

were in the Ethics Committee and ignored the admonition of the Chair. Maybe it is perhaps time for him to be seated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's point of order for the fourth time is sustained and correct and the other gentleman from Georgia is again invited to proceed in regular order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, if the committee refuses to release the report, the American people can only assume a coverup of massive proportions.

Release this report. Release it now, Mr. Speaker.

UPHOLD THE RULES OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing to watch this institution rip itself apart in the way that is happening here today. The fact is that every Member of this institution has an obligation to the rules of the institution. It is entirely legitimate for Members to engage in very tough debate, but they should do it within the rules. That is very hard when we all feel very emotional about some of these issues and we feel as though the politics of the moment demands that we step beyond what is required of us as House Members.

Mr. Speaker, I thought we all swore a duty to the Constitution of the United States. I thought that that is what this institution is supposed to be all about. The fact is that what we are witnessing this morning is people who put politics above that oath. That is a disappointment. It should never happen on this floor. It is obvious that, despite any kind of ruling of the Chair, Members are going to proceed because they think it is politically feasible for them to do so.

WHEN IS A REPORT A REPORT?

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I was prepared to speak on another matter, but I think I am prepared now to speak that in this body, Members have a right to speak. And if we cannot speak on the House floor, when we cannot mention words like report and what has happened to this country when one side is gagged because the other side has more votes than this side, I must ask, Mr. Speaker, when is a report a report?

When a gentlewoman from Connecticut discusses it with the majority leader, is it then a report? When later that day the majority leader says, oh, no, there is no report, then it is not a report? When the American taxpayers pay a half million dollars and then get 100 pages back, is that a report?

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan will suspend.

The gentleman from Georgia will state his point of order.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is referring to matters again before the Standards Committee and the Speaker has ruled again and again that that is out of order. The gentleman should either continue in order or sit down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order is well taken. To the extent that the gentleman from Michigan refers to a pending matter before the Standards Committee, he is asked to refrain from those observations and 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, I have listened very carefully to the gentleman from Michigan. Very, very carefully. Never once was the word Ethics Committee mentioned or Official Standards mentioned. Only a generic statement as to meetings between a gentlewoman, whom he did not identify the gentlewoman from Connecticut, and he only said the gentlewoman from Connecticut talked to the gentleman from Texas.

If you want to assume that he is talking about the Ethics Committee, you can do that. But that is what it is, an assumption. He never once mentioned it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In response to the gentleman from Missouri, the Chair determined the gentleman from Michigan's remarks to refer to the chairman of the committee, and, hence, the ruling.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is not stating a parliamentary inquiry, he is engaging in debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan may proceed in order on his 1-minute address.

Mr. STUPAK. I would like to be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has ruled. The gentleman may either make a point of order or proceed in order.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a point of order.

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

□ 1030

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I have talked about 100 pages that cost the taxpayers half a million dollars. I have asked when is a report a report? I have asked when a Member from Connecticut discusses it with the majority leader is it a report? I have asked when the majority leader then denies there is not a report, then is it a report? And, based upon that, according to the gen-

tleman who made the objection and the ruling from the Chair, there is a report, if I reach your conclusions correctly.

So if there is a report, then why do you know there is a report, why do the people over here know there is a report, and none of us know there is a report? So if there is a report, why do we not just release the report?

That is my point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman fails to state a point of order. The Chair, however, has not ruled that there is a report. The Chair has ruled it is improper during the course of 1-minute discussions to discuss a pending investigation before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The gentleman is invited to proceed in order on the balance of his time.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, since you have reached the conclusion that there is a report, let me then go back to what Speaker GINGRICH said in 1989, and I quote: The Speaker said: "435 Members of the House should look at all the facts, should have available to them all the reports and all the background documents, and the American people should have the same."

Mr. Speaker, since you have concluded there is a report, please release the report.

A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, some say that it is tough for normal, hard-working Americans to tell one political party from another. However, if you are out there looking to hang your hat on a defining issue separating the two major parties, look no further than taxes.

The Democrats' view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases, according to Ronald Reagan: If it moves, tax it; if it keeps moving, regulate it; and if it stops moving, subsidize it.

We believe that we need less Government and lower taxes. We need to let people keep more of what they earn and save, and we need to let people make their own decisions how they spend their money, not the Government.

Keep this in mind when you examine President Clinton's latest tax proposal: Initially it appears to be Republican, but upon closer examination, the tax cuts are temporary, while the tax increases are permanent, totaling \$63 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all remember that story about the wolf in sheep's clothing.

RELEASE REPORT BY OUTSIDE COUNSEL

(Ms. DeLAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, there are only 15 days left before this Congress adjourns, and, with so little time left, it is critically important that the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct immediately release the 100-page report by the outside counsel probing the dealings of Speaker NEWT GINGRICH.

POINTS OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Connecticut is referring directly to matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. The gentlewoman is directed to continue in order.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to heed the words of Speaker GINGRICH in 1989, and I quote: "I think it is vital that we establish as a Congress our commitment to publish that report," making reference to the report against Speaker Jim Wright at the time, "and to release those documents, so the country can judge whether or not the man second in line to be President of the United States of America, the Speaker of the House, should be in that position."

Stop the coverup. Release the report.

Further in 1989, Speaker GINGRICH said—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, further point of order.

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to enforce the rules of this House, because each of these Members has found ways to go back to the references to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, when they should be called out of order and asked to sit down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has repeatedly asked Members to respect the rules of the House and rulings of the Chair. There are opportunities available to the Chair to enforce the rules of the House. The appropriate manner in which to enforce it at this moment in time is a point of order made by another Member.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, is the Speaker ruling that the comments made by Speaker GINGRICH in March 1989 are inappropriate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has not ruled on the historical references made by this Speaker or the previous Speaker. The Chair is ruling that the observations concerning the pending matter, the matter pending be-

fore the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, should not be brought to the floor of the House.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I believe the gentlewoman was quoting the Speaker of the House from March 1989.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. With all due respect, in the hearing of the Chair, the gentlewoman went beyond that and inserted in the middle of her historical reference another reference.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Connecticut was going to comment upon a 1990 statement made concerning a past case. Is the Speaker saying that is improper for her to do that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Once again, the Chair has not stated nor made any ruling in reference to the historical observations made by this speaker. It was relative to other observations made by the speaker.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it would then be relevant for the speaker to comment on a 1990 Member without objection?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is doing its best to be clairvoyant, but the Chair will make its ruling when matters occur, and not in anticipation of speech.

Mr. STUPAK. I heard 1990. I just did not want another comment about something in anticipation, so the gentlewoman can at least finish her statement, in all due respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed in order.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, a further historical, further perspective. I quote from Congressman GINGRICH at the time in 1989: "The 435 Members of the House should look at all of the facts, should have available to them all of the reports and all of the background documents, and the American people should have the same."

Indeed, the American people are owed the same. Release the report.

RESPECT RIGHTS OF COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the tactics being employed on the floor today I think are extremely unfortunate. All 435 Members of this House know that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is made up in a bipartisan way, the only such committee of the Congress, where there are equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans. These 10 Members serve on this committee for the benefit of all of us, and there is not one Member that does not understand that they have a very, very difficult job.

We also know that over the years this committee, under difficult cir-

cumstances, has always done its job, and they have done it in a bipartisan way. The committee continues to work in such a fashion, and we ought to respect the 10 Members, 5 Democrats and 5 Republicans, who are on this committee, respect the work they do on behalf of the institution, and on behalf of each and every one of us, who at some point in time or another have been subject to such allegations.

Please respect their rights.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, "I have a number of concerns regarding the Ethics Committee's contract and instructions to the special counsel.

"First, I am concerned that the scope and authority and the independence of the special counsel will be limited by the guidelines the Ethics Committee has established.

"The committee shall give the special counsel full cooperation in the issuance of subpoenas."

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is not adhering to the rulings of the House again with respect to speaking on the floor regarding matters before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, if I may be heard on the point of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will hear the gentleman from California.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the words I have uttered up until the time I was interrupted are not my words. They are in fact the words of Speaker GINGRICH on July 28, 1988, in a letter from Speaker GINGRICH to the Honorable JULIAN DIXON, the former Chair of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this is proper.

If I can continue to be heard on the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am not speaking to a matter that is currently before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. I am speaking to a matter that was before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in 1988, where the question was raised at that time as to whether or not that committee had, one, limited the scope of inquiry by the special counsel, where the question was raised as to the contract between the special counsel and the committee, and whether or not the committee was—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will kindly suspend. The Chair is prepared to rule.