereof be considered in the following order and notwithstanding their amending portions of the bill not yet read for amendment: An amendment offered by Representative SCHIFF regarding National Science Foundation funding; amendment No. 3 by Representative GEKAS; amendment No. 7 by Representative THORNBERRY; amendment No. 22 by Representative TRAFICANT; an amendment offered by Representative ROEMER regarding endocrine disruptors; an amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. CRAMER; amendment No. 14 by Representative LOFGREN; and amendment No. 8 by Representative BROWN of California, following disposition of which committee shall resume consideration of the bill pursuant to House Resolution 427.

Further, I ask unanimous consent that the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any of these amendments to the bill, or any amendments thereto. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, may reduce to not less than 5 minutes the time for voting by electronic device on any postponed question that immediately follows another vote by electronic device without intervening business provided that the time for voting by electronic device on the first of any series of questions shall be not less than 15 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. COOLEY. Madam Speaker, on welfare reform Bill Clinton has performed one shameless flip-flop after the next. During the 1992 Presidential campaign, candidate Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it. President Clinton never offered any serious welfare reform program. There was never even a vote on welfare reform when the Democrats controlled the Congress during the first 2 years of his Presidency. Clinton on the record opposes the idea of allowing governments to pursue their own welfare programs, saying there is a danger that some States will get into a race to the bottom.

When the Republicans led the Congress, we kept our promise and sent Bill Clinton a bill that would genuinely reform welfare. We not only sent it to him once but we sent it to him twice, and he vetoed it both times. Madam Speaker, I think we need to look at welfare reform very seriously and offer the American people a new program that will truly, truly revise welfare.

BLOATED CONGRESSIONAL MILITARY BUDGET

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Madam Speaker, you would think that my Republican colleagues have learned their lesson. Over the past year, the American people have expressed their outrage over the 1996 congressional military budget which gave the Pentagon \$7 billion more than they asked for. Well, Madam Speaker, here we go again. This year the Republican led Congress has decided to give the Pentagon \$13 billion more than what it asked for. Maybe my Republican colleagues did not get the message. Why don't they use the extra \$13 billion on environmental programs which their 1997 budget cut by 19 percent. Or maybe they could use the money to provide student loans to the 2.5 million young people who will have their student loans reduced under the Republican budget.

Madam Speaker, we know that our military budget is much larger than the military budgets of all of our enemies combined.

So, since there is no country—or, even group of countries that poses a credible threat to our national security, on behalf of the American people I must ask if the real threat the Republicans fear is a foreign power, or the wrath of the defense industry.

OMNIBUS CIVILIAN SCIENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 427 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3322.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3322) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for civilian science activities of the Federal Government, and for other purposes, with Mr. BURTON of Indiana in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] and the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER].

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 6 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring before the House H.R. 3322, the Omnibus Civilian Science Authorization Act of 1996. This bill provides fiscal 1997 authorizations for the National Science Foundation, NASA, the U.S. Fire Administration in FEMA, NOAA, the research programs of EPA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the research programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and the earthquake hazards reduction program. This legislation provides 5 percent or \$285 million more in basic research spending than the Clinton administration budget.

This chart to my left indicates the basic funding research and shows that we are higher in funding the fundamental science of the country than what the Clinton administration budget calls for.

In addition, this bill calls for \$3.7 billion for environmental science including \$1.25 billion for the global climate change programs, and it ends corporate welfare. In short, this represents a sound and responsible approach to the funding of our Nation's Federal civilian research and development efforts.

The legislation authorizes \$19.3 billion for fiscal year 1997. The President's request for these programs is \$20.3 billion.

We provide \$3.2 billion for the National Science Foundation, a \$31 million increase over fiscal year 1996, plus \$26 million for basic research grants and \$25 million for South Pole environmental and safety renovations.

We provide \$13.5 billion for NASA, including full funding for the space station, an increase in space science and life and microgravity research and \$1 billion for the missions to planet Earth.

We provide \$27.6 million for the U.S. fire administration. The President's request is that same number.

We provide \$1.37 billion for what are called the dry programs of NOAA, including full modernization of the National Weather Service, \$100 million for basic climate change research, and a complete project authorization for the