

something very ignoble about the conduct that produced it.

PRIDE IN THE SPEAKER

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I must say, this is a fascinating debate. Finally we have somebody in this political maelstrom who does the right thing, who goes above and beyond fairness and does the right thing, as the Speaker of the House, and the other side cannot stand it.

I want to tell my colleagues, I am proud of the Speaker. I am proud to be associated with him. I am proud to be part of his leadership team. He did not have to pay this reimbursement for legal services, but he has chosen to do that to set a new standard.

□ 1015

It seems to me when we have a Speaker of the House that is willing to set a standard in the House of Representatives, maybe a standard the White House could take a little information from, we ought to praise him.

I tell my colleagues it is time for the American people, who have helped us to come to this decision, to come back with us and mesh in a partnership, take back the agenda of this House, get the problems solved, the problems we know that are hurting America today, and get off this politicized ethics process. We need to get back to the work at hand.

I call for bipartisanship, I call for great praise of the Speaker of the House.

ATTACKS ON ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO UNJUSTIFIED

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

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I will do exactly as the gentleman suggests. I rise today to speak out for an honest woman, our Attorney General, Janet Reno. We have continued to expect much of her and she continues to conduct herself with grace under pressure and courage under fire.

I understand that many are concerned about her decision not to seek a special prosecutor at this time and, of course, that is their right, but I must speak out against the unjustified attacks on the Attorney General's motives.

Janet Reno knew that her decision would be controversial, so she has relied on the advice of a universally well-regarded team of career attorneys. She has resisted pressure from both sides, declining to act hastily. She has not shut down the investigation, which continues. In short, she has not rushed to judgment, and neither should her critics.

We are indeed fortunate to have a woman of such integrity, an honest woman, leading our Department of Justice.

SPEAKER GINGRICH TO COMPENSATE TAXPAYERS FOR COST OF ETHICS INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am one of the freshmen here. I have been here on the job for 4 months, and I had hoped to come to Washington and deal with the matters that my constituents and the people of the country expect us to deal with, cutting taxes, providing tax relief, balancing the budget, returning authority back to the States, and doing things of a noble nature, noble causes.

Instead, I have come here and heard the other side berate our Speaker day after day and try to discredit the institution of Congress for what I consider to be, instead, a rather noble cause and a courageous response.

The Speaker taught a college course on American civilization and disclosed the terms of that course to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, apparently not to the satisfaction of the committee. He reached an agreement, and in the process of that agreed to compensate the taxpayers for the cost of the hearings and the investigation.

He stood up to the task and he agreed to participate and to compensate the taxpayers: A courageous act. I ask the American people to contrast that act of courage with the cowardice that we have heard from those who would oppose the Speaker.

SPEAKER SHOULD NOT BE APPLAUDED FOR VIOLATING ETHICS LAWS OF HOUSE

(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, I cannot believe what I am hearing today from my Republican colleagues. The Speaker brought discredit upon this House; he admitted that he lied to the Congress. Republicans are celebrating the fact that the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, is paying a \$300,000 fine for lying to Congress.

There is nothing to celebrate, my friends. The Speaker should not be applauded for violating the ethics law of this body. He should not be applauded for paying this fine after delaying for 4 months. Any American citizen would have had to pay that fine immediately.

The facts on his payment remain sketchy. Is it a loan or a \$350,000 gift from the chief lobbyist of the tobacco industry? Let us not forget, let us not forget that the Speaker pled guilty. It is nothing to celebrate. It is, in fact, a

sad day for the House of Representatives.

SPEAKER GINGRICH DID NOT LIE TO CONGRESS

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

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I have to take umbrage with the comments from my good friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO]. She is totally inaccurate. The Speaker did not lie to the American Congress.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct found that the Speaker broke no rules, broke no regulations. The only thing was that due diligence was not exercised in committee correspondence. That is all. This is a fact. Read through the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct finding.

This is a reimbursement for the expenses incurred by that committee, and I commend our Speaker. It is a courageous step he has taken today to accept full personal responsibility, reimbursing the expenses of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct out of his own personal funds. I think this is a great step for him to take. He has said as Speaker that he has the responsibility to do the right thing and to serve the American people responsibly.

Senator Bob Dole, who was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton, has stepped forward to help a friend. And Bob Dole is not a registered lobbyist, contrary to what the other side has been saying today. He is helping a friend.

So we all need to get together now and move forward and do the work the American people sent us here to this Congress to do.

CONGRESS SHOULD DO A BETTER JOB FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is a need for us to do a much better job on behalf of the American people.

Monday, the Speaker of the House attacked the integrity of the Attorney General because she refused to appoint a special prosecutor, when it was clear that there were individuals with integrity in the Justice Department doing the right thing.

Then on Wednesday, in this House and in a committee, we provided for 350,000 children not to have food by voting against an increase in the WIC Program.

Now, on Thursday, we come today to find that Members have risen to the floor of the House to say that the Speaker has not violated any rules; that there is no problem with the way

he might be paying back this loan; that there is no question on how he would be repaying it and what the structure of the loan might be.

I would say that the American people are telling us we can do a much better job for them. We can recognize when rules have been broken, when the rules of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct have been broken. We can recognize there is a need to directly pay back a loan from personal funds.

I believe the American people are saying we can do a much better job for us, and we should say just do it.

SPEAKER GINGRICH UNDERSTANDS PRINCIPLE OF LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, leadership is about many things. One vital aspect of leadership is setting the right example. The Speaker's decision today tells all Members of Congress and the American people that the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH understands this principle of leadership.

The Speaker did not have to take the action he is taking. Indeed, it goes beyond the actions required of other Members of Congress. The Speaker is recognizing a higher standard in sending a clear signal to all that courage and responsibility are essentials of leadership.

The Speaker's courageous decision today brings closure to this matter and allows the Congress to focus on the priorities of the American people. The American people are waiting for Congress to implement the agenda that the majority of voters have expressed a wish to see pursued. Let us move forward today and pursue that agenda.

GET CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION PASSED THIS YEAR

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor after completing a meeting of a bipartisan task force on campaign finance reform. It is a freshman task force, six Democrats, six Republicans, working together to try to advance some comprehensive campaign finance reform.

We are taking baby steps. It is a complex, difficult process, but we realize that as freshmen, as new Members of this institution, we are not going to be able to do it on our own. I am here today to ask for the leadership in this Congress to take a lead on this issue, to start responding to the calls for help from the American people and figure out a way to get big money out of the American political process.

I wish I had a magic wand as a freshman and could wave over this House

and get one piece of legislation passed this year, and that is campaign finance reform. We are running out of precious time. We have an off election year. We have to do it in a bipartisan fashion to be successful before we get into another election year cycle.

The people back home in western Wisconsin, the district I represent, have a common refrain. They beg me every time I have town hall meetings to get campaign finance reform passed and to get big money out of politics. Let us start the work now.

CONGRESS SHOULD BE MOVING FORWARD TO HELP THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am amazed at the hypocrisy of this Chamber. The minority leader had a similar circumstance—a similar fine levied against him by the Federal Election Committee. He paid out of campaign funds. So, while he paid his fine out of campaign funds, we hear this hue and cry from the other side that the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] is somehow doing wrong.

Had he borrowed the money from the bank, there would have been further questions about the bank's involvement with those funds. The Speaker has done the honorable thing by stepping forward and paying out of his own proceeds.

The gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH], offers a privileged resolution wanting interest payments on the fine. The gentleman from Florida, when he ran for this job, loaned his own campaign \$300,000. Upon his election to this Chamber, he went to the PAC community and solicited funds from them in order to repay the loan to himself. Does the American public have the opportunity to go to PAC's to repay their loans as he used a little special-interest venture capital to finance his run for office? Absolutely not. The gentleman from Florida does, and then he files a resolution asking for the payment of interest.

Mr. Speaker, we are putting this behind us and we are moving forward to help the American people.

SPEAKER'S COMPENSATION FOR COST OF ETHICS INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to see my Republican colleagues on the floor today congratulating Speaker NEWT GINGRICH for doing something he should have done months ago, paying \$300,000 for lying to Congress.

Speaker GINGRICH admitted to bringing discredit on the House of Rep-

resentatives. He has admitted to lying to this House.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the gentleman's words be taken down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman from Georgia will be seated.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The Clerk will report the words.

The Clerk read as follows:

I am surprised to see my Republican colleagues on the floor today congratulating Speaker NEWT GINGRICH for doing something he should have done months ago, paying \$300,000 for lying to Congress. Speaker GINGRICH admitted to bringing discredit on the House of Representatives. He has admitted to lying to this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The words of the gentleman from Georgia constitute a personality against the Speaker. Under the precedents, the debate should not go to the official conduct of a Member where that question is not pending as a question of privilege on the House floor. The fact that the House has addressed a Member's conduct at a prior time does not permit this debate at this time. Therefore, the gentleman's words are out of order.

Without objection, the gentleman's words will be stricken from the RECORD.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I object. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The question before the House is: Shall the gentleman's words be stricken from the RECORD?

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 227, noes 190, answered "present" 3, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 82]

AYES—227

Aderholt	Burr	Davis (VA)
Archer	Burton	Deal
Armey	Buyer	DeLay
Bachus	Callahan	Diaz-Balart
Baker	Calvert	Dickey
Ballenger	Camp	Doolittle
Barr	Campbell	Dreier
Barrett (NE)	Canady	Duncan
Bartlett	Cannon	Dunn
Barton	Castle	Ehlers
Bass	Chabot	Ehrlich
Bateman	Chambliss	Emerson
Bereuter	Chenoweth	English
Bilbray	Christensen	Ensign
Bilirakis	Coble	Everett
Bliley	Coburn	Ewing
Blunt	Collins	Fawell
Boehlert	Combest	Foley
Boehner	Cook	Forbes
Bonilla	Cooksey	Fowler
Bono	Cox	Fox
Brady	Crapo	Franks (NJ)
Bryant	Cubin	Frelinghuysen
Bunning	Cunningham	Gallegly