

your light don't shine. You can't have your cake and eat it too. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. What we have here is a failure to communicate. Show me the money. When the Lord closes a door, somewhere he opens a window. All I ever learned, I learned in kindergarten. There he goes again. Where's the beef? Just say no. Life is like a box of chocolates. Spare the rod, spoil the child. Over 69 billion served. Elvis lives. To be or not to be.

Mr. Speaker, by now you are probably wondering what all these annoying clichés and catch phrases have in common. It is simple. They all pertain to the Clinton fiscal year 1998 budget.

Mr. Speaker, the President should send Congress a real balanced budget. Waste not, want not.

CONGRESS SHOULD GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, according to the Congressional Management Foundation, it costs our Nation's taxpayers approximately \$280,000 to fly House Members to Washington each week when the Congress is in session. In the past, there has been a busy floor schedule and Members have been working in order to earn their keep.

Today is Thursday, March 6, and it may be the 105th Congress but so far, I think, it is the pretend Congress: Pretend we are meeting, pretend we are legislating, pretend we are busy, pretend we are working. This is not a source of pride to me, nor can it be to so many of my colleagues. All the American people want is to have their country work, and it cannot work if we do not work.

We passed the armored car reciprocity amendments, we sent best wishes to the people of Nicaragua, and we even mustered a handful of Members to come to the floor to listen to the President of Chile, but nothing is being done about campaign finance reform, health care for our Nation's children, and so many other things.

Mr. Speaker, let us stop wasting the taxpayers' dollars. Let us get down to business. Let us go to work for our great Nation.

AMERICA DESERVES AN HONEST BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget amendment was defeated in the Senate by one vote. Again, the will of the American people is being thwarted because folks here promise one thing at home, then come to Washington and do something else.

It is ironic indeed that the Clinton White House worked so hard to defeat

the balanced budget amendment, when the budget they submitted to Congress is the best argument for a balanced budget amendment. Bill Clinton's budget is big government, more taxes, more programs, and status quo Washington, DC.

Clinton's budget contains temporary tax cuts but has permanent tax increases. The CBO has reported that in the year 2002, after Mr. Clinton is gone, the Government would run a \$70 billion deficit.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's new budget is unbalanced and avoids the tough choices. America deserves an honest balanced budget, one without gimmicks or temporary tax cuts.

UNFUNDED SOCIAL SECURITY LIABILITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, just an update of what is happening. Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, came in day before yesterday. As we know, June O'Neill of CBO is coming in today. They are both saying there is a difference in the rosy scenario or a more conservative expectation of what is going to come in revenues. Let us take the hard course. Let us take the more conservative estimate. Let us start cutting spending.

I know it is a tough job. We talk about all these expenditures. Let me give my colleagues one example: Social Security. We are accumulating an additional \$380 billion a year increased actuarial debts or unfunded liability in Social Security. The longer we put off those decisions, the more drastic those solutions are going to have to be in the future.

I figured it by minute because it is big dollars if you figure the \$370 billion we are spending a year. Every minute on Social Security we are spending \$700,000. By 2030 every minute we are going to be spending \$5,700,000. Let us get at it and solve these problems.

BALANCE THE BUDGET FOR OUR CHILDREN

(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, as a father of four kids, I have Betsy who is 13, John who is 11, and I have Ann who is 8 and Jim who is 6, I am very, very concerned about their future.

We are working real hard with them on their homework, teaching them math and English and all the good stuff children all over America are doing, but one thing that is very scary to me as I put them to bed every night is that I know looming out there in the future is this dark cloud of the national debt: \$5.1 trillion already.

Now we have a President who says he will support a balanced budget amendment, and then he submits a budget that is not even balanced. The Clinton budget in the year 2002 has a \$69 billion deficit, and all the savings there are are on the back end, far after he has left the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to please come forward, think about not just my kids, think about all the children in America. Let us really do something for the youth of America and balance the budget and quit spending their money.

HONORING MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would deliver my 1 minute on this side of the aisle today, given the fact that we are beginning, this weekend, the first historic bipartisan retreat, where over 220 Members from both sides of the aisle will depart to Hershey, PA, with 165 spouses and 100 children to begin to work together and, hopefully, develop a rapport so that we can carry out the people's business in a more civil way.

Today, I rise, though, to pay tribute to a high school basketball team in my hometown of Peoria, the Manual Rams, who are currently ranked No. 1 in the country by USA Today. The Manual Rams have been ranked No. 1 for the past 5 weeks. The team is led by head coach Wayne McClain and has three all-State players: Marcus Griffin, Sergio McClain, and Frankie Williams.

Manual is the three-time defending Illinois State champion and they are currently on track to win an unprecedented fourth consecutive championship this month as we begin March Madness in Illinois, which will take place in my hometown of Peoria. The team's current record is 24-1.

The City of Peoria and all of Central Illinois is proud to have the Manual Rams as a representative in USA Today High School Rankings. Congratulations to Coach McClain and the Manual Rams. We are very proud of their teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship.

WEST VIRGINIA HARD HIT BY FLOOD WATERS

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, let me report that as the flood waters are receding, mercifully, in West Virginia, we have many areas that have been hard hit: Sistersville, Clendenin, the counties Calhoun and Wirt, Mason, Braxton, Gilmer, Roane and Putnam all have suffered unprecedented flood damage.

Of course, Governor Underwood, the volunteers, the emergency services, the

National Guard, all have done an incredible job in this first stage of flood recovery.

Now comes the second stage, Mr. Speaker, because shortly the Federal disaster declaration will be made. At that time there will be a toll-free number for all residents in West Virginia to call the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and there they can apply for housing assistance, small business loans, unemployment assistance, crisis counseling, and a range of other assistance.

Working with the Governor, Mr. Speaker, and the FEMA staff, my staff and I will be fanning out across the State as soon as this disaster declaration is made to work with local officials and to work with residents and to get the information out about how to get that assistance.

The first stage, Mr. Speaker, of this flood recovery is coming to an end, and that is basically to preserve life, health, and property. And now we begin the second stage. And as we do, all West Virginians should know that with the Federal disaster declaration that will be coming shortly, they will not be left alone. The second stage begins and so does our recovery.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 10, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. QUINN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 10, 1997, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 1997, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

□ 1100

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 5, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington,
DC

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, I hereby submit my resignation from the Committee on Education and the Workplace.

Sincerely,

EARL BLUMENAUER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 84) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 84

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and that they are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Earl Blumenauer of Oregon, to rank directly below Elijah Cummings of Maryland.

To the Committee on Education and the Workforce: Dennis Kucinich of Ohio.

To the Committee on budget: James McDermott of Washington.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

If postponed, such proceedings will resume after disposition of proceedings de novo on the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL CONTRACT REVIEW REFORM ACT OF 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 513) to exempt certain contracts entered into by the government of the District of Columbia from review by the Council of the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 513

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Council Contract Review Reform Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS FROM COUNCIL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 451 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act (sec. 1-1130, D.C. Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN CONTRACTS.—The requirements of this section shall not apply with respect to any of the following contracts:

"(1) Any contract entered into by the Washington Convention Center Authority for preconstruction activities, project management, design, or construction.

"(2) Any contract entered into by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority established pursuant to the Water and Sewer authority Establishment and Department of Public Works Reorganization Act of 1996, other than contracts for the sale or lease of the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"(3) At the option of the Council, any contract for a highway improvement project carried out under title 23, United States Code."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contracts entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] and the gentleman from Maine [Mr. ALLEN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS].

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this bill is a very small matter for us, but it is urgently needed for the District of Columbia Council and two of its independent agencies charged with the important issue of water and sewer service and construction of a new convention center.

This legislation was introduced late in the 104th Congress and fell through the cracks in our rush to adjournment. I appreciate the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], the chairman, and the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN], the ranking member, being willing to allow this measure to come before the House outside the regular process. Mr. Speaker, my thanks to Chairman BURTON for permitting expeditious consideration of this bill.

H.R. 513, the District of Columbia Council Review Reform Act, is an important bill for the city's recovery. It enables two independent agencies, the Washington Convention Center Authority, and the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, to carry out their mission in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. Timely passage