

my dad, he was wounded three times fighting for freedom, Barry McCaffrey, the general who was told in the White House 2 years and 10 months ago, "We don't talk to people in uniform here."

Barry McCaffrey will be a superb drug czar, but when Clinton pointed out that he had three Purple Hearts and two Silver Stars, he could not gag out the word "Vietnam." He could not say he won those honors in Vietnam.

IS THIS ANY WAY TO TREAT AN AMERICAN HERO?

(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, last night, the Nation was introduced to Richard Dean, a true American hero. An employee with the Social Security Administration, Mr. Dean was at work in the Murrah Federal Building last April when a terrorist's bomb tore a hole through that structure, killing 168 people. Mr. Dean went back into the building four times, saving three other lives.

Mr. Dean was a hero on that day in April. But, Mr. Dean and Federal employees like him are heroes everyday. They help our elderly in their retirement, help our families find affordable housing, help our communities stricken by natural disasters. Yet, in November, Mr. Dean and thousands of Federal employees like him were forced to work without pay, because of the Gingrich Government shutdown. These hard-working men and women should not be used as pawns in an inside-the-beltway political game. So, let me join the President today to ask my Republican colleagues: Please don't shut down the Government for a third time. Think about Richard Dean. And, ask yourself, is this any way to treat an American hero?

PROSPERITY AND FUTURE OF AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the majority of this Congress passed a 7-year plan to balance the Federal budget. Our plan will zero out deficit spending by the year 2002. But, Mr. Speaker, at the end of those 7 years our accumulated debt will be over \$6 trillion. If Congress reduces that \$6 trillion debt by \$200 billion per year beginning in the year 2003, it will then take 30 years to pay off the principal; 30 years, Mr. Speaker, at \$200 billion per year for 30 years. Even at that rate, it will be the year 2033 before we pay off the \$6 trillion debt.

Mr. Speaker, the next two generations of working taxpayers will pay the bill. We must end wasteful spending now. And, Mr. Speaker, is the fight to retain power in Washington important enough to risk the prosperity and fu-

ture of our young people? No, Mr. Speaker, it is not.

PRESIDENT PRESENTS CHALLENGES FOR THE NATION

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend President Clinton on a magnificent State of the Union Address. More than anything else last night, I think the President talked about family in a way that I have not heard around here for a very long time. He made it very clear in a very poignant statement that the primary duty of parents today is to raise our children. I think we all realize that our problems, crime, gang violence, education, breakdown in community values, would not happen if we had stronger parents and stronger families.

Washington does not have all the answers. But there are certainly things that we can do to help these families, like giving parents a \$10,000 tax cut for college expenses, increasing the minimum wage, protecting pensions, protecting Medicare and Medicaid, and passing the V-chip legislation that will help parents control some of the garbage that is flowing into homes today.

Mr. Speaker, the President did a good job laying out those challenges that the Nation faces and I hope each of us on both sides of the aisle will pick up the challenge and move this country forward.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

(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, President Clinton gave challenges to Congress last night. He challenged us to cherish our children and strengthen the family. Congress sent the President legislation containing a family, per-child tax credit, but he vetoed it.

The President challenged us to help every American achieve economic security. Yet he vetoed the first balanced budget in a generation.

The President challenged us to provide Americans with educational opportunities. Yet he vetoed legislation that would have lowered the cost of the average student loan by \$216 a year.

The President challenged us to make our environment safe and clean. Yet he vetoed the appropriations bill that funds the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder that the American people doubt the President's sincerity. He talks a good talk, but his actions speak louder than his words. I challenge the President to start walking the walk he talks.

WAKE UP, REPUBLICANS

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the President challenged us on many things yesterday, and he challenged us to come together to work for a balanced budget that would hold up the principle that has made this Nation great. The President also challenged us to be responsible as far as our liability and our bills.

Mr. Speaker, now the Republican majority is threatening to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage, if they do not get their way on the budget.

They have said that they will refuse to raise the debt limit, thereby causing our Government to be unable to pay its bills.

This threat is no small matter, and its consequences are very serious.

Already, the two biggest rating agencies in the United States have said that our Government may lose its high credit rating.

If we lose our high credit rating, we will have to pay more for the money we borrow. That is self defeating.

Worse, interest rates, even with the threat of a default, will begin to rise. Citizens will then pay more for mortgages, automobiles, and other consumer goods.

Even the wealthy who they want to help with their big tax cut, will be hurt if America cannot meet its obligations.

Wake up Republicans. The gain you hope to get with this risky maneuver, is not worth the loss you will cause.

PRESIDENT SHOULD PUT HIS PEN WHERE HIS MOUTH IS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, last night the President's speech was somewhat like the swimsuit edition of Sports Illustrated; thrilling, exciting, but full of dreams and fantasy. It was a golden oldies collection of Bill Clinton's greatest hits, lines, and slogans from 1992. Welfare reform, a middle-class tax cut, and, of course, balancing the budget. In fact, I thought he was running in the New Hampshire primary, but facts deal harshly with fiction.

The rhetoric of the candidate has dissolved into the reality of a President. We sent him welfare reform; he vetoed it. We sent him a middle-class tax cut; he vetoed it. We sent him a balanced budget, and he vetoed that. The hot air from last night's speech explained why even 3 feet of snow quickly melts in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the President: Mr. President, put your pen where your mouth is. Sign some of the legislation that you talked about last night, and then let us get this country moving again.

PRESIDENT TRIES TO BRING NATION TOGETHER

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, last night President Clinton reached out to the Republican leadership, asking them to join him in balancing the budget, and to leave the policy fights until the election.

However, the GOP is so obsessed with giving a tax cut to their wealthy contributors that they cannot agree with the President's proposal to balance the budget in 7 years using CBO numbers.

Mr. Speaker, this just proves that the Republican budget is just the vehicle by which they deliver their tax breaks to Wall Street. The President has kept his side of the bargain by introducing a budget which balances in 7 years using CBO numbers. Where is the Republican commitment to protecting Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment?

Unfortunately for the American people, it is just not there. Thank you, President Clinton, for trying to bring our Nation together.

MATCHING WORDS WITH ACTIONS?

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, that speech last night was just like other speeches that this President has given. He is a great public speaker, but unfortunately, after the State of the Union is over, and he has had a chance to act, Willie's actions never match his words.

He talked about a secure future, yet he this very week is demanding that Congress raise the debt limit and increase the burden on our children. He talks about the importance of educating our children, yet he continually relies on bureaucrats in Washington to dictate how we educate our kids. Just like the last three State of the Union addresses, the delivery was great, but that is about it. He is a liberal who is ferociously fighting for big government, higher taxes and Washington control over every part of our lives. It is still the same old Bill Clinton. Our Republican ideal is for a better America for our kids: lower taxes, less government, and power back to the people. Our prayer is that the President holds our same views.

COMMON GROUND FOR ALL AMERICANS

(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, you can tell how big Texas is. My colleague is from Dallas and Plano, and I am from Houston, and we do have a difference of opinion once in a while.

Mr. Speaker, the President last night reminded us that we are all Americans and Americans are the best when we work together. On the balanced budget, both parties have put forth plans that achieve a balanced budget by the year 2002. Right now we have enough cuts that we agree on to give the public the balanced budget they want. We can make meaningful reforms in health care so that our citizens can change jobs and not lose their insurance, and we can also protect Medicare and education funding without tax cuts to have that balanced budget.

The President was right on mark when he warned us not to play politics with the full faith and credit of the United States. The public wants us to address the issues of lost jobs, conditions in our schools and the kind of country we leave for our children, and as the President said, we have to do it together. It is time we find that common ground for all of us Americans.

FEMA'S RESPONSE TO PENNSYLVANIA'S NATURAL DISASTERS

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, just as Pennsylvania was emerging from a series of natural disasters that lasted over a period of 10 days, snow and then more snow and then rain, and then flood, the Governor of the Commonwealth, our former colleague, Tom Ridge, decried the slow response of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He did so because FEMA seemed to not be able to make the connection between flood and rain and snow and all the tragedies that occurred all at one time.

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Then, of course, the Governor received a nasty rebuttal from the White House, and nothing was then accomplished in trying to address the problems of the disaster. Since that time the Governor convened a meeting in Harrisburg of the FEMA officials, Secretary Peña and others. We were able to resolve the methodology by which the Federal Emergency Management Agency will respond in the future. In the meantime, I aim to bring to the committee process an examination of the FEMA procedures.

POSSIBLE DEFAULT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, one day the House leadership says it will not force the United States into default. The next day the House leadership says it might force the United States into default. The majority leader says yes; the budget chairman says no.

Mr. Speaker, nothing good can come from holding America's credit rating hostage to ideological extremism. The cost of credit to American business is at risk by reckless statements about forcing the United States into default. Threatening to force the United States into default is reckless and irresponsible. It makes it impossible for businesses throughout the country to plan for their needs in the credit market.

We hear a lot of talk these days about our children's future on the floor of this House. Mr. Speaker, threatening to force the United States into default risks our children's future because it jeopardizes the gold-plated creditworthiness of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, please do not hold the Government hostage again to ideological extremism. And, Mr. Speaker, please do not force the Government into default because of this extremism.

AN END TO BIG GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great day to be a conservative Republican because last night the President came over to our side. He even declared an end to big government.

Last night the President gave a ringing endorsement of the Republican revolution. He wants tax relief for working Americans. He wants a balanced budget. He wants to save Medicare from bankruptcy. He spoke of the importance of the family. He even advocated a get-tough policy on illegal immigration.

Now that the President has come over, I now extend an invitation to my Democrat colleagues here in the House to join the cause of lower taxes and less government.

Just in case my colleagues cannot wait, I brought along a change of party form that I am sure will be quite useful.

Again, I welcome the President to the party of real balanced budgets, real welfare reform and lower taxes.

HOLDING THE NATION HOSTAGE

(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, I thought the most interesting thing the President had to say last night was his point No. 7. It was a very serious thing. I certainly hear this as I travel around this country. I have never heard a President in the State of the Union do this.

He said, now that we have talked about all the agendas that we come together in this great American community and try to work on together, let me tell you what the American community thinks of this body. He virtually said, grow up.