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TALK OF DEFAULT MORE RECKLESS THAN GOVERNMENT SHUT-DOWN

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the only thing more reckless than a Government shutdown is talk of default, and I mean talk. Talk alone on this subject is playing with fire. Secretary Rubin is accused of bluffing. The real question is are we bluffing?

The market opened today down 50 points. It is beginning to level off. But I do not like this game of chicken and I hope my colleagues do not. We have maligned the Secretary, but I think we should thank him for finding magic money. They language he is using this time is quite different and quite definitive and he concludes by saying I will not sell the Nation's gold, and I will not withhold taxpayers' refunds.

Now we are into whether we will have a clean or dirty debt limit bill. This gets us into the mode from which we have just ascended. Please, no more "deja vu all over again," not with the Nation's full faith and credit.

PRESIDENT CLINTON LONG ON PROMISES, SHORT ON KEEPING THOSE PROMISES

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, tonight the President will deliver the State of the Union Address, and I am sure we will all hear a great speech tonight, because he always does give a great speech. But the fact is that also, just as usual, he will be long on promises and short on keeping those promises.

For example, in last year's State of the Union, President Clinton said and I quote, "We ought to help people raise their incomes immediately by lowering their taxes," end quote. But in reality he vetoed a middle-class family tax relief package.

Another example from last year's State of the Union. The President again, quote, "Nothing is done more to undermine our sense of common responsibility than our failed welfare system. It rewards welfare over work; it undermines family values," end quote. But in reality he vetoed the welfare reform bill.

Mr. Speaker, once again, President Clinton will probably give us a speech long on promises but short on results, just reinforcing the fact that he is the say-something and do-nothing liberal President.

PRESIDENT HAS AGREED TO A 7-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET

(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, President Clinton has agreed to a 7-year balanced budget using CBO numbers. The problem is that the Republicans do not want to protect the priorities that the President thinks are important, such as the environment, Medicare, Medicaid, and also education. I would like to pay particular attention to the environment.

The Republicans are saying they want this huge tax cut or tax break, yet they want to cut back on environment enforcement. They do not want to properly fund the Superfund Program to clean up toxic waste sites. In my home State of New Jersey, we have 114 Superfund sites, and a lot of those sites are not being cleaned up now and will not be cleaned up if the Republicans do not agree to fully fund the Superfund Program, which they have not agreed to do so far.

The President has stood strong. He agreed on a balanced budget and he agreed on the Republican terms, but he wants to protect the environment and he wants to make sure the Superfund Program moves forward so that in States like New Jersey those toxic waste sites that pose a direct threat to the health of many Americans who live nearby, he wants to make sure that those sites are cleaned up, and I commend him for it.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS MUST REPRESENT THE CHILDREN

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, we have three primary objectives. One is to get our financial house in order and balance our Federal budget; the second is to save our trust funds from insolvency, and ultimate bankruptcy, particularly Medicare; and our third objective is to transform our caretaking social and corporate welfare state into what I would call a caring opportunity society.

Our country has grown into debt from \$430 billion since the Vietnam War to \$4,900 billion. That has got to end. Adults, Members of Congress, are elected by adults to represent the children, and that is what we are about to do.

PRESIDENT CHIRAC DISREGARDS HEALTH AND WELFARE OF SOUTH PACIFIC

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, sometime next week President Chirac of France will be visiting Washington to meet with our President, and I understand there may even be a chance that he will address a joint session of

the Congress. Mr. Speaker, give me a break. This is the man with tremendous arrogance and disregard for the concerns of some 170 nations.

He totally disregarded the concerns of the health and welfare of some 27 million men, women, and children who live in the nations of the Pacific. He disregarded and decided to break the moratorium and has already exploded five nuclear bombs in atolls in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, by my last count, President Chirac and his predecessors have already exploded 182 nuclear bombs in the atmosphere and in 2 Pacific atolls. One of these atolls is a timed nuclear bomb, the equivalent of several Chernobyls that the French Government has forced upon the lives of the Pacific people. Is this fair, Mr. Speaker?

Shame on you, President Chirac of France. Shame on you for doing this to the Pacific people.

REPUBLICANS HAVE WALKED AWAY FROM THE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS TABLE

(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, House Budget Chairman JOHN KASICH said in November about the budget negotiations, and I quote, "Frankly, we do not ask for a lot. We ask for nothing more than a commitment to do this in a 7-year period. The priorities within that 7-year plan are negotiable."

Well, the President did exactly that, but now the Republicans want to move the goalpost in the middle of the game. Now the Republican leadership says that they will not negotiate on the budget priorities. What they want to do is to have a backroom deal on deep cuts in Medicare for a tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

Where I come from a person's word is his or her bond. Mr. KASICH and other Members of the Republican majority gave their word that they would sit down and negotiate the details of the budget once the President produced a 7-year balanced budget. The President met the Republicans more than halfway, but instead of responding in kind, Republicans have walked away from the negotiating table, walking away from their promise to the President, but more importantly than that, walking away from their duty to the American people.

MEMORIAL TO ED WHITE, FORMER CHIEF CLERK TO REPORTERS OF DEBATES

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] to memorialize one of our staff who has passed away.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California.

Congress is a busy place. Members interact with many workers. Sometimes we know them, but yet we do not know them. One of those individuals was a great worker here. Ed White. He was, in fact, the Chief Clerk to the reporters. He sat right at the first level of the dais there, right behind the Republican podium.

Ed has passed away. He served in Korea. He retired in 1993. He is from Boston, MA. While in the service they handed him a tank, but no one taught him how to operate it. He taught himself and operated that tank in defense of our great country.

Ed White leaves his beautiful wife, Patricia; two sons, Patrick and Teddy; and an awful lot of people who knew him here and cared deeply for him. There will be, in fact, a memorial mass, 2 p.m., Thursday, January 25, St. James Catholic Church, 103 North Spring St., Falls Church, VA, for all of us who remember Ed and want to give our best to the family, and God bless.

CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). This is the day for the call of the Corrections Calendar.

The Clerk will call the bill on the Corrections Calendar.

CONSTRUCTED WATER CONVEYANCES REFORM ACT OF 1995

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 2567) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to standards for constructed water conveyances.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2567

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Constructed Water Conveyances Reform Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. CONSTRUCTED WATER CONVEYANCES.

Section 303(c)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(C) STANDARDS FOR CONSTRUCTED WATER CONVEYANCES.—

"(i) RELEVANT FACTORS.—If a State exercised jurisdiction over constructed water conveyances in establishing standards under this section, the State shall consider any water quality impacts resulting from any return flow from a constructed water conveyance to navigable waters and the need to protect downstream uses and may consider the following:

"(I) The existing and planned uses of water transported in a conveyance system.

"(II) Management practices necessary to maintain the conveyance system.

"(III) Any State or regional water resources management and water conservation plans.

"(IV) The intended purposes for the constructed conveyance.

"(ii) RELEVANT USES.—If a State adopts or reviews water quality standards for constructed water conveyances, it shall not be required to establish recreational, aquatic life, or fish consumption uses for such sys-

tems if the uses are not existing or reasonably foreseeable or the uses interfere with the intended purposes of the conveyance system.

"(iii) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to require a State to exercise jurisdiction over constructed water conveyances in establishing standards or to prohibit a State from considering any relevant factor in establishing standards or from establishing any relevant use.

"(iv) CONSTRUCTED WATER CONVEYANCES DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term 'constructed water conveyance' means a man-made water transport system constructed for the purpose of transporting water for agricultural purposes or municipal and industrial water supply purposes in a waterway that is not and never was a natural waterway."

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The Clerk read as follows:

Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Constructed Water Conveyances Reform Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. CONSTRUCTED WATER CONVEYANCES.

Section 303(c)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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"(III) Any State or regional water resources management and water conservation plans.

"(IV) The intended purposes for the constructed conveyance.

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"(iv) CONSTRUCTED WATER CONVEYANCES DEFINED.—In this subparagraph, the term 'constructed water conveyance' means a man-made water transport system constructed for the purpose of transporting water for agricultural purposes or municipal and industrial water supply purposes in a waterway that is not and never was a natural waterway."

Mr. SHUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent

that the committee amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER] and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. BORSKI] will each be recognized for 30 minutes.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2567, the Constructed Water Conveyances Reform Act. This correction day bill, which is the first of 1996, fixes a specific problem under the Clean Water Act that will benefit State and local officials and agricultural interests and continue, at the same time, to protect our Nation's waters.

It is also the first piece of legislation for the House to consider this year under the new constraints imposed by the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995. This bill not only passes the test of not imposing unfunded Federal mandates, it passes it with flying colors. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office finds that this bill is likely to reduce State and local costs by interjecting flexibility to avoid unnecessary water use designations.

This legislation amends the Clean Water Act to allow States greater flexibility in setting water quality standards for so-called constructed water conveyances; that is, manmade drains, canals, and other conduits to transport water for agricultural and water supply purposes.

The bill is essentially the same as provisions in the House-passed clean water bill, and is based on testimony gathered from several hearings.

It is before us today by a bipartisan coalition of Members; and, indeed, there are nine original cosponsors, five Republicans, four Democrats. So it is totally bipartisan.

Our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure responded by reporting the bill on December 21, 1995. I particularly want to commend the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], the ranking Democrat of the Committee on Transportation and infrastructure, the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT], the chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. BORSKI], the ranking Democrat on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. They all cooperated in putting together a very reasonable package.

I also would be quite remiss if I did not commend and congratulate the primary sponsors of the bill, the gentleman from California [Mr. CONNIT] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] along with others who have continued to press for this legislation.