

"He has put everything on this," said Auburn University at Montgomery political analyst Brad Moody. "He has made it the centerpiece of his campaign and the centerpiece of his first year in office. He has thrown all his political capital away."

Sheila Bird was among those who voted against the lottery even though her 2-year-old daughter Amanda could have one day benefited from the plan.

"I just feel like it's morally wrong. I feel like it's going to cause problems in lower income families," she said. "I think you can get money other ways."

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEMOCRATS WHO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE ARE ALSO RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening because I listened to several of my Republican colleagues on the floor last night, and I was very disturbed by what I heard. The Members implied that because Democrats continue to support separation of church and State we are not religious people. As a child growing up in Jacksonville, Florida, the district I now represent,

my religion was the cornerstone of my life. It still is today. In fact, my church is more to me than a place I visit on Sunday. It is my home. It is a family gathering place and it is a real part of the community I represent.

My Republican colleagues would have people believe that Democrats are anti-faith. This is a lie. Democrats believe in the separation of church and State. We believe that every person has the right to choose their religion. We do not believe it is up to the House of Representatives to dictate how and where our faith should be expressed. Our constituents did not elect us to be their spiritual leaders. They do not turn to C-SPAN for healing. Rather, they expect us to vote for the programs and policies that mirrors their beliefs. This is how they judge us.

Do we support Head Start and school lunch programs, education? Do we support saving Social Security and protecting public education? This is the reason we have been sent to Washington, not to preach but to support the things that are important to the people who sent us here.

OUR TRADE DEFICIT IS STILL GROWING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), spoke on this floor about our trade deficit. He pointed out that our trade deficit in the last quarter hit an all-time record of \$87 billion. If that keeps up, it would be an astounding \$350 billion for the full year, meaning that we are buying that much more from other countries than they are buying from us.

Most economists agree that we lose, conservatively, 20,000 jobs per billion, meaning we would lose 7 million jobs to other countries in one year if our trade deficit stays at the rate of this last quarter. Many people believe we are losing these jobs, that we have this unbelievable trade deficit in large part because of bad trade deals, trade deals good for big multinational companies but very harmful to small American businesses and American workers.

The Christian Science Monitor, one of the leading national newspapers, had this on its front page recently, quote, "America's widening trade deficit, now more than \$25 billion a month, is starting to cause concern in the topic echelons of the United States."

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"While the trade gap has been growing for years, it is becoming large enough that experts are becoming increasingly worried it will slow the 'miracle' economy of the 1990s."

Just 1 week later, the Washington Post reported that the "suddenly slumping" U.S. dollar "is stirring unease about the potential for a stam-

pede by foreign investors from American stocks and bonds, which could terminate the U.S. expansion and destabilize the world economy."

According to the Post, "The problem starts with the U.S. trade deficit . . . as the booming U.S. economy sucks in massive amounts of imports, and slumping overseas markets absorb fewer exports from American firms."

We simply cannot, Mr. Speaker, continue to run trade deficits of 300 or more billions of dollars each year without causing very serious problems for our own people.

Today, our unemployment is very low, but our under-employment is terrible.

We have many college graduates who work very hard and spend a lot of money to get a degree in a field in which there are very few good jobs available. There are so many people getting law degrees these days that even they are becoming of very little assistance to many in getting good jobs or positions.

Most colleges and universities cannot discourage students from majoring in certain subjects without causing a faculty rebellion.

So parents and students really need to start asking the hard question: Is it likely that I can get a decent job if I major in this subject?

If we keep running trade deficits like we are now, we will have more and more college graduates working as waiters and waitresses. Also, young people had better wake up and tell these environmental extremists that we cannot base our entire economy on tourism unless we want to have almost everybody working at minimum wage jobs.

This large trade deficit, which is causing us to lose so many high-paying jobs, is also causing the gap between the rich and the poor to grow much wider.

This is, I suppose, why it is hard for so many wealthy people to realize the extent of this under-employment problem and why so many upper income people support extreme environmental measures that really hurt lower income people by driving up prices and destroying jobs.

I started thinking about all this after reading a column by William Safire in today's Knoxville News-Sentinel, which I assume ran in yesterday's New York Times. Mr. Safire, after being ripped off due to a big cable merger, wrote in a column entitled, "Giant Corporations May Not Serve Us Well," these lines: "The merger-mania mantra: In conglomeration there is strength."

"Ah, but now, say the biggest-is-best philosophers, we're merging within the field we know best. And if we don't combine quickly, the Europeans and Asians will, stealing world business domination from us."

"The urgency of globalization, say today's merger maniacs, destroys all notions of diverse competition, and only the huge, heavily capitalized multinational can survive."

Mr. Safire concluded, "Only JOHN MCCAIN dares to say: 'Anybody who glances at increases in cable rates, phone rates, mergers and lack of competition clearly knows that the special interests are protected in Washington, and the public interest is submerged.'"

Are we, Mr. Speaker, "Wal-Marting" the entire world? In a few short years, are just one or two big giants going to control every field and every industry? I sure hope not.

A few years ago, I spoke on the floor of this House, pointing out that U.S.A. Today said competition existed in only 55 out of 11,000 cable markets.

The situation is worse today. The Wall Street Journal said then, "Competition is the last thing big cable operators want. They have vigorously lobbied local and State governments to keep their turf exclusive."

I said in my speech in Congress at that time, "What we really need is more competition. Every place there is competition, cable prices have gone down and service has gone up." This is true in every field.

Here in Washington, the two daily Washington newspapers sell for 25 cents each. Most places where there is no competition, much smaller newspapers sell for 50 cents or more.

I voted against the big telecommunications bill a few years ago because of my fear that it would only lead to a massive consolidation within the industry and the big getting much bigger. That is certainly coming true even faster than I thought.

If the government, Mr. Speaker, keeps approving more and more mergers, if our anti-trust, anti-monopoly laws become a joke, if we keep giving every break to multinational companies and keep running huge trade deficits, our under-employment will grow worse, our middle class will be slowly wiped out, and the United States will be a very different place than it has been up until now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLETCHER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HELP AMERICAN CITIZENS BEFORE GIVING MONEY ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to get up for a moment and talk about some of the events of the past couple of weeks and some of the acrimony that exists in this Chamber and some of the dialogue that takes place. We had a very difficult and interesting vote on foreign aid the other day and foreign operations.

It caused me to think, as I looked at some editorial comments. It was interesting, and I want to quote from Charley Reese from the Port St. Lucie Tribune, "Real Help For North Carolina Heading Overseas". He says "Think this through: People who have lost everything in eastern North Carolina to the floods can get help from the U.S. Government in the form of loans at interest."

"I dare say many of those who lost their homes had not paid off their mortgages. The obligation to pay the morality remains even if the house is gone and rendered unlivable. So in essence, the federal assistance consists of an offer to most folks to make two mortgage payments instead of one."

So we look at our own real-life circumstances in this city and in this country, and we say to ourselves, yes, we have a responsibility for foreign aid. We have a responsibility to help other nations. But when do we start focusing on the American public and the American taxpayer?

The President suggested the other day he would like to wipe out \$5.7 billion worth of foreign aid that have been given over the past years in the form of loans. To some of that, I give credit. Some of the countries cannot repay the money.

But let us think of our experience over the last couple of decades of American foreign policy. Let us think of the billions of dollars that have been swept out of the taxpayers' wallets in the United States and are now residing in Zurich, Switzerland in the form of secret bank accounts by people like Duvalier, people like the Marcoses, people that have plundered the United States foreign aid not to help the countrymen that they were supposedly elected to serve, but to put it in their own bank accounts, and to run off with our cash.

Now, we are going to wipe out debt, and we are going to just erase the balance sheet and say they do not have to pay us back. Yet, in North Carolina, if one's home is destroyed by an earthquake or a hurricane or some other devastation, one is told to come to the line and borrow from the U.S. government, and one can make two payments at once.

We also hear that we cannot give any kind of tax break for individuals. We cannot eliminate the marriage penalty. We cannot give debt relief on the estate tax relief. We cannot do anything to reduce the cost of insurance by giving credits to small business owners or self-employed, because we cannot afford a tax cut. It is selfish. It is stingy. It is not proper. It will explode the deficit.

We have to use the surplus for other things that we think are good for the American public. We should spend our resources, our surplus on things that we think are good for people rather than people voicing their opinion.

Then I started to think of the real overriding question, which is: Surplus?

What are we all talking about? A surplus? There is \$5.7 trillion worth of debt. There is no surplus. There may be an excess cash to expenditures. But, clearly, there is no surplus.

But if we keep doing these things and paying money in all kinds of different accounts and different proposals, we will never balance the budget, and no American taxpayer will get any relief.

We sent money to Russia recently, I can remember, through the IMF, and nobody can account for the hundreds of millions of dollars that are residing in the bank accounts all over the world. The Russians never got helped by our cash. It went into the pockets of people who purloined the money and took it for their own use.

We keep saying to ourselves, well, we will do better next time. We will put some oversight panels together. We will look at the money and the expenditures. Yet, each time, we fall into the trap once again of saying we better add some more money to the appropriations bill because we have got to help out another one of our neighbors in trouble, a neighbor overseas.

Then I think when I ride around at night, how many homeless Vietnam veterans are probably on the streets of our Nation's capital, homeless Vietnam veterans who are going without health care, medical care of any kind because we cannot help them. They fought the good fight, but we have got too many other things on our plate.

We cannot sacrifice individual appropriations bills, because we are all trying to protect our reelections. We cannot make our government more fiscally sound because we are too interested in racking up totals that are mind boggling on their face.

Our interest payments are like \$247 billion a year on the debt we have now at \$5.7 trillion. So we will never get ahead if we continue this. But what about giving or, as the headline says, forgiving our debts. What about forgiving some of the debts that the American public has every day that they work and pay their taxes to help support this government, and we seem tone deaf to be able to turn our responsibilities directed towards them.

I say, pay down the debt. But I also say let us not start attacking the majority party here for being cheap as I heard last week. We did not recognize our responsibilities. So let us focus a little bit more on the American public, the American taxpayer, helping our own citizens, our community before we start giving money away abroad.

GOOD NEWS TONIGHT: BUDGET BALANCE WITHOUT TOUCHING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, Will Rogers used to say, "All I know is what