

S. 4. An act to grant the power to the President to reduce budget authority.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 5(b) of Public Law 93-191, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment as members of the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards the following Members of the House:

Mr. THOMAS of California, Chairman; and Messrs. ROBERTS of Kansas; NEY of Ohio; FAZIO of California; CLAY of Missouri; and GORDON of Tennessee.

There was no objection.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget.

We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we kept our promise; line-item veto—we kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—we kept our promise; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits—we kept our promise; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence—we kept our promise; congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature—we are starting this today; family reinforcement to protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; and Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty.

This is our Contract With America.

CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS DOES NOT APPLY TO IRS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the brass of the Internal Revenue Service has now testified they oppose changing the burden of proof in a tax case for civil matters. They say it would tie their hands by extending the same rights under the Constitution given to any other court proceeding. They would actually have to show evidence

and cause, and it would make it difficult for them to collect money.

Let us look at it another way; what is the IRS really saying to us? The Bill of Rights and the Constitution are great, they are really great but not for the IRS. They should apply everywhere else but do not put it on us.

Let me tell you something, folks, we could ensure that those questions they need answered could be answered, but when it gets into a courtroom every American should be treated fairly and the Bill of Rights should stand by every American.

I do not buy it. I think it is time for Congress to begin to run our country again.

WHO REALLY CARES ABOUT OUR CHILDREN?

(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, who really care about America's children?

Mr. Clinton and the congressional minority claim that they do. This is the same White House whose budget will add \$250 billion to our existing \$5 trillion debt over the next 5 years. This is the same Democratic Party which killed the balanced budget amendment, and fought tooth and nail against a minuscule 1 percent cut in Federal spending this year. This is the same crowd which has saddled each and every child in America with \$17,000 of debt the minute they are born.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you what real concern is. It is enacting \$100 billion in real spending cuts in foreign aid, the Federal bureaucracy, Amtrak, Legal Services, the arts, and welfare. So you see Mr. Speaker, there is one party which cares enough to spare the future generations of American children from the suffocating burden of debt. We were sent here to safeguard the future of every poor, middle, and working class child. We will show we really care about our children by gutting Federal spending and ending business as usual.

TERMS LIMITS A BAD IDEA

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, term limits are a bad idea whose time has not come. We already have term limits. They are called elections every 2 years. We do not need another constitutional amendment to change what the voters already have done, and that is change the Congress and the political system.

Since I came to Congress 12 years ago, 75 percent of the House has changed. If you want entrenched bureaucrats, if you want lobbyists and if you want staff to run the Congress, then vote for term limits.

It is also hypocritical for Members to vote term limits but exclude themselves from the law.

Mr. Speaker, campaign finance reform is what is needed. Let us put elections on a more equitable basis, let us have a gift ban, let us have ethics reform, but let us not use term limits as the ruse for the problems that exist in this country.

Term limits are a bad idea and I am proud to say that.

PASS TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, last week the bipartisan majority passed a welfare reform package that overhauls the current welfare system to offer hope for the future. Today, we are continuing to keep our promise with the American people by bringing to the floor an historic vote on a constitutional amendment on term limits to make Congress a true citizen legislature.

Everyone here knows that a constitutional amendment needs 290 votes to pass the House. The Republicans cannot do it on their own. We will deliver at least 80 percent of our Members on the term limit vote, but we need at least 50 percent of the Democrats to vote yes, also. Today I challenge the Democrats to deliver the necessary votes to pass term limits. It's in the Democrat hands to pass this.

So what is it going to be—yes, or no.

Let's pass term limits and make Congress a true citizen legislature that's accountable to the people.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the last speaker. We should pass term limits. This week we will debate term limits all week long.

This is a subject whose time has come. There are several proposals out there. One of them is mine and I am not a latecomer to term limits. I supported term limits in 1989, the first time I campaigned for office, and I have stood fast on that ever since. On January 11 of this year I dropped a bill on term limits, restricting to 12 years, but different from everybody else's. I said it should apply to me and every other Member of this House.

That is the argument we are going to have this year, and this week we are going to be asked to stand up and be counted. America says term limits applies to us. If they are angry at Congress, can it not be that they are angry at us?