details surrounding the Speaker's financial empire.

CHANGE HAS COME

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, it is the greatest honor of my life to be standing in the well of this great Chamber on behalf of the people of the Second District of North Carolina. From Durham and Rocky Mount to Lillington and Southern Pines, my constituents sent a clear message to Washington on November 8.

They want the power and authority of the Federal Government returned to them and to the States.

They want radical changes in the failed liberal programs of the past.

But, most of all they want Washington out of their pockets and off their backs, as Ronald Reagan so eloquently put it.

I am pleased to report that we are on our way. This new Congress marks the end of business as usual in the Nation's Capital. We have already begun to get the people's house in order beginning a new era of accountability. Next week we will get to work on tightening Government's belt with a balanced budget amendment, then we will reform welfare, cut taxes, and restore the morale of our military. We have changed the way Congress does business, now we will change the business Congress does. It is truly a new day in Washington and a new day for the people of eastern North Carolina.

STOP THE VIOLENCE

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

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, every night on television we see the horrors of war. We see children killed in places whose names we didn't even know. But I want to talk today about a war on much more familiar grounds, our own beloved America.

There was a small story in the Washington Post 2 days ago of two children killed by gunfire. There was not a big headline.

Well, no wonder. Because an average of 13 children a day are killed in America from gunfire in America. In 1993, there were over 24,000 murders in this country, and 17,000 of those were from gunfire.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we had a peace treaty in America. It is time we stop the violence.

LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE DAVIS-BACON ACT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by many of my colleagues in the introduction of legislation to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act. In one way or another, the act is expensive, inflationary, unnecessary, restrictive, and generally harmful to the structure and development of the construction industry. The act adds billions of dollars to Federal construction costs and the American taxpayers are picking up the tab.

Enacted during the throes of the Depression, the Davis-Bacon Act requires contractors on Federally funded construction to pay the prevailing wage. Now, more than 60 statutes incorporate the Davis-Bacon wage requirements by reference. In some instances, coverage of the Davis-Bacon Act has been further extended to situations in which the Federal Government merely has an interest through ownership participation, funds guaranty, or cases where the Federal Government contributes a minimal amount to a State or local project.

The rationale for special wage protection was never very persuasive but Davis-Bacon has remained in place since 1931, giving some construction workers a bonus at the bargaining table at the taxpayer's expense. For example, electricians working in Philadelphia on a Davis-Bacon project are paid $37.97 an hour compared with electricians on a private contract who are paid an average of $15.76 an hour.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the Davis-Bacon Act raises Federal construction costs nearly $1 billion a year. Repeal of the act would allow the Federal Government to fund more construction projects with the money which is being spent, or to get the planned construction done for less money.

Finally, the Davis-Bacon Act is demonstrably unnecessary. Despite claims by labor leaders that workers would be victimized and exploited without Davis-Bacon, unionized construction firms do compete effectively in many private markets where Davis-Bacon does not apply. The Fair Labor Standards Act, which was enacted 7 years after the enactment of Davis-Bacon, establishes a minimum wage and overtime rate of 1½ times the hourly rate for employees working more than 40 hours in a week.

By repealing the Davis-Bacon Act, the taxpayers will be saved an estimated $3.1 billion in construction costs and bureaucratic overhead over the next 5 years. Sixty-three years of artificially high construction costs are enough. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act.

UNFUNDED MANDATES

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995 is of great interest to State and local governments, and to my constituents on Guam.

We too have our share of the burdens imposed by the Federal Government.

Recently, we have been confronted with an unfunded mandate that illustrates how difficult it is to receive funding even when congressional intent to provide that funding is clear.

In 1986 Congress passed a law authorizing completely unrestricted immigration between Guam and three newly independent Pacific Nations that were formerly the U.S. Trust Territory.

Anticipating the impact on Guam of this Federal policy, Congress also authorized Guam to be reimbursed for costs resulting from this immigration. While Guam incurred over $45 million in costs, over the past 7 years Congress appropriated $2.5 million in its first payment to Guam last year—a noticeable improvement but still too little too late.

Uncle Sam, if you are not careful, you may soon be known on Guam as a deadbeat uncle.

KEEPING THE PROMISE OF A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, last week, Republicans began the passage of the contract with America. We are changing the way Congress does business, and we are changing the business Congress does.

No longer will we pander to the big government, big bureaucracy legislation as Congress has in the past. We want to make the Government smaller, less costly, and more effective for the American taxpayer. To begin on this journey we must pass a balanced budget amendment.

In the next week, we will have on the floor legislation to make the Government live under a balanced budget. This concept makes sense to the American people—they live under a budget. It is time to make the Government do the same.

We will keep our promise to the American people to bring a balanced budget amendment to the floor. It is up to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure it is passed.

DISCLOSURE ON BOOK DEAL NEEDED

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH has said that his multimillion dollar book deal was ''like winning the lottery.'' Well, not quite, Mr. Speaker. Your lottery was no game of chance. You see, Mr. Speaker, you were