

government? Could we tell a friend about it? Is it fair for the government to take over one-third of our hard-earned income each year?

I do not think it is fair, Mr. Speaker. I think it is time right now to get spending under control and try to bring sanity back to Washington.

There are a lot of other topics that I want to talk about, Mr. Speaker, but I think what I may do is just end tonight on the budget, because I want to focus just on the importance of it.

There is a budget right now, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. MARK NEUMANN, and it takes Social Security out of the formula. Two important things I would say the Neumann budget does. Number one, it takes Social Security out of it.

People do not realize this right now, but Social Security has a \$65 billion surplus. That money is thrown into the pot with the rest of the general spending, the rest of the budget, and it makes the deficit look smaller than it is. The Neumann budget says, no, sir, that \$65 billion is stand-alone, it goes only in the Social Security trust fund, it goes only for Social Security purposes, and it should not be used for deficit reduction and general spending.

That is one thing the Neumann budget does and I think that is very important for our grandparents and other folks on Social Security.

The second thing it does, which is equally important for those of us fathers, is it pays off the national debt by the year 2023. So a child born today, at 25, 26 years old, they will live in America without a national debt. If we can do that, the jobs that will be created are incredible.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I had a list of some of these benefits that I may submit for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. But I believe that we can achieve a balanced budget. I believe that we can pay down the national debt. I believe, again, it is a moral imperative. It is not a matter of common sense only but a matter of survival and doing what is right for our children.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and friends here in Washington to vote for a balanced budget, work for the balanced budget amendment, make some tough decisions in terms of government spending reductions, and let us walk out of here with our heads held high, not worrying about the next election but only concerned about the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article to which I earlier referred.

FLORIDA COUPLE TO PLEAD GUILTY TO TAPING
GOP LEADERS' CELL PHONE CALL

(By Michael J. Sniffen)

WASHINGTON.—A Florida couple agreed Wednesday to plead guilty to federal criminal charges of intercepting a cellular telephone call between House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other Republican leaders last December.

Identical one-count criminal information were filed in U.S. District Court in Jacksonville, Fla., against John and Alice Martin of Fort White, Fla.

The Martins signed agreements with prosecutors to plead guilty and those were filed in court along with the charges. The Martins admitted in the agreements that they intentionally intercepted the telephone conversation and agreed to cooperate with the Justice Department's continuing investigation of the case.

Justice officials, who requested anonymity, said the investigation is continuing here into how a transcript of the conversation ended up in *The New York Times*, and later in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *Roll Call*, a Capitol Hill newspaper.

The call—between Gingrich, House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, Rep. Bill Paxon of New York and others—took place last Dec. 21 as the House ethics committee was about to announce a settlement of its investigation of complaints against Gingrich. The publication of the text set off an uproar on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington, the ranking Democrat on the ethics committee, said the call breached Gingrich's agreement with the committee that the Speaker would not orchestrate a response to his ethical wrongdoing.

Republicans said the transcript, to the contrary, showed that Gingrich was following the agreement and they demanded an investigation of the call's interception.

The Martins each face a maximum penalty of a \$5,000 fine with no prison term. The government made no promises on what sentence it might recommend.

Alice Martin, reached at her home in Fort White, Fla., refused to comment Wednesday evening and referred questions to the couple's attorney. "I can't say anything about that," she said.

Boehner said the Martins "should not be patsies in this, set up to take the fall for more politically influential people."

Anyone "who knowingly accepted the tape and passed it along to the press is also guilty," said Boehner, who when the call was intercepted was in Florida taking part in the conversation on a cellular telephone.

The Martins said they gave the tape to McDermott. In the ensuing furor over the tape's contents and its disclosure, which also could be a crime, McDermott removed himself from the ethics panel's investigation of Gingrich. A Republican also stepped aside to keep the panel at an even party balance.

"The Martins were charged with the most serious violation possible based on the applicable federal law and the circumstances surrounding the interception of the telephone call," said Charles R. Wilson, U.S. attorney for the middle district of Florida. "If the Martins are ever convicted of an illegal interception again, they would face a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both."

Because it was a first offense and because the interception was of the radio portion of a cellular call; and because there was no evidence that it was done for commercial or private financial gain or for an illegal purpose such as aiding in blackmail, the offense is classified as an infraction, the Justice Department said.

John and Alice Martin heard the conversation on the Radio Shack scanner in their car while on a Christmas shopping trip. Once they realized the conversation they were picking up was of Gingrich discussing the Republican response to his admitted ethics violations, they recorded it on a hand-held machine. They said it struck them as historic.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GREEN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of personal business.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today through May 1, on account of official business.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of back pain.

Mr. HOEKSTRA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HERGER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of family matters.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POMEROY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POMEROY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROEMER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes each day, today and on April 30 and May 1.

Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes each day, today and on April 30.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, on April 30.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POMEROY) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mr. BERRY.

Mr. TORRES.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. LAFALCE.

Mr. ORTIZ.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. KANJORSKI.

Mr. PASCRELL.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. DOYLE.

Mr. HINCHEY.

Mr. YATES.

Mr. FROST.

Mr. HOYER.

Mr. BROWN of California.

Mr. MENENDEZ.

Mr. VISCLOSKY.
Ms. STABENOW.
Mr. WEYGAND.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. WALSH in two instances.
Mr. WELLER.
Mr. GEKAS in two instances.
Mr. PACKARD.
Mrs. ROUKEMA.
Mr. SOLOMON in three instances.
Mr. SUNUNU.
Mr. PORTER.
Mr. RIGGS.
Mr. BUNNING.
Mr. KOLBE in three instances.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KINGSTON) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. QUINN.
Mr. GILMAN.
Mr. BARR of Georgia.
Mr. FARR of California.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 30, 1997, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3027. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests for fiscal year 1997 supplemental appropriations totaling \$8,605,000 for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and appropriations totaling \$19,700,000 for the Department of Energy for activities associated with tritium remediation, and two fiscal year 1998 budget amendments involving the Department of Transportation's Maritime Security Program and the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107 (H. Doc. No. 105-78); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3028. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's "Major" final rule—Addition of Facilities in Certain Industry Sectors: Revised Interpretation of Otherwise Use; Toxic Release Inventory Reporting; Community Right-to-Know [OPPTS-400104D; FRL-5578-3] (RIN: 2070-AC71) received April 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3029. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Current Good Manufacturing Practice for Finished Pharmaceuticals; Positron Emission Tomography [Docket No. 94N-0421] (RIN: 0910-AA45) received April 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3030. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule—Drug Labeling; Sodium Labeling for Over-the-Counter Drugs; Partial Delay of Effective Date [Docket No. 90N-0309] received April 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

3031. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting a copy of the Agency's annual audit, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2421(e)(2); to the Committee on International Relations.

3032. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a list of all reports issued or released in March 1997, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

3033. A letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting the biennial report on the quality of water in the Colorado River Basin (Progress Report No. 18, January 1997), pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1596; to the Committee on Resources.

3034. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; High Seas Salmon Fishery Off Alaska [Docket No. 970326069-7069-01; I.D. 022597F] (RIN: 0648-AJ38) received April 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3035. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod Fishery Category by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in Bycatch Limitation Zone 1 [Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 042297C] received April 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3036. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker and Rougheye Rockfish in the Aleutian Islands Subarea [Docket No. 961107312-7021-02; I.D. 042197A] received April 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3037. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary (Tax Policy), Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the "Statistical Use" subsection of the Internal Revenue Code; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3038. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighter Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 97-27] received April 29, 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3039. A letter from the Executive Director, District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting a copy of a letter that the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority sent the President requesting an additional appropriation of \$52,379,000 for fiscal year 1997, pursuant to Public Law 104-8, section 207(a); jointly, to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight and Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. LEACH: Committee on Banking and Financial Services. Supplemental report on

H.R. 2. A bill to repeal the United States Housing Act of 1937, deregulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 105-76, Pt. 2).

Mr. SMITH of Oregon: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 1342. A bill to provide for a 1-year enrollment in the conservation reserve of land covered by expiring conservation reserve program contracts; with an amendment (Rept. 105-80). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 133. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to repeal the United States Housing Act of 1937, deregulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 105-81). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 134. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 867) to promote the adoption of children in foster care (Rept. 105-82). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. LIVINGSTON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 1469. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes (Rept. 105-83). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 1468. A bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to modify provisions restricting welfare and public benefits for aliens; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KASICH (for himself, Mr. OBEY,

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. DREIER, Mr. BOYD, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. GOSS):

H.R. 1470. A bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ACKERMAN:

H.R. 1471. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to determine the feasibility of placing bar codes on passenger motor vehicles to facilitate the tracing of stolen vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce.

H.R. 1472. A bill to amend the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and