

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 The Chair has not ruled on the historical references made by this Speaker or the previous Speaker.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.