that occurs, we should also recognize that the Republicans want to stop the debate from the Democrats, who ask, where is the ethics report on Speaker GINGRICH?

PRESIDENT CLINTON SHOULD DROP CONSIDERATION OF PARDONS FOR WHITEWATER FRIENDS

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, this May, a Little Rock jury returned guilty verdicts on a total of 24 felony counts against President and Mrs. Clinton's Whitewater business partners, James and Susan McDougal, and the President's successor as Governor of Arkansas, Jim Guy Tucker.

It must have come as great comfort to Susan McDougal and her codefendants earlier this week when, in a televised interview, the President refused to rule out the possibility of pardons for them if he is reelected.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a resolution that would declare that it is the sense of this House that President Clinton should specifically, categorically, and immediately disavow any Presidential pardons for his former Whitewater business partners and to former Governor Tucker. By passing this resolution before we adjourn to go home and face our constituents, we can send the right signal—that in this country, no one is above the law, and convicted criminals do not walk free by virtue of having friends in positions of power.

YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last week the Ethics Committee concluded for the third time that the gentleman from Georgia, NEWT GINGRICH, violated House rules in his use of a political adviser for official business. The committee concludes——

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CHRYSLER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, referring to matters before the Ethics Committee, which is specifically forbidden in the House rules, is my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will reiterate the principle in this matter. The Chair will repeat the admonitions of the Chair from June 26, 1996, September 12, September 17, and September 24.

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.

The fact that a resolution has been noticed pursuant to rule IX does not permit such references where that resolution is not actually pending.

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.

As cited on page 526 of the Manual, this also includes references to concluded investigations of sitting Members by the Standards Committee. (July 24, 1970). Clause 1 of rule XIV is a prohibition against engaging in personality in debate. It derives from article 1, 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,'' from Cannon's Precedents, Volume VIII. 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 the Speaker and each other.

□ 1030

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

The gentleman from Georgia may proceed in order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, quote, the committee concludes that your conduct of allowing the routine presence in your office of Mr. Jones demonstrates a continuing pattern of lax administration and poor judgment that has concerned this committee in the past, unquote.

NEWT GINGRICH has repeatedly shown his willingness to break House rules to suit his needs. The charges being investigated by the outside counsel, James Cole, are far more serious and involve violations of the law, including tax fraud.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. CHRYSLER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, he is referring to matters that are before the House Ethics Committee which are specifically forbidden in the House rules, is my point of order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, may I be heard on the point of order?

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Let me say to the gentleman from the other side, there comes a time when an injustice is so great, when you must even challenge the rule to demonstrate that injustice. I know the gentleman from the other side and the Members from the other side would not like for this report to come out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend. The Chair again sustains the point of order, and the gentleman will proceed in order.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. There now exists a $500,000 report from the outside counsel. Later today or tomorrow, the House will once again consider a privileged resolution I have offered calling for the release of the outside counsel's report. The public deserves the right to see that report. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for the release of the secret Gingrich ethics report.

ISSUES OF ETHICS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that, and I certainly hope that the Democrats who are so hung up on bringing down NEWT GINGRICH to the extent of breaking House rules in terms of issues in front of the Ethics Committee, will show equal compassion and curiosity when we review the Gephardt ethics allegations and a lot of other ethics allegations on some of their Members. If we are going to bring this House down to such partisan fervency, then maybe my colleagues want to consider that.

Why does the Democrat Party not concern themselves with why the President will not reveal his health care records? Why Susan McDougal will not talk but would rather go to jail even if, as the President has publicly said, a pardon is out there? Why do my colleagues not have any curiosity of who hired Craig Livingstone?

Let us just admit, this is politicking on taxpayer time, with taxpayer equipment, in a taxpayer-paid facility. I