

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.

Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD I present the article by William Drozdiak entitled "France Acknowledges Radioactive Leakage in South Pacific Nuclear Tests."

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 24, 1996]

FRANCE ACKNOWLEDGES RADIOACTIVE
LEAKAGE IN SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR TESTS
(By William Drozdiak)

PARIS, January 23.—France acknowledged today that radioactive materials have leaked into the sea from its nuclear tests in the South Pacific but insisted that the quantities were so minimal that they posed no threat to the environment.

The confirmation that radioactive elements such as iodine-131 have seeped into the lagoon near the Mururoa test site seemed likely to revive the storm of protests that followed President Jacques Chirac's decision to conduct a final series of underground nuclear explosions before signing a global test-ban treaty.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said he will demand a full explanation from France about the nature of the leaks. Other countries in the Pacific region, notably Australia and New Zealand, are expected to follow suit, French officials said.

Defying international criticism, France has carried out five nuclear tests since September to verify a new warhead and to perfect simulation technology that will be used to monitor reliability of its nuclear weapons. A final test will take place next month before the test site is shut down permanently, French officials said.

But the latest accounts of radioactive leakage at the Mururoa test site have raised questions about the credibility of the French government's arguments that the nuclear explosions present no environmental menace.

"There is no way to assess whether there is a coverup because the French do not allow independent verification," said Tom Cochran, a nuclear-test specialist at the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington. "What makes people suspicious about whether they are hearing the truth is the fact that these tests were really unnecessary in the first place."

France has always contended that its underground nuclear blasts inflict no damage on the fragile ecology of the Mururoa coral atoll, 750 miles southeast of Tahiti, which serves as its principal test site. Explosive devices are bored deep within the basalt foundation of the atoll, and French scientists say the intense heat from the blast vitrifies the rock and traps all radioactivity before it can escape.

But Alain Barthoux, director of nuclear tests at France's Atomic Energy Commission, acknowledged that traces of radioactive material are usually "vented" into the lagoon when scientists drill down into the rock to obtain samples after every blast.

Barthoux claimed, however, that such leaks involve "insignificant amounts" of radioactive substances, such as cesium, tritium or iodine, that vanish quickly in the environment. Quantities of iodine-131, for example, which can cause cancer when ingested by humans, shrink by half within eight days and disappear entirely within 80 days, he said.

Barthoux denied a report in the Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper that small amounts of radioactive iodine were continuing to leak into the water as a result of the latest round of nuclear tests. The paper quoted sources at the Geneva disarmament conference, where the global test-ban treaty is being negotiated, as saying a French nuclear expert disclosed the radiation leakage at a meeting in Washington last November.

The French specialist was quoted as saying the information was "extremely confidential."

France first acknowledged the release of radioactivity from its nuclear tests when oceanographer Jacques Cousteau visited the Mururoa site in 1987 and was allowed to conduct independent tests of the water in the lagoon. He found the presence of radioactive iodine, cesium, cobalt and europium, but in quantities that were not considered dangerous.

But he warned that Mururoa's coral crown was deeply cracked and could pose a problem if testing continued. He said risks grew that higher levels of radioactive residue could seep into the lagoon.

French Defense Minister Charles Millon denounced reports from last year of widening fissures in the atoll as "unreliable." Foreign Minister Herve de Charette told the National Assembly that "never have any cracks of any kind been spotted."

But a confidential Defense Ministry report acknowledged the government has been aware, at least since 1979, that Mururoa's underwater basalt foundation is fractured several places.

The report described the effects of an accident in 1979 in which the French detonated a 150-kiloton weapon only 1,300 feet below the surface of the lagoon. The blast was supposed to occur at 2,600 feet, but the bomb got stuck halfway down the test shaft and the French detonated it there rather than risk trying to move it.

The explosion blasted loose more than 130 million cubic yards of rock and coral, causing a tidal wave that injured several French scientists and guards. The document also described underwater avalanches that followed three tests as proof the growing number of tests was posing serious environmental risks to the Mururoa atoll.

The fragile state of the site after repeated tests persuaded France to stage its biggest blasts on nearby Fangataufa atoll, where, in October, it exploded a 100-kiloton warhead, designed for submarine launch.

PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS SPEAK
LOUDER THAN WORDS

(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, last night our President spoke to all Americans about the challenges facing us. The President challenged Congress to help him produce a smaller, less bureaucratic government in Washington. The President told Americans that the era of big government is over. The President challenged Congress to balance the budget, reform welfare, reduce teen pregnancy, to provide a tax credit for children, and to preserve Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, the President's actions speak louder than his words. I am reminded of a colloquialism, "Been there, done that." Congress already passed legislation to balance the budget, reform welfare, reduce teen pregnancy, provide a tax credit for children, and preserve Medicare.

The President's response? He vetoed them, all of them. This President will say anything, but he obviously has trouble performing.

FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
IMPORTANT FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, in the United States of America millions of our citizens should not be forced into worrying about how they are going to heat their homes in this record breaking cold weather winter.

In Vermont and throughout this country we have had nights of 20 below zero, 30 below zero, and even 40 below zero.

The LIHEAP Fuel Assistance Program has provided over 24,000 Vermont households, and 6 million low-income households nationally, including many senior citizens, with the fuel assistance they need to survive the freezing weather. Three-quarters of the households on LIHEAP have incomes of less than \$8,000 a year.

Today, I am sending Appropriations Committee Chairman ROBERT LIVINGSTON a letter with over 115 congressional signatures, Democrats and Republicans, asking him to make certain that the continuing resolution that is passed by Friday contains full funding for LIHEAP—and that the remaining \$200 million that was appropriated is released.

This is America, and 80-year-old senior citizens should not be forced to go cold in the winter.

THE CHINA HOLOCAUST

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, every Member should read the editorial in the Washington Post called "Holocaust: The China Parallel." It is by Walter Reich, the director of the Holocaust Museum and the chairman of the American Psychiatric Association's Committee on Human Rights.

What does he say?

According to the reports provided by Human Rights Watch, the starved children in the Chinese orphanages look very much like the starved children in the German "Children's Specialty Institutions"; the Chinese institutions, too, administer sedatives to some children selected for death; they, too, use false diagnoses as coverups; they, too, cremate the remains of starved children; and they, too, employ physicians, many of whom probably tell themselves that the children dying under their care would have died anyway, and in any case are useless eaters in a country challenged by scarce resources.

The parallels between the Chinese orphanages and the Nazi programs to kill disabled children are alarming. These parallels remind us that human beings, including physicians and other caregivers, are extraordinarily vulnerable to inhuman acts and extraordinarily capable of justifying their behavior on what they see as rational grounds. And they remind us that countries in which democratic institutions are forcibly forbidden and human rights systematically quashed are ones in which human life becomes, quite simply, expendable.