

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## SPEAKER GINGRICH'S REMARKS OUTLINING THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

**HON. JOHN LINDER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 1997*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues the following comments of the Speaker of the House NEWT GINGRICH delivered to the Georgia Public Policy Foundation this week.

### EXCERPTS FROM HOUSE SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH'S REMARKS OUTLINING THE REPUBLICAN AGENDA

What we have done is pretty remarkable. Four years ago a very small group of leaders, 38 years in a minority at a time when the news media told us that we were going to have the largest tax increase in peacetime history, and we were going to nationalize health care so the government controlled everything, and we were going to have left wing social policies—one of which led to a dramatic increase in drug use in this country because it lacks in teaching our children. Because the American people then stood up in 1994 and said "No," we clearly don't want to go in that direction. They repudiated it, and things began to change.

We had the largest voter increase in off-year election history. We had nine million more people voting Republican and one million fewer voting Democrat and for the first time in 40 years there was a majority on the conservative side of the House. Then, we worked for two years at keeping our word.

And we accomplished a great deal. In fact, we did pass a bill to apply to Congress every law that applies to the rest of America; we did pass a bill to reform the telecommunications system which will create about three million new jobs; we did pass a bill which ended the agricultural entitlement in the Midwest; and we did pass a welfare reform legislation that ended 61 years of federal entitlement for welfare and dramatically improved the opportunity for poor people to move from welfare to work and from poverty to prosperity.

Then last week we put the capstone on what we promised four years ago. We reached an agreement on a balanced budget by 2002 with lower spending and lower taxes.

Let me tell you what's in this agreement so you understand why I can say with authority we won. First of all, spending over the next 10 years compared to current law will be one trillion, 100 billion dollars lower than it otherwise would have been. Taxes will be a net of \$250 billion lower over the next ten years than they otherwise would have been.

You have the president's agreement that he will sign a capital gains tax cut, that he will sign a cut in the death tax and that he will sign a \$500 per child tax credit and all those will be passed into law before he gets a penny of additional discretionary spending. Our goal is to pass this by the Fourth of July to give America a birthday present.

Yet I want to suggest to you the greatest example of the balanced budget is not economic. It is the fact that four years ago,

leaders set out to work with the American people on something that the American people believe in. And if the American people have leaders who are disciplined and persistent and are willing to take a beating from opponents, work together the constitutional system works.

Yes, it takes time, but that's the way the founding fathers designed it. The founding fathers were afraid of a dictatorship. They wanted to design a machine so inefficient that no dictator could force it to work. The corollary is that sometimes it is very hard for us as volunteers to get it to work voluntarily. That's fine. The fact is, it worked.

I believe we have three great challenges for the future. I want to analyze what we have to do over the next four years. Imagine a January, 2001. The first morning of the 21st century, the first morning of the new *millennium*, it just happens to be a Monday morning.

Imagine that on that morning you wake up in an America that was for all practical purposes drug-free, an America in which every child was learning at their best rate, an America in which children were born into families capable of taking care of them because we had ended the long process of teenage pregnancy outside of marriage. Now how much healthier would that America be?

Now let me repeat those three clear, definable achievements. An America that is for all practical purposes drug-free, an America in which every child is learning at their optimum rate, and an America where girls don't get pregnant outside of marriage as teenagers and there is an expectation of children being born into families capable of raising them.

How much healthier and how much better would that be?

I know that the first time you hear that said, it sounds like one more politician offering some big goal that sounds good and nothing will happen. But I came here today to say something very different.

We have proven over the last four years that if you take something seriously and you stay focused on it and you work at it every day, you can achieve it. It's not just a campaign slogan, it's not just an idea, it is a fact that this summer we are going to pass the implementing legislation for a balanced budget. It is a fact that you will have tax cuts in your next tax report. It will be the first tax cut in 16 years by the federal government.

And so I'm talking today about dedicating the country in exactly the tradition that de Touqueville talked about in *Democracy in America* in 1840.

He said it wasn't the Constitution, it wasn't the government, it wasn't the politicians. It was the spirit of individual Americans working on an individual basis at a community level across the country that made America so remarkably different from Europe, a spirit that Marvin Olasky caught in his great work, *The Tragedy of American Compassion*, who pointed out bureaucrats that simply redistribute money cannot save people.

And in the 19th century when you had a much lower tax system, much higher take home pay as a percent of income, you had one volunteer for every two poor people. The volunteers knew who was the alcoholic, who was the drug addict, who beat their children,

who was worthless and needed to be retrained. And you had a much higher level of human to human contact and that is the spirit that I believe you have to reestablish.

Let me suggest to you that this is the core challenge and intellectually mentally about where we are going.

Can we stop drugs? Yes. Can we stop drugs with a liberal bureaucracy and a social policy and an intellectual theory that is wrong. No.

Can we have every child learn? Yes. Can we have every child learn in a failed bureaucracy dominated by tenure and unionized work rules with an education theory that doesn't work? No.

Can we save teenage girls from getting pregnant? Yes. Can we save them in a liberal bureaucracy with the wrong signal policy and the wrong theory about how society works? No.

So this is essentially an intellectual argument, what is the nature of reality. I think there are signs frankly that people are beginning to get it. Joseph Califano was one of the designers of the Great Society under Lyndon Johnson. In a recent magazine article he reports that on a tour of drug treatment centers every single ex-drug addict that he talked with said that religious belief was the key to their recovery. He said "I don't see anything wrong with public funding for a drug treatment program that provides for spiritual needs," says Califano.

This is a man who would have been a Great Society liberal, but he's at least willing to recognize that the reason Alcoholics Anonymous works is that it starts with the notion that you have to recognize that you have a problem inside you and that it takes a higher being to help solve that problem. I've had a number of recovering alcoholics report to me that they have been approached by federal officials who say "Could we do an 11 step program, and skip that part about God." I don't think they get what makes this work.

And again there's a simple test, if we reinforce drug rehabilitation that works and cut off drug rehabilitation that fails what we are going to find ourselves doing is helping institutions that are faith based and eliminating secular institutions that are simply bureaucracies that don't save anybody. We will save more people per million dollars the faster we move the resources to a faith based center but this is going to be an intellectual argument. It is going to be a big power struggle. A lot of folks who are not doing any good but are doing very well not doing any good are not going to like it.

Some of you have wondered why I would make one of the three major challenges of the next few years end pregnancy outside of marriage for young teenagers. I have to say first of all that Kay Granger, the former Mayor of Ft. Worth, who is a freshman member of Congress, convinced me of this. She has a YWCA program in her city that has 800 at-risk girls.

Statistically they should have 70 percent pregnancies, 560 pregnancies. In this particular group they have two. She said, you have to understand the cost. The United States has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in the industrial world. Here are some of the costs.

50 percent of the girls who have a baby out of wedlock will be long-term welfare recipients.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

70 percent of all juveniles in state reform institutions were raised in fatherless homes.

Now rates of illegitimacy have passed 50 percent in seven of our 20 largest cities.

Some numbers the president used are very sobering. A child born to a single head of household family will have 140,000 social transactions by the time they are four years old. A child born into a family of two parents will have 700,000 social interactions. That is learning how to speak, learning how to talk, learning how to read, learning how to interact. Think what the difference is of that child coming into Head Start, the child that has had 140,000 and the child that has had 700,000 social interactions, and then we try to play catch up with government employees at that point.

Now the goal is not, as our liberal friends would say, a bureaucrat at the crib, and a bureaucrat for prenatal care and a bureaucrat that teaches them how to speak and a bureaucrat that stands next to the parent and watches over the children.

What we need is to reestablish the healthy social patterns and the healthy social programs and the principles that simply made common sense to most people. One of them is: if you're a young boy and you get a girl pregnant, you have a responsibility. You have an obligation. Another is to reach out to girls and give them an understanding that they can have a better future.

The program that has worked at the YWCA in Ft. Worth emphasizes the motivation of the young girl, the integrity of the young girl, the chance to be ambitious of the young girl. Because she sees herself with a better future, just saying no makes sense, because there is a life beyond one evening. It's very important to give people who are poor an opportunity for a better future and a belief in a better future because it changes their time horizon.

Drugs and teenage pregnancy are in large part a function of the breakdown of society's belief that every person has the right to pursue happiness, and we need to reestablish that belief and make it real for the poorest children of America. In the poorest neighborhoods you will see a dramatic change in behavior because hope precedes discipline. And people, once they have hope will begin to discipline themselves.

This is not a federal program. All elected officials are societal leaders who happen to be involved in the government. And our ability to lead our people is more important than fighting over legislation or fighting over bureaucracy.

Take the example of Best Friends, an Elaine Bennett program. It's an abstinence program for fifth to 12th grade girls. It's now in 50 schools in 15 cities. Each year each girl gets at least 110 hours of adult attention, discussing problems, gaining skills, learning self confidence. In nine years, out of 600 girls who participated at least two years, there have only been two pregnancies.

I would challenge anyone to find a government program with similar results. Because the fact is when you volunteer, you give of your heart and your time and your soul. You are engaged. But when you write a check to the IRS, you think you have bought permission to ignore the health of your country and you haven't.

So we have an obligation to reestablish lower taxes with higher take home-pay, so we can then turn to every American and say, if America has been good to you, it's time for you to find a fellow American and be good to them. And that's the spirit that will truly save every young person in the next generation.

What is at stake here goes far beyond the concept of simply waking up in a drug free society with everyone learning at their best

rate and young children being born into families that can take care of them. This is about the very fabric of America. It's about what we are going to become. It is doable.

I want to come back to this point. I am not today giving you a set of slogans for a nice political campaign. I am suggesting to you as the Speaker of the House and as one of the leaders of our two great parties that we should at every level of society make these three things happen by January 1, 2001.

Now we know we can bring about great change because we are bringing about great change in welfare. In one year, nationwide welfare caseloads have dropped by 18 percent. 650,000 people left welfare in just the four months after we passed the reform. Fact is, people left welfare before the bill became effective. The word was on the street. Go to work. Get off welfare.

You could literally talk to welfare workers and they would tell you once the news media began to describe it, once it began to penetrate the common dialogue and once people discussed it over coffee, behaviors began to change.

The law followed the behavior change, but the act of debating the behavior change led to the law. In Wisconsin, where welfare reform has been far advanced because of the great leadership of Tommy Thompson, it reduced those on welfare by 33 percent in one year. The welfare rolls in Wisconsin are 50 percent lower than when Tommy Thompson first became governor.

And it's beginning to be recognized. Here's what the New Republic, the bastion of modern liberalism, said: "So far it seems the logic behind welfare reform is right. Now that the incentives have changed, welfare recipients are making better decisions. Liberals who opposed reform speak of the poor as if they were irrevocably crippled, lost forever. But as we have learned over the last six months, the problem is much simpler, a small core of people need tremendous health, a large majority seems to need only a small shove. That is the best news that we could have hoped for."

So I just want to say to you, you are seeing real change in welfare, you are seeing real change in government spending, you are about to see real change in taxes. So if we talk about a drug-free America, with children learning at the optimum rate and being born into families that can nurture them, these are just the next wave of changes in a pattern that we began in 1994.

The reason this is happening is that we are part of a worldwide movement of freedom and faith. You may think that sounds grandiose. So I brought a Washington Post article captured the rise of this worldwide movement of freedom and faith—and I'm quoting from the Washington Post:

"On a stool in his portable felt and canvas yurt, Yadamuren, a 70-year-old nomadic sheep herder, offered a visitor chunks of sheep fat and shots of fermented mare's milk to ward off the unspeakable cold. Seventy miles of bleak desert northeast of Ulan Batur and many miles from the nearest neighbor, he spoke glowingly of the work of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the Republican Party."

I'm not making this up. This is what he said, quote, "'I read the contract with the voter closely; everybody did,' explaining why he decided to vote for a new government in Mongolian elections last June. 'In the contract, they clearly say what society and the people can do for each other.'"

They printed 350,000 copies of their contract with the voters. They distributed it by car, truck, horse and camel. The contract became the most widely distributed Mongolian publication in history. The Mongolian people responded with a 91 percent turnout, and

elected a 43-year-old speaker, a 41-year-old prime minister and a 38-year-old majority leader. Over half the new legislators are under 35. They are totally part of a worldwide movement.

There are things happening around the world. We are part of a worldwide movement of faith and freedom. We believe that if you combine the wisdom of the Founding Fathers with the opportunities of the information age and the world market then everyone has an opportunity to pursue happiness.

Now as a historian, I know people have changed their countries more than governments have changed their countries. The greatest example is the rise of Wesley and the rise of the Methodist movement in the 1870.

Those of you who are Methodists may be very familiar with the story. By reaching out across Britain, by saving souls, by reducing the number of people who were using gin. There was a crash in alcoholism among the industrial poor because of the Wesleyan movement. It not only saved Britain from the pressure of revolution. It saved the people Britain both from political turmoil and a tremendous amount of pain. And it set the stage for one of the great achievements of modern times.

One of the amazing stories in all of history concerns how the institution of slavery, deeply rooted in the practice at the millennium, was virtually eliminated in one hundred years. The greatest achievement in the nineteenth century. The Abolition movement began among a small group of people in England known as the Clapper Sect. It's leaders were Henry Thornton, a wealthy banker and one of the fathers of monetary economics, and William Wilburforce, a Methodist and a member of Parliament. Their goal was the change the laws of England and abolish the slave trade. Their method was an amazing information campaign.

Researchers associated with the group interviewed witnesses and gathered information on the horrors of slavery. Pamphlets were published. Actual specimens of leg shackles and whips were displayed to the public. A boycott of slave produced sugar was organized. The opposition in Parliament was strong, 56 members of parliament had a direct financial interest in slavery. But after 20 years of defeats they won in 1807 the beginning of the end for slavery around the world.

Changes in sentiments and beliefs create the base for legal reform. And that leads to changes in government. It was after all the Royal Navy that actually suppressed the slave trade after it was banned, not prayer but ships. But it is the prayer that made the ships possible.

Government action makes a secular reality out of the moral spiritual womb. And that's really the framework for what I am describing about where I think we need to go. Now, when I said if you combine the wisdom of the Founding Fathers with the opportunities of the information age and the world market, so that every person on the planet has their God-given right to pursue happiness.

Let me show you something I learned two weeks ago at the Library of Congress which has a wonderful display of the treasures of the American collection. Part of that collection is Jefferson's personal Bible. It's a book there from Jefferson's own collection. It's called *Essays on the Principles of Morality and National Religion*.

It's not what you think of a modern politician reading. Here's a quote underlined by Jefferson because it will change your thinking on one of the most common phrases in American political history. "People have an innate sense of right and wrong. When they act virtuously they increase the general happiness of mankind, thus the pursuit of virtue and morality is the pursuit of happiness."

Let me repeat that: Jefferson replaced what John Locke had written, "the pursuit of property." Jefferson replaced it with "the pursuit of happiness." Here is the meaning as underlined by Jefferson's own hand. "Thus the pursuit of virtue and morality is the pursuit of happiness." Doesn't that place that in rather a different light than say situation comedies or modern theoretical thought?

Doesn't that sort of suggest that the core principles of the American system are remarkably faith-based. There is a reason that Washington's first inaugural and Washington's farewell address are replete with references to God and morality, and there is a reason that the Declaration of Independence says, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that we are endowed by our creator \* \* \* that we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

That Lincoln 12 times in the second inaugural refers to God as the almighty in explaining America. That Jefferson in his memorial has around the top of it, "I have sworn upon the altar of God Almighty eternal hostility against all forms of tyranny over the minds of men." And to get to a drug-free America where every child is learning and children are born into families that can raise them does require a faith-based society and a society that returns to its roots.

These may seem like big grandiose goals. Let me cite for you why it is very American to have goals that are in fact larger than you think. The story of George Washington \* \* \* that the great seal of the United States was adopted by the Continental Congress in 1782. We weren't yet a free country. On one side is a majestic eagle.

The other side, less familiar, is the unfinished pyramid with the date 1776 in Roman numerals on its base. Below is the motto: a new order for the ages, self-conscious break with history, identified with the hopes and the futures of mankind by design and intention. Nash adds, "hovering above the pyramid is a symbolic unblinking eye, the eye of God. And placed there is another motto: He has favored our undertaking."

I believe if we will return to that which has made us a unique country, that we will recognize that we are a great nation filled with good people who will call upon all those people, not the federal government, not the bureaucracy, not the law, but all of our people in all of our communities, we will in fact awake on January 1, 2001 a country that is virtually drug-free, in which practically every child is learning at their best rate, and in which children are born into families that can actually raise them.

And I believe that those three tasks have to be done and when done we will be able to say to our children, we have given you a country that is economically in order, is socially in order and where we have reestablished the framework of freedom. And now it is your generation's turn to lead the rest of the human race to that kind of a promised land.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO WESLEY GAINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the Wesley Gaines Elementary School, located in the Paramount unified school district. Wesley Gaines is one of 99 schools being honored as a title I national recognition

school, by the Department of Education and the National Association of State Coordinators of Compensatory Education, and is one of five from California. The association's goal is to focus the Nation's attention on programs in high poverty areas where disadvantaged students demonstrate unusual success in raising their achievement levels in basic and more advanced skills. Wesley Gaines met the six criteria required for this honor, and received their recognition in Atlanta on May 6, 1997, at the International Reading Association Conference. In April, Wesley Gaines was recognized by the California Department of Education as a California title I achieving school. I am proud to have such an honored school in the 38th Congressional District.

This achievement has not come easy. Paramount school Superintendent Michele Lawrence and Wesley Gaines Principal Susan Lance have made a commitment to develop and maintain the Gaines community, which is not just physical buildings, but a philosophy that underscores the importance of education as a joint venture between the home, the school, and the community. The goal of the Gaines community is to prepare students to become responsible citizens and productive members of the society. To achieve this, students need to be proficient in reading, writing, mathematics, and have a positive character behavior—which includes good work habits, teamwork, perseverance, honesty, self-reliance, and consideration for others.

Through several key features, the Gaines community has been able to achieve these goals. The primary component has been a balanced literacy program, utilizing title I funds. All existing and incoming teachers receive training in specific, researched-based reading and writing strategies, including theory, program expectations, and implementation expectations. Additionally, Wesley Gaines has five reading recovery teachers who work with targeted at risk first graders and provides assistance to staff, as well as a site literacy Teacher, who acts as a partner-teacher to all staff.

Parent involvement is a critical part of the effort, and programs for parent-training help to support students' reading efforts at home. Program examples are "I Have A Parent Who Reads to Me" for kindergarten and first grades; "WOW! I Can Read" for second grades; and "Book Bridges" for off-track students. A parent task force is very active with the site-based decision-making model and coordinates support activities, such as a minimum of three parent visitation days and family nights each year. One example of this program's success is the parent attendance rate at parent conferences: more than 97 percent of Wesley Gaines parents attend their parent-teacher conferences.

The overall success has been achieved and maintained regardless of some district wide changes: extension of the school day; implementation of a four-track, year-round schedule, adding grades 6 to 8 to Wesley Gaines' K-5 campus; redefining each school's attendance boundaries, which at Wesley Gaines led to an increase of 850 new students; and implementing a new school uniform policy.

It is obvious that Wesley Gaines deserves this honor. The students, teachers, and staff have worked hard and it has paid off. They recognized where their focus needed to be, devised a plan that efficiently used their re-

sources, implemented their plan, and continue to reevaluate and reassess the quality of work they do, making changes as they go. And I am pleased to see that they recruited the best support group possible: parents. The level of commitment Wesley Gaines parents show has been, without a doubt, a key to their success. I would wish that all schools could have as much parental support as Wesley Gaines does. After all, it will take the entire community to educate and prepare our children for the 21st century.

I congratulate Superintendent Lawrence, Principal Lance, the entire staff, faculty, parents and students of the Gaines Elementary School community. I wish them many more years of success.

#### ROUTE 66

#### HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Route 66 conjures up memories about America's love affair with the automobile along a road into the Nation's heartland. Restaurants, motels, gas stations sprang up to serve the travelers and commerce as the highway moved west.

Today, Route 66 is mostly a nostalgic memory. Many of those early American developments along the Route 66's old path have been bulldozed away. Traffic on old Route 66 in Springfield, MO, gave birth to the Rail Haven Motor Court at Glenstone and St. Louis Street which remains one of the city's busiest and best known locations. When it was built in an orchard, the motor court sat on the intersection of U.S. Highways 66, 65, and 60. No major improvements had been made since the early 1960's at Rail Haven.

New owner Gordon Elliott, president and owner of Elliott Lodging, saw the real potential to save the deteriorating motel. In 1994, rather than bulldoze the historic old building, Gordon's vision included a renovated and expanded classic 1950's motel property. Gordon Elliott blended community renewal, development of a classic historic property, and risking private money to produce a successful venture that has rejuvenated one key intersection in his home community. The facelift for the property was completed without Federal grants, loans or tax abatements.

Elliott's refurbished motel has been a hit with patrons of a new generation. Building on public interest in nostalgia and the appeal of historic Route 66, the property became the best Western Sycamore Inn. Elliott's has marketed the Sycamore Inn for lovers of Route 66, tourists and business travelers. It has been so successful, Elliott is renaming the property the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven in a public ceremony on June 12, 1997, to reestablish its historic roots.

The Best Western Rail Haven Motel's history has been featured in several publications including the quarterly magazine of "The Route 66 Association of Missouri" and "Missouri U.S. Tour Book."

The Route 66 Rail Haven is a look into our past with attention to detail in the modern transformation. Craftsmen will install the signature split rail fences long associated with the old motel built in 1938. The new 93-room