

every office. We were under the impression that refrigerators have now been invented and were available, and in fact it turned out every office had refrigerators and virtually every staff member knew how to get ice out of the refrigerator. By eliminating the delivery of ice, we save \$400,000 a year.

In terms of being a commonsense Congress, I just think this ice bucket tells the story about as well as anything we have done. For years and years, long after refrigerators became common, ice was being delivered. The Washington bureaucracy just kept doing whatever it was doing, even if it made no sense.

Maybe to some folks \$400,000 a year is not a lot of money, but that is enough money to give over 300 families the tax relief Bob Dole is offering without increasing the deficit, and I would suggest that it is exactly the kind of commonsense reform, saving \$400,000 by stopping the ice bucket, that allows us to talk about returning money to the American people without doing anything to harm the Government that is necessary, but doing everything to cut out the waste that is unnecessary.

GAO REPORT ON THE DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, the General Accounting Office recently released its report, demanded by the Republican majority, of the conduct of the Treasury Department and Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin during the debt ceiling crisis.

The GAO reports that the Treasury Department and Treasury Secretary Rubin conducted the Nation's debt management legally and properly during the debt ceiling crisis, avoiding default on our Nation's debt and a violation of the statutory debt limit.

In the wake of the GAO's finding that Secretary Rubin acted in accordance with statutory authority provided by the Congress, those Members of the majority that sought Mr. Rubin's impeachment or resignation owe him an apology.

The Republicans were wrong when they opposed the Clinton budget of 1993, which cut in half the debt. The Republicans were wrong when they sought the resignation of Secretary Rubin for keeping the Government solvent, and they are wrong now to go back to voodoo economics that is going to balloon the deficit. Let us not do that again, Mr. Speaker.

AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED RELIEF, NOT NEW TAXES

(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, I ask the American people, are you working

harder and harder every day, every month, every year, and having less to show for it? Are you concerned that your children will not be better off than you are? Are you worried that they will not be able to enjoy and share the American dream as we know it? Do you have concerns that big Government, wasteful spending, and big bureaucracy has stolen the American dream?

I have those concerns. The Republican Congress and many Members on the Democrat side have those concerns, too. We have worked for a balanced budget. We have worked for commonsense reform of the bureaucracy. We have worked for affordable and accessible health care. We have worked to reduce taxes. It concerns me that President Clinton, when he talked about tax cuts at the Democrat Convention, actually his proposals increased taxes over \$64 billion, new dollars.

We do not need to increase taxes at this time. The American middle class people need tax relief, not additional taxes. Mr. Speaker, we need to reduce the size of government. We need to reduce spending. We do not need to increase taxes at this time.

WILL REPUBLICANS ICE MEDICARE WITH BOB DOLE'S PROPOSED TAX CUT

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the Speaker brought that ice bucket in here. My concern is that they are going to ice Medicare with that \$548 billion tax cut.

Yesterday, in front of the Republican Caucus Senator Dole said that this year's campaign is about trust. Senator Dole wants the American people to believe and trust that his proposed tax cuts will improve their economic conditions. He wants them to believe that a \$548 billion tax cut will not lead to higher budget deficits and increased interest rates, but major Republican economists say that Senator Dole's tax cuts will not work.

If history is any lesson, when Speaker GINGRICH and then Senator Dole tried to pass a \$245 billion tax cut last year, they went after Medicare, \$270 billion. Do not let them ice Medicare. Senator D'AMATO admitted that under the Dole plan funding for such programs as Medicare would definitely be affected. He went even as far as to say, I know I am not running this year, so he can tell the truth. Even former economic advisers to Reagan are now saying that tax cuts do not produce the kind of economic stimulation Senator Dole promised.

Mr. Speaker, let us not repeat the 1990's budget-busting plans.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION COMMEMORATING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am going to introduce legislation commemorating an important story in our Nation's history, the underground railroad in my hometown of Cincinnati, which was a major stop in the underground railroad, a vital means for thousands of slaves to escape to freedom until the end of the Civil War.

The stories of the brave men, women, and children of all races that comprised the underground railroad experience have tremendous power to inspire us and teach us about racial understanding, about cooperation, reconciliation today, 130 years later.

The legislation I am introducing today is simple. It authorizes no additional Federal funding. The citizens of Cincinnati have already raised more than \$400,000 in private contributions for this effort. The bill designates the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati as an affiliated area within the National Park Service, and establishes a framework for cooperation between the Underground Railroad Center and the National Park Service.

People from around the country will be able to come to this center to learn more about this important chapter in our history. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the dedicated Cincinnatians who have led this effort, and I would urge all of my colleagues to join me in this.

TIME FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION AND LEE FRANKEL

(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, Florida tomato farmers have simply gone bankrupt. Mexican tomatoes are being dumped on our market, \$2 a crate. It cost about \$7 to produce them. Florida farmers went to the White House, and then came to Congress, and everybody laughed at them. They filed a section 201 lawsuit under the Trade Act. The International Trade Commission ruled in favor of Mexico.

The chief investigator, Lee Frankel, now works for the organization that imports most of the Mexican tomatoes, and is making most of the money on Mexican tomatoes. I say it is time for a grand jury to investigate the International Trade Commission and Lee Frankel, who I believe are lining their pockets and screwing American farmers.

Right to the point, I would also like to suggest to somebody they start looking inside those tomato trucks

down there. They would not be surprised to find out, I suspect, that most of the heroin and cocaine coming into this country is coming in produce trucks.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH GABBARD

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

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I pay tribute to Ralph Gabbard, a friend and a servant to Kentucky. Ralph passed away Tuesday night at the young age of 50.

Ralph was a radio and TV broadcaster all of his life.

And from his teenage days as a radio disc jockey in the 1960's, Ralph grew to serve our State, and unintentionally made a name for himself, like no other media person of our time.

Unassumingly, yet with tenacity, he went about the task of being the best broadcaster he could be, and succeeded. He redefined what we call the broadcaster's public service obligation.

His commitment to news, his commitment to community, his commitment to industry excellence, was unsurpassed inside or outside of the TV stations and boardrooms where his legacies will live.

EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COUNSEL WAS PUT ON ICE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, just a moment ago the Speaker of the House held up an ice bucket. What concerns the American people, and should concern them, is that the report of the Special Counsel which was given to the Ethics Committee one month ago may well have been put on ice, because, Mr. Speaker, this report, which took 9 months to complete—

POINTS OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman will state the point of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, is it not correct that the rules of the House under regular order prevent people from speaking on the floor of the House with respect to matters before the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

The gentleman from West Virginia may proceed in order.

Mr. WISE. Continuing, Mr. Speaker, my concern is that any report which has been presented and investigated—

Mr. LINDER. Regular order, Mr. Speaker. Regular order.

Mr. WISE. Regular order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

□ 1015

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I will repeat that references to matters before the Ethics Committee are out of order to be addressed on the floor of this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The previous ruling of the Chair is again sustained and the gentleman from West Virginia may proceed in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Georgia who raised a point of order feels that the words of the gentleman from West Virginia concerning the lack of the Ethics Committee to make the report public is out of order, the gentleman can demand that the gentleman from West Virginia's words be taken down, is that not correct, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. LINDER. I appreciate the gentleman's instructions on parliamentary procedure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will kindly suspend so there may be proper decorum in the House.

The gentleman from Georgia has not taken that step. The gentleman from Georgia made a point of order.

Mr. VOLKMER. I just asked if that was available.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

The gentleman from West Virginia will please proceed in order.

Mr. WISE. Continuing, Mr. Speaker, or trying to, any report dealing with an investigative body that has had at least 9 months of investigation and may have cost as much as one-half million dollars I think should be released before the Congress goes home.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WALKER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania will state his point of order.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from West Virginia continues to proceed out of order of the House and should be called to order by the Chair.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, if I may respond.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If both gentlemen will suspend.

The Chair at this time will read the rule and will repeat the admonition from the Chair of June 26, 1996.

It is an essential rule of decorum in debate that Members should refrain from references in debate to the conduct of other Members where such conduct is not the question actually pending before the House by way of a report from the Committee on Standards of Official conduct or by way of another question of the privileges of the House.

This principle is documented on pages 168 and 526 of the House Rules and Manual and reflects the consistent rulings of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses and applies to 1-minute and special-order speeches.

Neither the filing of a complaint before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, nor the publication in another forum of charges that are personally critical of another Member, justify the references to such charges on the floor of the House. This includes references to the motivations of Members who file complaints and to members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Clause 1 of rule XIV is a prohibition against engaging in personality in debate. It derives from article I, section 5 of the Constitution, which authorizes each House to make its own rules and to punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and has been part of the rules of the House in some relevant form since 1789. This rule supersedes any claim of a member to be free from questioning in any other place.

On January 27, 1909, the House adopted a report that stated the following: "It is * * * the duty of the House to require its Members in speech or debate to preserve that proper restraint which will permit the House to conduct its business in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members. * * *" (Cannon's Precedents, volume 8, at section 2497). This report was in response to improper references in debate to the President, but clearly reiterated a principle that all occupants of the Chair in this and in prior Congresses have held to be equally applicable to Members' remarks in debate toward each other.

The Chair asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. I listened to the Speaker in support of his ruling and comment upon the precedents of the House. But I did not hear the words "reports from other special counsel." I did not hear that report. I heard about the reports from the Ethics Committee, et cetera, but not from the special counsel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Until such time as there is a report pending on the floor of the House from the Standards Committee, or a question of privilege, the issue is not debatable on the floor of the House.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.