

military regime which recently murdered in cold blood American citizens and which continues to harm the United States at every opportunity, is not only a disgusting sight to behold, but an insult to the thousands of men and women of our military who risk their lives every day to defend the principles of freedom and democracy we proudly enjoy in this Nation.

Either Fidel Castro is our enemy or he is not. Let us have these officials explain these actions to us.

#### REPUBLICANS PLAN TO PREVENT VOTE ON PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION REGARDING GINGRICH COMPLAINTS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on August 5, 1987, the gentleman from Georgia, Representative NEWT GINGRICH, offered a privileged resolution on the House floor. The Gingrich resolution directed the Committee on Ethics to expand the investigation into another Member of the House, Representative Fernand St. Germain.

At that time no one moved to table the Gingrich resolution in 1987. The House was permitted to fully debate the resolution in 1987, and the House took an up or down rollcall vote on the resolution in 1987.

Times have apparently changed. When the gentleman from Florida, Representative JOHNSTON, offered a similar resolution to ask the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to do the same thing with respect to the case of Mr. GINGRICH, the Republican leadership plans to table the resolution immediately, the Republican leadership plans to block all debate on the resolution, and the Republican leadership plans to prevent a vote on the resolution.

My, how things have changed and, my, how the people's House has changed.

#### NO GLASS CEILING FOR WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I am often asked by women in my district if there is a glass ceiling in this Congress for women who serve here, and I tell them no, there is not a glass ceiling as far as I am concerned.

I tell them that I am reminded of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Remember, Fred Astaire was a spectacular dancer, but some people forget that Ginger Rogers had to do everything he did, except she had to do it in a long dress, high heels, dancing backward, with a smile on her face.

The point of this friendly jibe is that we as women oftentimes have to work

differently or harder, but we are working toward the same goal side-by-side with the gentlemen in this body.

Some Members would have us believe that women are some sort of a third political party, that there are a special set of issues that only women care about. One of my colleagues recently claimed that there was a war against women in this body. Such a charge is hollow rhetoric. The real issue is that the most important concerns women have are really no different than all Americans.

#### NEWTGATE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, if a Member of this House was involved in a \$6 million tax fraud scheme and the Ethics Committee knew and did nothing, what would that be?

If a Member of this House set up and used tax exempt organizations for partisan political purposes and the Ethics Committee knew and did nothing, what would that be?

Well, Mr. Speaker, these are exactly the charges hanging over Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. The Ethics Committee has been sitting on these charges for 6 months and doing nothing. They even refuse to send them to the outside counsel investigating the Speaker.

To answer the question, Mr. Speaker, What would it be? It would be, it is, a scandal. Newtgate is truly the biggest scandal and coverup in this town.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF MFN STATUS FOR CHINA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, for 15 years now, we have given MFN status to the Chinese. And rather than getting better, the situation is worsening: we now have a \$30 billion trade imbalance, human rights abuses are on the rise, Chinese companies continue to steal America's intellectual property, military spending is increasing, and anti-American sentiment is rising throughout China.

Not only do we tolerate such behavior from China, but by granting MFN status—by voting against this resolution—we actually condone the behavior of the Chinese. We tell them to continue the systematic killing of their children and the state-sponsored abortions; we tell them that America condones communism, hostility, and oppression; we support and fund their Army through our trade imbalance; and we ignore the theft of millions of American dollars in intellectual property. We standby and we do nothing, and our apathy is just as bad as our involvement; it is, in simple terms, the American seal of approval.

My colleagues, we have the opportunity today to send a message to the world that America will not support a rogue nation, that we will not condone terrorism, oppression, and intolerance. Today, we have the opportunity to affect a change in China's policies, and to tell the rest of the world: America allies itself with only those nations who advance and encourage fairness, the nations who foster democracy, and those nations who embrace freedom.

My colleagues, I urge you to do the right thing: Vote for the resolution of disapproval; vote against MFN for China.

#### THE COMMITTEE SHOULD GET ON WITH IT

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, it is almost the Fourth of July, and today many of us will be leaving to go home. I know we are going to be giving wonderful speeches about this country, about this country and how we believe it is a government of laws and not of men, that no man is above the law.

Well, thank goodness for the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON], because he is going to give us a chance to prove we mean that before we leave here today because today he will be offering a resolution that says to a certain committee that has all sorts of charges piled up in front of it that they have been sitting on like nesting hens, very serious charges that go to the core of this democracy saying to that committee, get on with it. Even if this person against whom these charges are being leveled is the Speaker of this House, we must act.

So if we are going to give those speeches later on next week, we better be prepared to vote today to show we mean it.

#### THE AMERICAN WORKERS TAX BURDEN

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, next week on July 4, the American people will celebrate 220 years of independence from Great Britain, but they will also celebrate the fact that their liberation from \$3.3 trillion in total costs and regulations that it takes 6 months to pay. It was not always so.

If we went back to the 1960's, we would see that the Federal tax rate then was 12 to 13 percent. It has doubled since then to 25 percent. When we add the regulations cost, when we add the State cost, it brings it up to almost 50 percent.

Now that is the cost of increased Government spending. That is why some of us fight to reduce wasteful Government spending on this floor. Let us reduce the burdens which we have

placed upon the American worker. Let us reform the overgrown Government agencies and roll back senseless and burdensome regulations. Let us grant the American worker the independence that he or she deserves from the Federal Government.

#### GINGRICH ETHICS

(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, the House of Representatives is at one of its all-time-lowest approval ratings in history. The American people have lost confidence in this institution's ability to lead and to do what's right. We must do all we can to restore their confidence and prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that we can monitor our own House.

Stores like the series currently running in the LA Times do not help us in our quest for the public's confidence. The LA Times article and I quote "cited public records showing that six nonprofit organizations linked to GOPAC has raised at least \$6 million in tax-deductible funds that tax experts said appeared to have been used for Republican political purposes."

The American people demand—and deserve—a Congress that is above reproach ethically and morally. Questions have been raised and they need to be answered swiftly, and thoroughly.

No one is above the law in this Congress and no one has a right to be shielded and protected from legitimate questions regarding these very serious issues.

#### A SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE SPEAKER'S WRONGDOING

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to follow up on this resolution that will be proposed later which basically asks that an outside counsel be appointed for certain purposes. I think the notion that we police ourselves in the House of Representatives to some extent makes sense but, when the time comes, when a certain committee is not doing its job and not basically taking on the responsibility to make sure that certain Members here are properly investigated for alleged wrongdoings, particularly when it comes to tax-exempt organizations, the political process needs to be kept in a proper fashion.

If tax-exempt organizations or other organizations are being used to promote a particular candidacy or a particular political party, the time comes when the particular committee here, in this case the ethics committee, must do its job. If it cannot do its job, then we need have to have an outside counsel appointed.

I think that the LA Times article has clearly pointed out that there have

been a number of allegations here with regard to the Speaker, and the time has come for this House to move to appoint a special counsel to look into the Speaker's wrongdoing.

#### RESTORE AMERICANS' FAITH IN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, integrity is extremely important to me. I have always been a great believer in Government and believe integrity in Government is also important. There is a very sad period in my life in the early 1970's when it appeared that the Federal Government, or at least some individuals in the White House, had betrayed the trust of the American people and had displayed a notable lack of integrity. It is at that time I decided to become involved in politics. I never expected to be in the Congress, but I did run for local government.

I am sorry to say that once again sadness affects me. Once again, we have an incredible abuse of power in the White House. We have the greatest invasion of privacy that has occurred in the history of the FBI. I am very saddened that this has taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is extremely important for all of us in this Congress and throughout the Federal Government to take whatever steps are necessary to make sure that those responsible are punished, but above all to once again restore the American faith in our Government and in the integrity of Government both in this Chamber and in the White House. I urge that we take strong action to do so.

#### INTEGRITY BEGINS AT HOME

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that integrity begins at home. Or, more particularly, integrity begins in this House. Every Member of this House will have an opportunity to go on record concerning the integrity of the proceedings of this House and of its Members today.

When the privileged resolution is presented, if you believe in a fair and impartial investigation, you vote "aye". If you believe in a cover up, you vote "no".

If you believe that this House should be muzzled and that this issue should not get a full and fair airing, you vote for DICK ARMEY's motion to muzzle.

This resolution, in its enacting clause, is one sentence. It does not pre-judge charges, as some have done in their remarks here today. It simply instructs the Ethics Committee to immediately transmit the remaining charges against Speaker GINGRICH to the outside counsel for his investigation and recommendations.

How could anyone oppose, given the way these charges have lingered for over 6 months in the committee, simply referring them to the outside counsel to fully and thoroughly investigate them and take such action as is appropriate. That is where integrity begins.

#### CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT OF 1996

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3525) to amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property, with a Senate amendment thereto and occur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The incidence of arson or other destruction or vandalism of places of religious worship, and the incidence of violent interference with an individual's lawful exercise or attempted exercise of the right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship pose a serious national problem.

(2) The incidence of arson of places of religious worship has recently increased, especially in the context of places of religious worship that serve predominantly African-American congregations.

(3) Changes in Federal law are necessary to deal properly with this problem.

(4) Although local jurisdictions have attempted to respond to the challenges posed by such acts of destruction or damage to religious property, the problem is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in scope to warrant Federal intervention to assist State and local jurisdictions.

(5) Congress has authority, pursuant to the Commerce Clause of the Constitution, to make acts of destruction or damage to religious property a violation of Federal law.

(6) Congress has authority, pursuant to section 2 of the 13th amendment to the Constitution, to make actions of private citizens motivated by race, color, or ethnicity that interfere with the ability of citizens to hold or use religious property without fear of attack, violations of Federal criminal law.

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF VIOLENT INTERFERENCE WITH RELIGIOUS WORSHIP.

Section 247 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "subsection (c) of this section" and inserting "subsection (d)";

(2) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e), as subsection (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) The circumstances referred to in subsection (a) are that the offense is in or affects interstate or foreign commerce.

"(c) Whoever intentionally defaces, damages, or destroys any religious real property because of the race, color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated with that religious property, or attempts to do so, shall be punished as provided in subsection (d).";