

stewards of Your divine purposes and to use Your gifts in ways that promote justice and equity to every person. May we work together as faithful custodians of the bounty of Your creation and reflect in our lives the beauty of all Your gifts. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MARKEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MARKEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

CONTINUE ON THE PATH TO A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we are back and we have learned a lot. No. 1, you cannot negotiate with a "say anything, do nothing" President. It is clear that he is for big government, he is for higher taxes, and he is for more spending. The President condones wasteful spending in the Government.

We have "out of town" Brown, Secretary of Commerce, who has over-extended his travel budget. We have Secretary O'Leary, who is a congenital flier. We cannot keep her in town. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. We have massive wastes of Federal spending in our bureaucracy and we must downsize it.

Mr. Speaker, we are back, we are for a balanced budget, we are on track to get there. We are going to continue to keep pressure on the administration. We are going to reform Medicaid through block grants, we are going to preserve and protect Medicare, and we are going to try to give back to American families some of what they lost in the 1990 tax increase and in the 1993 tax increase. So we are working that hard and we are going to continue on that path. I appreciate my fellow colleagues who are going to join in that effort.

THE 7-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, welcome back. I am glad to welcome our folks back to the kinder and gentler Congress after that first 1-minute.

Mr. Speaker, if you think you remember hearing congressional Republicans saying all they wanted was a CBO-scored 7-year balanced budget, your memory is not failing you. Here is what they said:

Our House budget chairman. "Frankly, we don't ask for a lot. We ask for nothing more than a commitment to do this in a 7-year period."

Our colleague from Idaho. "We have no hidden agenda. The only thing we are asking for is a 7-year balanced budget using CBO numbers."

A colleague from New York. "All we have asked the President of the United States with all his tremendous resources at his hands to do likewise, to come up with those numbers reflecting his own priorities to balance the budget in 7 years using real numbers. That is all we have asked for."

Now they want more. They want their balanced budget bill. They want to include deep cuts in Medicare needs, education needs, and the environment in order to fund a massive tax break, or no bill at all.

The President sent a 7-year balanced budget 2 weeks ago with CBO numbers. But that is not good enough because that is not what their priorities are. They want to hurt seniors and hurt education funding.

HONEST NUMBERS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS IS THE STARTING POINT

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, once again, I listened with interest to the remarks of my friend from Texas, and what a pity it is, ladies and gentlemen, that the minority is reduced to this, to chanting a seemingly mindless mantra, with no basis in fact, with selective use of quotation.

What this new majority always said is that the starting point was looking to find numbers, honest numbers, that begin to balance this budget in 7 years. That is the starting point. That is the parameters of the debate. But it is not a fait accompli. It is not sending us a budget that has all the savings in the last year and continues the culture of tax and spend and spend and tax some more.

What the American people want, Mr. Speaker, is this: A government that achieves an honest consensus, that saves not only the seniors of this generation, but generations yet unborn; a commonsense budget and set of priorities that preserves this great noble experiment in a constitutional republic and preserves this American dream.

That is the task before all of us, conservative and liberal, Republican and Democrat.

COURT-MARTIAL OF MICHAEL NEW IS WRONG

(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, Michael New is a decorated soldier, he loves his country. His bravery, patriotism, and devotion to duty have never been questioned. As we meet today, Michael New is being court-martialed, court-martialed for refusing to wear the blue beret and shoulder patch of the United Nations on a peacekeeping mission.

Michael New said, "I will only wear the uniform of my country, the United States of America." Bravo, Michael New. Michael New took an oath to the Constitution of the United States, not to the charter of the United Nations, and I cannot speak for the Congress, ladies and gentlemen, but if I could, I would tell all these politically correct bureaucrats to take their one world order hands off Michael New and leave him alone.

Mr. Speaker, there is something drastically wrong when a military hero is being court-martialed because he refuses to wear a foreign uniform. Think about it and beam me up.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ON TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, here is a quote from the White House yesterday. "But he"—meaning President Clinton—"will certainly acknowledge that tax relief, as he has been fighting for as President, is something that remains very important."

Mr. Speaker, let me point out that Clinton is now in the fourth year of his Presidency. If he has been fighting for tax relief, why don't the taxpayers have it?

Is it because in his first year as President, he pushed the largest tax increase in history on the backs of the American people?

Is it because when a middle-class, family tax relief bill was laid on his desk, he vetoed it?

Or is it because he didn't even start talking about tax cuts until Republicans became the majority in Congress?

Mr. Speaker, all the above help point out that Bill Clinton is a say-anything, do-nothing liberal President. He claims to be for the people, but his actions show that his policies are higher taxes, bigger government, and more spending.

THREE STRIKES AND YOU ARE OUT

(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, radical Republicans in Congress are preparing again to take political hostages in order to force President Clinton to accept their extreme agenda.

If insanity consists of doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result, legislative lunacy is shutting down the Federal Government for a third time and expecting public support. Having learned nothing from the two Government shutdowns they manufactured last year, key Republican leaders are threatening to force yet another fiscal crisis unless they get a substantial share of their agenda. They're threatening to load up funding bills with extremist riders and let the United States go into default unless the President agrees to give massive tax breaks for the rich paid for by deep cuts in Medicare, education, and the environment.

Last fall, the Republicans launched their first fiscal strike, shutting down the Government for 5 days. In December, the GOP launched their second strike, shutting down the Government for 3 weeks. If there is another Government shutdown or a default, the American people have every right to go to the polls in November and tell the GOP: "Three Strikes and You're Out."

WELFARE STATE ENCOURAGING FAMILY BREAKDOWN

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, as a candidate for President 4 years ago, Bill Clinton said that he would "end welfare as we know it."

Earlier this month, President Clinton vetoed a welfare bill that would have done exactly what candidate Clinton had promised.

Let us review some of the facts.

Almost \$5 trillion has been spent on the welfare state since LBJ launched the war on poverty.

Over half of the individuals receiving AFDC remain dependent on welfare for 10 or more years.

In 1973, the illegitimacy rate for AFDC mothers was 32 percent. Today, it is over 50 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the welfare state has become a system that encourages family breakdown and government dependence. It fails to hold absentee fathers accountable and traps young people in poverty. When given a chance to change this destructive system, Bill Clinton again proved that he is a say anything, do nothing liberal President.

TAXPAYER MONEY BEING WASTED

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, if word were out this afternoon that a govern-

mental official had wasted \$150,000 of taxpayer money to further a political agenda, someone would surely be here denouncing it, and if the figure were instead \$1.5 million, I am sure the line of speakers would be rather long. Were it \$150 million of wasted taxpayer money, there would be bills and resolutions filed and other extraordinary action.

But what we are dealing with this afternoon is not \$150,000 or \$150 million, but \$1.5 billion of the greatest waste of taxpayer money in the history of these United States. That is the cost of the two Gingrich government shutdowns, \$1.5 billion totally wasted, frivolously, to further a political agenda, and, in the word of the sponsor of this action, to pressure another political official into doing what they want; \$1.5 billion.

In all these budget negotiations, I have never seen a line item that should be there; \$1.5 billion Gingrich government wasteful spending for shutting down the Government. Are they going to take that out of Medicare or just add it to the Government deficit?

A LITTLE FRIENDLY ADVICE FOR PRESIDENT CLINTON

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has not asked me for any advice, but if he were to ask in the spirit of bipartisanship, I would be happy to oblige. I would say, "Mr. President, you are about to give your State of the Union Address. You have got your hands full right now with a host of problems. You vetoed the Balanced Budget Act while keeping Hazel O'Leary, who uses taxpayer dollars to hire Madonna's plane, still on the job. You still have got people upset with you because you raised taxes, the biggest tax increase in American history. You have promised to end welfare as we know it, and then you vetoed welfare reform. And you have gone back on your word to cut taxes on the American people."

I would say, "Mr. President, you can still make things right with the American people. You can still keep those promises you have made and broken so many times. You can agree to balance the budget by restraining spending and cutting taxes on hard-working American families. If you do that, Mr. President, you would finally be keeping your word and you would make an awful lot of Americans happy."

For what it is worth, that is the advice I would give President Clinton.

FUND NASA NOW

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, what a difference a day makes.

Yesterday, NASA's Galileo spacecraft beamed back incredible images of Jupiter, our solar system's most intriguing planet. Today, however, Members are ready to allow NASA to be caught in the crossfire of another Government shutdown.

When I met last week with NASA contractors in my district, they told me that the failure to enact NASA's appropriation would cause devastation and hardship to the region's aerospace industry. Small contractors, who don't have the financial flexibility of their large counterparts, would be particularly hard-hit.

Thermal Electronics, Luna Defense Systems, RGA Labs, and Phoenix Engineering will all be forced to lay off—not furlough, but lay off—a substantial percentage of their workers unless we act in a bipartisan manner to immediately enact a NASA appropriation which funds the space station and key science initiatives like the mission to plant Earth.

If one adds in Hughes, TRW, Allied Signal, and Cal Tech's Jet Propulsion Lab, we are talking about the possibility of over 10,000 layoffs.

Mr. Speaker, we must find common ground and fund NASA now. Our future depends on it.

SHAMEFUL DEMAGOGUERY

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I was on a plane last week and a fellow citizen of Lakewood turned to me and he said:

You know, Martin, it seems to be the difference between the new Democrat and the old Democrat is that the new Democrats are talking a great game, a great wonderful conservative game, and then they turn around and do the same thing that all the old liberal Democrats did.

This was a fellow who grew up in Texas as a Democrat.

I think that is exactly right on the money, and exactly what we can expect tonight from the President's State of the Union Address. We are going to hear another fabulous address. But when it gets down to the nitty-gritty, when we actually present a balanced budget, when we can actually do the right thing, then we in fact get into the gutter and engage in the most mindless and really shameful demagoguery that we have heard around here in a long time.

Let me just give you one example, and that is the Medicare example. Our Medicare program would increase spending at 7.4 percent per pay for the next 7 years; the President's is around 7.6, 7.7 percent. Yet this is deep cuts in Medicare to pay for a tax cut for our rich friends? And with a straight face? It is just shameful.