

place which he dearly loved. He did his best to act on principle while being fully engaged in the arena. In this place where the line between legitimate compromise and expediency is so often fuzzed, Mike Synar knew the difference. He had a clear head and a moral compass that guided him, not always with perfect outcomes but always with a perfect sense of integrity. He knew that a seat in this House was simply not worth having if there were not some things that you were willing to risk losing it over.

What tribute can we give to this man? Perhaps to give back some of the love he showed for this wonderful institution of our democracy by treating each other better and respecting the principles that we all hold, principles that Mike was so true to in his own service here. Perhaps we can draw some inspiration from his life and service and do so in his name and memory.

STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the President said a lot of the right things last night. He says the era of big government is over. He says that he now understands that working families are overtaxed. And he even implies that he is now willing to sign the welfare reform, balanced budget, and tax cut measures that he has vetoed over the last few months. Good news, if he means it, very good news.

If the President now means it and he will support tax cuts for working families rather than demagoging about mythical tax cuts for the rich, that is very good news.

If the President now means it that people in Cincinnati should be able to keep more of their own money, rather than seeing it wasted by high flying bureaucrats like Hazel O'Leary, that is good news.

In short, Mr. Speaker, if the President now wants to work together for tax relief and for an end to big government ripoffs—then I am with him all the way. It is great to see that the President is now a fan of the Contract With America. I just hope that he realizes that we need action and not just talk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise Members they should refrain from references to demagoguery.

GOODBYE TO MIKE SYNAR

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, this morning at St. John's Church there

was a memorial service for our departed colleague from Oklahoma, Mike Synar. As I listened to the deserving tributes paid to this remarkable public servant, I realized that death sometimes robs us of our last chance to say goodbye. So to my friend and colleague Mike Synar, I want to say goodbye one last time.

I want to say, thank you, Mike, for reminding us what courage is all about. I want to say, thank you for reminding us that one person can make a difference. I want to say, thank you for reminding us that public service can be a noble calling. I want to say, thank you, Mike, for your genuine compassion and caring for your fellow human beings. And I want you to know that like the statue of your fellow Oklahoman, Will Rogers, which watches over this House just outside the doors of this Chamber, your spirit, the courageous spirit of Mike Synar, will forever hover over this House to remind each of us that courage and compassion and acting out of conscience are noble human traits.

Goodbye, my friend. We will miss you, but never forget you.

STATE OF CONFUSION

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

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, last night the American people did not hear the State of the Union but rather I suggest they heard a statement of confusion, albeit a statement of contradictions.

President Clinton spoke to the American people once again about balancing the budget, ending welfare as we know it, saving Medicare and providing middle-class tax relief. However when this Republican Congress sent him an honest balanced budget, he vetoed that. When the Congress sent him a welfare reform bill to end dependency, he vetoed that. When the Congress passed a measure to save Medicare, he once again vetoed that. And when we sent him legislation to provide the middle-class tax cut he referred to last night, he vetoed that.

This Congress has sent the President virtually everything he spoke about last evening. He just must be confused, in my opinion.

Mr. President, the American people are not confused. It is time to stop talking and start signing, not vetoing these bills. The American people have demanded these changes in 1992, in 1994 again, and the Congress has delivered more than just a speech.

LET US TELL THE TRUTH

(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, last night the President mentioned that we

need to do welfare reform, and I agree with him. This morning the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, on one of the morning talk shows, when asked about welfare reform, said that the President had vetoed it twice, even though the Senate had passed it with 85 votes.

Well, Speaker GINGRICH, I wish you would tell the truth. That bill that the President vetoed, that welfare bill, got only 52 votes in the Senate. It did not get 85 votes, Speaker GINGRICH. Tell the truth; it got only 52. And two Republicans voted against it.

Now, the President wants to do welfare reform, but he does not want to do the radical one that was sent to him. I want to do welfare reform. I would much rather take the one that passed the Senate in September; not the one in December, the one in September, let us do that welfare reform.

Speaker GINGRICH, let us tell the truth.

STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I watched the President's speech last night. That speech and his State of the Union speech last year were the two longest I have heard in my lifetime.

A thought came to me while I was listening to that lengthy speech about how we could save money. Instead of shutting down the Government to save money, we could just suspend Government while the President talks. We would save millions.

Length is not important. Content is. The major themes of the President's speech were simply a rehash of the same promises he made 4 years ago, and on which he did not deliver.

During most of his Presidency he has had a Congress controlled by his own party.

He promised a balanced budget. He did not submit a credible one and vetoed the one Congress passed. He promised welfare reform. He did not submit a credible plan, and vetoed the welfare reform Congress passed.

The American people deserve better.

DEALS, DEALS

(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, what year is it? Is 1996 the 10th year of the 5-year Gramm-Rudman balance deal? Is 1996 the fifth year of the Bush 5-year deal? Is 1996 the third year of the Clinton 5-year deal or is 1996 the new 7-year deal?

Deals, deals. That is what we have. There are more deals here than Monty Hall has, folks, but one thing is for sure, 1996 is the year of denial.

The most important thing last night is what was not said by the President

or Senator DOLE. No mention of record trade deficits. No mention of those two turkeys, GATT and NAFTA. No mention of declining wages. No mention of livable-wage jobs leaving this country.

Mr. Speaker, I say if the economy is so great, why do American families need three jobs to pay their bills? We do not need any more deals, we need a little bit more common sense and maybe people should get out of this denial phase and take a look at the reality that is hitting people on the streets of America.

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THE TWO CLINTONS: RHETORIC VERSUS REALITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the blizzard in Washington, DC, may be over. But last night the American people had to trudge through the Clinton reelection snow job. It is amazing what some people will say to hide what they do.

The same President who pledged to balance the budget in 5 years, but vetoed the first balanced budget in 26 years, again poses as fiscally prudent.

The same President who promised to end welfare as we know it, but vetoed welfare reform, again masquerades as a welfare reformer. The same President who tried to socialize medicine, and today blocks efforts to save Medicare, disguises himself as protector of health benefits.

And the same President who pledged a middle class tax cut only to pass the largest tax increase in history but vetoed real family and small business tax cuts, again pretends to champion tax relief.

Promises are made to be kept, not ignored after the election's over. Words should have some correlation to actions. This President's promises and words about the future are directly contradicted by his policies of the past and the present.

WHY WE DO NOT HAVE A BUDGET DEAL

(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, the President has presented a balanced budget: Seven years with CBO scoring. So why do we not have a budget deal? I will tell you why, because the Republicans insist that they want to give tax breaks to the rich. The President made prudent budget cuts, but he protected the beneficiaries of Medicare and Medicaid.

Medicare guarantees hospital care for seniors. Medicaid guarantees nursing home care for seniors and for the disabled. But the Republicans want to

cut these programs. They want to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare, they want to cut \$163 billion out of Medicaid, and they want to give a tax break of \$245 billion largely to the rich. According to the Treasury Department, half of the tax breaks go to people making over \$100,000 a year, and that is wrong.

There is a difference. The Republicans believe in an America that says every man or woman for himself. The President and the Democrats believe we are a caring society and the standard of that society is we take care of our seniors, our disabled people, and our young people. We have a balanced budget. The problem is they want to give tax breaks to the rich.

CLINTON SEES THE LIGHT—FINALLY AGREES TO LESS GOVERNMENT

(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, the gentleman from Missouri who is in the back here was incorrect when he alleged the Speaker, speaking about the welfare bill this morning, did not have the vote count right. It was 87 to 12 that the welfare bill passed out of the Senate, and it was 52 to 47 on the conference report. The gentleman was confusing the conference report with the original welfare bill in the Senate which passed overwhelmingly. The Speaker was correct.

So with that, last evening the President gave his State of the Union. As I listened, I said to myself, it sounds like the Republican agenda. It is like the President has had a Damascus experience. He was reborn again. Sometimes he is reborn every 3 months.

Republicans should feel very satisfied because we have overturned the Democrats' control here in Congress, made a balanced budget a national priority, bipartisan priority, ended the idea that entitlement spending is holy, and started the debate on the complete rethinking of the Tax Code.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA JORDAN

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, last week this Nation lost an American hero. Former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan died on Wednesday, January 17, 1996. Funeral services were held on January 20, 1996. Joining us in Houston were President Bill Clinton, Cabinet members, her former colleagues, and current Members of Congress.

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan was a great American and an outstanding public servant. She was an inspiration to us all. Tonight I invite my colleagues to join me in a special order tribute to the Honorable Barbara Jordan, an American who cherished the Constitution and lived its values.

OUR ARMED FORCES SHOULD NOT BE PLACED UNDER CONTROL OF FOREIGN COMMANDERS

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on the conference report on S. 1124, the 1996 Department of Defense authorization bill. I will vote for this bill because it contains so many good things: COLA equity for our military retirees, a needed pay raise for our Armed Forces, money to repair substandard family housing, and funds to protect this Nation from a deadly missile attack.

This bill does many good things, but, Mr. Speaker, S. 1124 has been changed to permit the men and women of our armed services to be placed under control of foreign commanders. This is wrong. I object to this provision.

In the future, the United States will certainly take part in international disputes. But when American volunteers volunteer to serve this Nation in armed conflict, they deserve to be led by Americans and not by foreign commanders.

I will vote for S. 1124 this time. As is so often the case, I must accept some good with the bad.

NUCLEAR TESTING IN 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, I wanted to share with my colleagues and the American public an article that appeared in today's Washington Post. The article cites the French Government's admission that radioactive materials have leaked into the sea from its nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, while the French Government now tells the world it is just a small amount and it should be no problem, this radioactive material that has leaked into the Pacific Ocean from the Mururoa Atoll is iodine 131. Iodine 131 is produced only as a result of nuclear explosions.

Mr. Speaker, President Chirac of France has already exploded five nuclear bombs on the Mururoa Atoll; let alone the fact that on the same atoll total, the French Government has exploded some 177 nuclear bombs, and that the contamination now on this atoll is worth several Chernobyls.

Yet our Government is going to honor this man next week in Washington? Mr. Speaker, a defense secret report reveals that in 1979, the French Government detonated a 150-kiloton nuclear bomb only 1,300 feet below the surface of this atoll.

Shame on you, France, for doing this terrible thing to the people of the Pacific.