

Just as the American people have called for a ban on unfunded mandates, they have also called on Congress to balance the budget. Starting now we will work to control our spending and our own budget. It is what the people want, and what we intend to give the people.

COMMENTS ON HOUSE HISTORIAN

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, like the energizer bunny, the Christina Jeffrey story keeps going and going and going. Yesterday Speaker GINGRICH's spokesperson, Tony Blankley, said that they did not know that Christina Jeffrey believed that a Holocaust class should reflect the views of the Nazis.

Today we read in the Atlanta Constitution that Ms. Jeffrey told Speaker GINGRICH's staff a month ago. But even worse was today's revelations of why Ms. Jeffrey thought she was fired. Yesterday Mr. Blankley said that Speaker GINGRICH held Ms. Jeffrey in high regard, and today we find out she believes that she was told she had to go because "There would be marches and demonstrations and fundraising efforts to raise money to turn over the House to Democrats."

What was Speaker GINGRICH's motivation in firing Ms. Jeffrey? Was it because he disagreed with her views, as he should have, or was it because of adverse publicity and bad political consequences?

Yesterday I praised the Speaker for quickly firing her. I stand by that, but there are many questions that must, must be answered.

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to respond to the Democrats' call for specific cuts in the Federal budget. They well know that Republicans have pledged to consider all proposals except for Social Security. Their insistence is an effort to divert attention from the real issue. Congress can only tackle the issue of how to balance the budget after we decide to balance the budget.

The Democrats' desire to place the proverbial cart before the horse led the American people to give their House to the new Republican majority. We must not let empty partisan rhetoric sway us from the task we have been sent here to do; namely, to bring fiscal responsibility to Washington. We owe the American people that much. It is time to stand and deliver by passing the balanced budget amendment.

COMMENTS ON HOUSE HISTORIAN

(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, a new chapter opened today in the history surrounding the hiring and the firing of the House Historian. Today, the former Historian reveals to the Atlanta Constitution that she had indeed informed the Speaker's office about her views on the teaching of the Holocaust before she was hired. This directly contradicts the statements that had been made by the Speaker's office. The Historian was fired because her opposition to funding a course on the Holocaust was wrong because it did not reflect what she called the Nazi point of view or the Ku Klux Klan point of view. Such extremism from the person hired to chronicle an important part of the history of our government is an affront to this body and to all Americans.

How could a person known to have such extreme views on this issue and one that is so sensitive to so many Americans, how could that person have been hired? But perhaps we should not be surprised. This is not the only office that the new Speaker has turned into a partisan political tool. The same thing was done in selecting the House administrator. I fear that we are seeing the beginning of a dangerous pattern.

PUBLIC HOUSING RENT REFORM

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, as we debate the reform of our Nation's welfare system, our deliberations must include a close examination of the federally mandated system of calculating rents paid by residents of America's public housing.

The evidence is striking. The current system of establishing rents in public housing is set by bureaucrats in Washington. It provides no flexibility to provide incentives for residents to make a better wage or even find work.

In most cases, if a resident of public housing obtains gainful employment, they end up with less disposable income than if they had stayed on welfare. That is right, less money by going to work. Is it any wonder we have generations of people who are addicted to the public dole?

In the last Congress, this body passed a housing bill which included a provision which I sponsored, entitled the Rent Reform and Empowerment Act, which would reduce these disincentives through a system of income disallowances and ceiling rents. Unfortunately, it was killed in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing this important legislation. It is time we applied a little common sense. And keep in mind it has been this Government that has imposed some of the highest tax rates on America's poor.

COMMENTS ON HOUSE HISTORIAN

(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, not even the Speaker of the House agrees. His choice of a Historian for this House is unfit to serve. There is no room in this House for bigotry, racism, or anti-Semitism. I commend the Speaker for realizing his error, acting quickly, and firing his appointment.

The operation of this House, the recording of its history, should be non-partisan. The House Administrator, the House Historian, these appointments should be made with the best interests of this House in mind, not the Speaker, not the Speaker or one political party.

Last week the American people were promised a new openness, a new way of doing business. But so far it looks like business as usual.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Republican House, this is not a Democratic House. This is the people's House. Mr. Speaker, the people deserve better.

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H.R. 359

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I am asking my colleagues to join 67 Members of the House in cosponsoring H.R. 359. This legislation will prevent a major rip-off of American inventors and investors by ensuring that Americans have the 17 years of patent protection which was their right prior to the passage of the GATT implementation legislation last year.

Hidden in that implementation legislation was a provision not required by GATT that was slipped into the implementation legislation. The provision dramatically reduces the number of years of patent protection for American citizens, permitting foreign nationals, foreign and international corporations to use American technology against us in the world competition without so much as paying royalties to American inventors and investors who created the technology.

H.R. 359 will stop the rip-off and perfect the GATT language by purging this provision from part of the GATT that should never have been part of it in the first place.

IS THE HOUSE MOVING TOO QUICKLY?

(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, are we moving too fast without taking proper precautions that will be costly in the future?