

SANCHEZ] and the voters of the 46th District of California for the kind of scrutiny and harassment this body has never seen before.

The Committee on House Oversight and former representative Bob Dornan, whom the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Sanchez) defeated, have led a widespread, abusive and costly search for voter fraud, claiming that the gentlewoman won her seat in Congress because of massive illegal voting by non-citizens and illegal immigrants.

After 9 months of inquiry, Mr. Speaker, and more than \$300,000 in taxpayer dollars spent, my Republican colleagues have failed to prove that Mr. Dornan's loss was a result of electoral fraud.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to wrap up the House inquiry, as the Los Angeles Times said over 3 months ago. It is time to end this blatant harassment of the gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] and the targeting of Hispanics in general. This effort to intimidate and harass new citizens with foreign surnames to stop them from voting must end.

BALANCING THE BUDGET, THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, having heard the comments of my colleague from the Virgin Islands, and indeed the comments of several of my liberal colleagues this morning, it is small wonder that the American people say, will we ever stop the partisan bickering and go to work on behalf of the American people?

Are there concerns we should all have with campaign finance laws? Absolutely. But paramount today is the subject of financing for the family and making sure that American families hang onto more of their own money and send less of it to Washington.

And, Mr. Speaker, this day and its significance should not be lost on the American people, as we pass the first balanced budget in a generation, as we save Medicare for the next decade and make preparations to deal with those serious questions, and as we offer tax relief in a tax cut for working families and providing tax relief at every stage of life for Americans for the first time in 16 years.

Try as they might, the professional politicians want to change the subject, but the American people know that balancing the budget and putting our family finances in order is the proper first order of business.

DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES REFLECTED IN BALANCED BUDGET BILL

(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, for the last several months Democrats have been urging budget negotiators to include important Democratic priorities in this budget bill; to include \$24 billion for kids' health care, to include \$35 billion in education tax credits, and to provide the child tax credit for all of America's families who work and who pay taxes.

Meanwhile, our Republican colleagues have been fighting for huge tax breaks for the richest individuals and corporations in this country and calling tax breaks for hardworking low income families welfare, including some of the families that they have brought up here this morning. Only a few days ago they were saying that those folks were on welfare.

Well, I am proud to stand here today and say that by standing up for Democratic priorities, tax cuts for working families, tuition credits for college, health care for uninsured children in this country, that in fact those Democratic priorities have prevailed. The long and the short of it is the hardworking middle income families of this country have benefitted from this tax package.

RENEW SUPPORT FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, sadly and regrettably I rise this morning to inform my colleagues of two devastating explosions that rocked the city of Jerusalem today in which 18 people were killed and 150 wounded. This busy marketplace in Jerusalem known as the Mahaneh Yehudah was infiltrated, apparently by two suicide bombers, who set off explosions within seconds of each other. More fatalities are expected.

Although PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat called Prime Minister Netanyahu to express his condolences, the latest violence indicated once again that Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian authority are not doing enough to root out terrorism. It is not enough to express mere condolences.

Apparently, that may be why the State Department has not issued a PLO Compliance Report in advance of any presidential certification for more money for the PLO. We now know what the State Department failed to acknowledge, that the PLO is not in compliance with its commitments and must do much more.

Legislation regarding this devastating loss is being prepared by the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS] and myself. We invite our colleagues to cosponsor the bill and to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to the families of the dead and injured, as we renew our steadfast support for peace for all the people of Israel and throughout the Middle East.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. RICHARD L. LESHER ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few comments on the retirement of Dr. Richard L. Leshner, who is retiring after 22 years as president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

During his tenure, chamber membership has grown to 215,000 business members, 3,000 State and local chambers, 1,200 trades and professional associations, and he guided the creation of BizNet, the American Business Network, and its two award winning television programs, First Business and It's Your Business.

He oversaw creation of the Center for Workforce Preparation, which helps ensure that Americans are ready to meet the challenges of a new economy. And he credits retired Virginia Justice Lewis F. Powell with the high profile that the chamber has taken. He implemented many of Powell's suggestions over the years.

Congratulations to Dr. Leshner on his successful years at the U.S. Chamber and best wishes on his retirement.

ANXIOUS TO MOVE AHEAD ON ANOTHER TAX PACKAGE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased, and I know others are too, to hear that an agreement has been reached between the Congress and the White House on the tax cut package. I am especially pleased when I recall the last time Congress and the White House reached an agreement on the tax package Republicans were definitely not celebrating. They were not celebrating because that tax package was the largest tax increase in the history of this country.

So today marks a much different kind of agreement. And although I am pleased with the agreement on tax cuts, we should put this in perspective. Now, listen to this. The amount of net tax cuts over the next 5 years will be \$91 billion. The amount of spending over the next 5 years will be \$9 trillion. Nine trillion. Tax cuts \$91 billion, spending \$9 trillion.

So I would just like to say that this tax cut package is only a first step toward deeper tax cuts, more money in the pockets of Americans, and we also want to have some fundamental tax reform. I cannot wait to get going on another tax cut package.

CELEBRATION OF 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WRIGHT BROTHERS FIRST FLIGHT

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 1903, two brothers in my district of Dayton, Ohio, solved the mystery of flying. Since that first flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright the airplane has changed the course of transportation and commerce and communication and war.

In the year 2003, our Nation will celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the miracle of modern technology, and today my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES], and I will introduce legislation to create the Centennial of Flight Commission.

The purpose of the commission is to help coordinate our national celebration of this milestone. This effort is intended to follow other major commemorative celebrations, such as the anniversary of the Constitution and the American Revolutionary War.

We hope that our legislation will help all Americans take pride in our history and renew the value of American ingenuity that made the Wright brothers so successful.

WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS RE- PORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 201 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 201

Resolved, That the requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to the following measures:

(1) Any resolution reported before August 3, 1997, providing for consideration or disposition of the bill (H.R. 2015) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(1) and (c) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998, an amendment thereto, a conference report thereon, or an amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

(2) Any resolution reported after July 30, 1997, and before August 3, 1997, providing for consideration or disposition of the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998, an amendment thereto, a conference report thereon, or an amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 201 waives clause 4(b) of rule XI, requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day as it is reported from the Committee on Rules, providing for consideration of specified measures.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 201 applies to rules for the conference report on H.R. 2015, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, an amendment thereto, a conference report thereon, or an amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon reported before August 3, 1997.

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In addition, the resolution also applies to rules for the conference report on H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, an amendment thereto, a conference report thereon, or an amendment reported in disagreement from a conference thereon reported after July 30, 1997, and before August 3, 1997.

As Members are aware, House rules require a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Committee on Rules. In order to expedite consideration of this historic spending and tax cut package that will balance the budget, the Committee on Rules granted a rule that will waive the two-thirds vote requirement for another rule on the spending cut portion of the budget agreement for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The rule would further waive the two-thirds vote requirement for a rule on the tax component for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, the House wants to see the spending cuts conference report on the floor today and the tax cut conference report on the floor tomorrow. We have waited since 1969 for legislation that will bring our Federal budget into balance, and this resolution will help assure that we achieve this goal. The authority granted by this resolution will allow us the flexibility to get the important job done before the August district work period and respond to any changes the other body may make to the legislation through the Byrd rule.

Mr. Speaker, this rule allows us to consider a budget that is a victory for American families and smaller government. It is a budget that will provide this Nation with its first balanced budget in 30 years.

For decades, Congress proved that it could not restrain itself from spending more money than the Treasury collected in revenues. Past Congresses actually managed to spend all revenues and then some.

A new majority arrived in Congress in January 1995 that understand that the solution to our budget woes would be found in controlling spending. When the new Congress arrived, the deficit was \$164 billion. In fiscal year 1996, it dropped to \$107 billion. It will be approximately \$67 billion by the end of fiscal year 1997. There was a report recently that the revenue estimates coming in August may make it even less than that.

There was a chronic growth of Government for decades, but we have been reducing the size of Government constantly. We all know that these significant achievements would have been absolutely unthinkable only 3 years ago.

With the help of this rule, we will fulfill our promise to the American people to balance the budget by cutting wasteful Government spending, preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare, and produce real tax relief for middle-class families.

House Resolution 202 was favorably reported out of the Committee on Rules yesterday. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution so that we may proceed with debate and consideration of a historic budget that has less Government, less taxes, and more freedom for Americans to spend their money how they see fit.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER], for yielding me the customary half hour; and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, anyone who thought the bipartisanship on the budget was too good to be true was right. Despite agreements with the White House, despite compromises on the part of my Republican colleagues, despite some very hard work by Democrats and Republicans, the Republican leadership has decided to throw bipartisanship right out the window.

The Republican leadership has decided to ram the budget bills through the House with this martial law rule. The Republican leadership, Mr. Speaker, has decided that the many, many days of hard work that went into these bills are not worth giving Members enough time to read them.

The rule we are considering today gives Members hardly any time to read the budget before they vote on it. These bills contain some \$94 billion of tax cuts and \$115 billion in Medicare cuts, \$13 billion in Medicaid cuts, \$1.8 billion in housing cuts. Some people say they are great bills, and I for one want to be able to vote for them.

But, Mr. Speaker, I need to know what is in the bills. I want to vote for tax cuts, but I want to know which tax cuts are in the bill. I want to vote for some of these spending measures, but, again, I want to know what spending measures are in this bill, and this rule certainly does not give me or anyone else in the House that opportunity. If this rule passes, the Republican leadership can bring up the spending and tax parts of the reconciliation bills immediately.

Mr. Speaker, the ink is not even dry yet. Mr. Speaker, 1,000 pages were dropped at my door at 3:30 this morning to read. It is impossible. Members have not even had that opportunity to see this bill. There is nobody, nobody in this House that has read this bill.

This is one of the most important bills we are going to be asked to vote