

cannot sit idly by while I hear the whining and griping from the bitter defenders of the status quo who defend a welfare system that's bloated, scandal-ridden, and a huge waste of our hard-earned tax dollars.

Forty years of Democrat control of the House brought us this failed welfare system and now they are defending it with all of their might. The truth is they have turned their backs on those who are less fortunate and then they blame Republicans for trying to undo the damage that they took 30 years to create.

After spending billions of dollars on programs that have failed to work and after years of waging a phony war on poverty it is time for the defenders of the status quo to admit defeat and join us in creating a system that understands that true compassion is not measured in the number of our tax dollars spent on welfare, but in the number of Americans who are liberated from the grips of poverty.

#### CUTTING LIHEAP PROVES THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY CONTINUES TO STREAMROLL SENIORS AND STRUGGLING FAMILIES

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, for 58 days now the Republican majority has had kids and seniors in their sights. Yesterday they hit both with one shot. LIHEAP, the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program, is gone. LIHEAP helps almost 6 million families pay their heating bills in the winter.

The Republican majority is willing to trade the health of children and seniors for tax giveaways for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. The Republican majority will take away heat assistance from seniors on fixed incomes and families and living on minimum wage or less to give another tax break to people making over \$200,000 a year. Without LIHEAP, 144,000 families in my State of Massachusetts will have to slip meals to keep heat in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have a balanced budget amendment because Republicans would not protect seniors on Social Security. That is a shame. What is worse is the Republican majority continues to streamroll seniors and struggling families. Cutting LIHEAP proves it.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, today on this floor we will vote on the Private Property Protection Act. This is critically important legislation, and I

urge each and every one of my colleagues to support it. The principle in America that private property cannot be taken from our citizens without paying them just compensation for that private property is at the heart of our form of government. It is, indeed, one of those values that we as Americans hold sacred.

Yet, yesterday Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt called this legislation an attack on America's great natural resources. Absolutely nothing could be further from the truth. It is a sad day in America when officials of our national government openly advocate taking property from our citizens without compensating that those who own that property.

We are all agreed that we must protect our natural resources, but we must not do that by stealing property from them or by nationalizing their resources. I urge my colleagues to support the Private Property Protection Act.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN CALLING FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, last year Members of the present majority complained about the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Fiske. They claimed that Fiske was a friend of the White House and that his investigation of Whitewater was not going far enough.

I ask the Members of the House to consider these facts. The current chairman of the House Ethics Committee cast the deciding vote for the Speaker in the 1989 whip's race. The chairman of the Ethics Committee seconded the nomination for Speaker this year. The chairman of our Ethics Committee last year tried to help our current Speaker by closing the pending Ethics Committee complaint against him.

Two other majority members of the House Ethics Committee have had personal dealings with the personal PAC of the Speaker, GOPAC, one of them as a contributor, and another as a recipient for his reelection.

Given these facts, I am sure those who call for a replacement of Special Counsel Fiske will now join me in calling for a special counsel to investigate the allegations against Speaker GINGRICH, and it should not take 100 days.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOOLITTLE). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, was not the entire speech of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], just a

moment ago, out of order, because it was a direct reference to Members of this body?

The gentleman keeps reminding us of our obligations under the rules. The gentleman has a responsibility to the rules. My parliamentary inquiry is, was not his entire speech out of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not refer to pending Standards Committee investigations.

Mr. WALKER. I have a further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. WALKER. Beyond the pending ethics investigation, he also may have had personal references to the chairman of the Ethics Committee. Is that also not out of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not so refer to the Standards Committee or any Members thereof.

Mr. WALKER. A further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that what the gentleman has just done in the House was a speech which was entirely out of order before the body: is that correct?

The SPEAKER. The Chair is responding in a general way to the proper debate in the House with respect to ethics investigations.

Mr. WALKER. I thank the Chair.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VOLKMER. Is the Chair ruling that it is improper for any Member to request a special counsel in an investigation being conducted by the Ethics Committee, which action has not been taken by the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not refer to pending Standards Committee investigations, or suggest courses of action within that committee.

Mr. VOLKMER. I thank the Chair.

#### PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOOLITTLE). Pursuant to House Resolution 101 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 925.

□ 1043

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 925) to compensate owners of private property for the effect of certain regulatory restrictions, with Mr. SHUSTER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday,