

accepted almost \$715,000 from one couple for GOPAC and hundreds of thousands of dollars from other individuals.

A television station, a political organization, a foundation, even a \$4.5 million book deal. It is amazing Speaker GINGRICH has any time at all to be Speaker of the House.

Too many ethical questions have been raised about this Speaker. We need an outside counsel to clear the air, to find the truth, and we need one now.

PRESERVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE HOUSE FOR EXPENDITURES OF PUBLIC MONEY

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the American people and the Congress oppose the Mexican bailout, yet some power brokers in New York and in the executive branch seem to think they own the U.S. Government, and they have decided that the taxpayers are going to bail out Mexico anyway.

Using our own exchange stabilization funds to rescue Mexico from default is the equivalent of selling our own car insurance so that we can pay for the insurance of an irresponsible neighbor who cannot get insurance of his own because his driving record is so bad, and this arrangement may work as long as we do not have an accident.

In this situation, our greatest chance of an accident is being hit by our irresponsible neighbor.

This bailout for Wall Street and the elite in Mexico is putting our people at risk. What happens then to our own currency if there is an emergency and our stabilization fund is empty?

It is a travesty and a crime against our own people to do this. The administration must be held accountable to the Congress and the American people.

Please, support, I ask my colleagues, support the Kaptur-Taylor privileged resolution to stop this crime.

GINGRICH AFFAIRS REQUIRE OUTSIDE COUNSEL

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

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the \$57,000-per-seat private dinner whereby the Speaker of the House is raising money for his new right-wing television network is the latest in a long series of questionable activities that require the investigation by an outside counsel.

Most Members of Congress, like the American people, are inclined to take their colleagues and fellow Americans at their word, but on the questions about whether the activities of a high public official are appropriate, ethical or legal become as pervasive as those raised about the complicated affairs of

House Speaker NEWT GINGRICH, an independent review by an outside counsel is essential. It is in the Speaker's interest as well as the House's interest and the American people's to see to it that allegations against him of conflict of interest and inappropriate behavior are settled.

The person that holds the office third in line to the Presidency should be above reproach, and serious allegations about the activities of the Speaker of the House demand swift, deliberate, nonpartisan, and above all, independent investigation by an outside counsel.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for an outside counsel.

THE MEXICAN BAILOUT: VOTE FOR THE RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on House Resolution 57, a privileged resolution to assert Congress' constitutional duty to vote on the expenditure of our taxpayer dollars regarding the recent Mexico rescue package. The resolution will require the Comptroller General to perform an audit of the Mexican rescue package and report back to the Congress within 7 days.

One man in the White House, one Speaker and three other men here in Congress do not a republic make.

We ask the Speaker to grant our privileged resolution the right of full debate.

Authorizing billions of dollars without a vote of this Congress is wrong. Vote for your right to know. Vote for our people's right to know, vote for our taxpayers' right to know, vote for House Resolution 57, and vote "no" on any motions to table this bill.

SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 1989, 135 Republicans voted with the Democrats in passing a 90-cent increase in the minimum wage. The vote of this body was 382 to 37.

On that day, Democrats and Republicans joined together in raising the standard of living for nearly 5 million American workers. On that day our former Republican colleague, Tom Ridge, now the Governor of Pennsylvania, spoke very eloquently when he said, "Republicans and Democrats today must make a joint statement that we, as elective Representatives, appreciate the contribution that these working men and women are making to our country, and once we peel away the political debate," Governor Ridge said, "what Republicans and Democrats should join together in saying is that

there is considerable value to their work."

Governor Ridge had it right, Mr. Speaker. This proposal that we have before us now, another 90-cent increase, is a modest increase that working people need and deserve. It is a tribute to their labor.

An increase in the minimum wage will primarily benefit adult workers, many of whom rely on their minimum wage to support their households.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IS PRODUCING REAL RESULTS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, one more contract item down. Yesterday, we passed the line-item veto, and it joins the ranks with congressional reform, unfunded mandate reform, and a balanced budget amendment as those items in the Contract With America that we have passed. We are keeping our promises with the American people to bring real change to Congress.

Now we will move on to a real crime bill that seriously deals with violent criminals after that, we will continue to work on welfare reform, legal reform, tax cuts for middle-income Americans, term limits, and national security legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we committed to completing our Contract With America agenda within the 100-day timeframe. We are restoring credibility to this institution by keeping our promises with the American people. The Republican majority is producing real results.

MAJORITY OF AMERICANS SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I come today just to take this 1 minute to talk to my fellow colleagues here in the Congress and to all those who listen out in the heartland of our Nation about the desire now among many of our leaders to raise the minimum wage.

The President of the United States and many Members of this Congress and the vast majority of Americans want to see the minimum wage increased. Now we have heard from the majority that they passed a balanced budget amendment because the majority of the people in our country want that to be passed, and the line-item veto and on and on and on about how this is the people's House, and they are doing what the people want done.

Well, the vast overwhelming majority of Americans have now made it known that they would like to see the minimum wage raised, and so that you do not appear to be contradicting yourself, I would ask that the majority join

with us as we seek a small 90-cent increase over 2 years for the minimum wage for millions of Americans who deserve to have their work rewarded.

\$4.25 AN HOUR IS NOT A LIVING WAGE

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, there is an ever-growing empire lurking on Capitol Hill called Newt, Inc.

While Big Bird, school lunches, and the handicapped face savage cuts this year, that new empowerment television will host an obscene \$50,000-a-plate tax deductible dinner this evening. While the rich and powerful escape paying taxes, this new empowerment television will propagandize to the poor and working people of this country that \$4.25 is more than enough on which to live.

□ 1150

Moreover, with in-kind GOPAC contributions, a questionable book deal, and the phenomenal group of Newt, Inc., an outside counsel is required.

Mr. Speaker, there is something rotten in Washington, DC, and, "It ain't the cookie monster."

A VOTE TO CARRY OUT OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Members who do not want to be treated like mushrooms will come to the floor now to speak and vote in favor of House Resolution 57.

This is a critical question: What are the terms, the amounts, the conditions and, more to point, the constitutional authority to extend unlimited full faith and credit of the United States Treasury—that is, the funds of the taxpayers of this country—to a foreign power, Mexico? Do the elected Representatives of the people have a right to disclosure?

A vote for this resolution is a vote to carry out our constitutional responsibilities, our fiduciary responsibilities as caretakers of the public purse; a vote "no" is a vote to be treated like a mushroom kept in the dark and fed unsavory substances.

MORE THOUGHTS ON THE BAILOUT OF MEXICO

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, all over this country, working people and elderly people and those people who do not have a lot of money are wondering about what is going on in Washington with regard to the bailout of Mexico.

We have always been told that if people want to invest their money, especially making risky investments, sometimes you win but sometimes you lose.

Investors in Mexico over the last several years have received very high rates of return on their investment, and that is fine. But recently some of those investments have turned sour. It seems to me and, I believe, a majority of the Members of this House that the U.S. Congress and the taxpayers and the President and the Republican leadership should not be bailing out those investments.

Members of Congress demand the right to vote, to debate, to discuss, to learn about the bailout of Mexico. The gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] will soon be introducing a privileged motion to begin that process.

I would urge our colleagues to support that motion.

CONGRESS SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE MEXICAN BAILOUT

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I find myself at least in partial agreement with my Democrat colleagues. The stabilization fund that is being used by the President to help with the loan guarantee for Mexico is not for that purpose. That stabilization fund is to be used to stabilize and guarantee the value of the dollar, and I cannot fathom how using those funds to buy Mexican pesos, for instance, is going to stabilize the dollar when the peso is going straight down the toilet.

I would like to say to my colleagues that I think the Congress should be involved in this process, and I support their efforts to try to make sure that we are. When we are talking about \$40 or \$50 billion of American taxpayer dollars, the Congress should be involved, not just the President.

This is not a dictatorship. Unilateral action by the White House should not be tolerated.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 57

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this 1-minute to inform my colleagues that within a matter of minutes this House will be given the privilege that the President of the United States did not give us; and that is, to decide for ourselves whether or not we thought the Mexican bailout was a good idea.

The privileged motion that will be before the House in just a few minutes is to require the comptroller general to tell us if the law was obeyed when the President used \$20 billion from the stabilization fund to bail out Mexico. It

will further give us a report of all the transactions for the past 24 months so that we can have some sort of an idea if this is being done on a daily basis, has become a regular thing, or something of a one-time thing.

Getting to what the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] said, there is a reason for getting this information. First, we have to isolate the problem so that later in this session we can offer a solution. And the solution to that should be that this fund, like every other fund in the budget, has to be appropriated.

Members of Congress have to know how much is in it, what are our risks, and there ought to be an up or down vote by this body as to whether or not this should exist.

First of all, we need the information to show the American people that the purpose of this fund has been abused.

ENSURING EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE HOUSE IN EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 57) to preserve the constitutional role of the House of Representatives to provide for the expenditure of public money and ensure that the executive branch of the U.S. Government remains accountable to the House of Representatives for each expenditure of public money, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 57

Whereas rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that questions of privilege shall arise whenever the rights of the House collectively are affected;

Whereas, under the precedents, customs, and traditions of the House pursuant to rule IX, a question of privilege has arisen in cases involving the constitutional prerogatives of the House;

Whereas section 8 of Article I of the Constitution vests in Congress the power to "coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coins";

Whereas section 9 of Article I of the Constitution provides that "no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law";

Whereas the President has recently sought the enactment of legislation to authorize the President to undertake efforts to support economic stability in Mexico and strengthen the Mexican peso;

Whereas the President announced on January 31, 1995, that actions are being taken to achieve the same result without the enactment of legislation by the Congress;

Whereas the obligation or expenditure of funds by the President without consideration by the House of Representatives of legislation to make appropriated funds available for obligation or expenditure in the manner proposed by the President raises grave questions concerning the prerogatives of the House and the integrity of the proceedings of the House;

Whereas the exchange stabilization fund was created by statute to stabilize the exchange value of the dollar and is also required by statute to be used in accordance