

to answer my good friend from Wisconsin. First of all, my friend, you know it is an out and out falsehood; we will not take apples nor milk nor any food out of the mouths of the children of this country.

Once again, let us engage in some elementary mathematics. We propose, as Republicans, to up the budget spent, to up the allocation to \$200 million over what President Clinton asked for in the food program. We propose an increase of 4.5 percent for next year.

We propose giving the power to feed these children to people on the front lines fighting the battle. I wish my friends on the other side would stop this demagoguery and deal with the facts, Mr. Speaker. Those are the facts and that is the difference we will make for America.

TRYING TO HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

(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, in 1993, the Ethics Committee explicitly cautioned Speaker GINGRICH to avoid using congressional resources in conjunction with his course on American civilization. He rejected that advice and promoted the course from the House floor.

Now that he is being challenged on that he is trying to use the Constitution to defend his speech on the House floor.

The Speaker cannot have it both ways.

The same Speaker that barred the gentlewoman from Florida, Congresswoman CARRIE MEEK, from discussing the Speaker's book deal on the House floor is now saying that a Member can say virtually anything on the House floor because it is protected speech under the Constitution.

Speaker GINGRICH said yesterday in his press conference: "It is totally legitimate for a Member of Congress to stand up on the floor of the House and say virtually anything. Nothing the Ethics Committee advises can supersede the constitutional provisions of speech and debate."

The speech and debate clause of article I of the Constitution, however, is solely designed to protect Members of Congress from being questioned in any other place, meaning that a Member cannot be prosecuted or held liable for anything he or she says on the House floor. We all know the House has rules that explicitly forbid Members of Congress from doing this, as the Speaker was advised by the Ethics Committee in promoting his book.

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OVERTURN EXECUTIVE ORDER ON STRIKER REPLACEMENTS

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, with the stroke of a pen, President Clinton yesterday shattered more than 50 years of labor law by issuing an Executive order to prohibit the hiring of permanent replacement workers for companies with Federal contracts.

For 50 years Congress has maintained a careful balance between the powers of labor and management at the bargaining table. We have often fought long and hard on this floor to ensure that neither side had an unfair advantage.

The long arm of organized labor—which represents less than 12 percent of the private labor force—now has privileged status among American workers—something Congress has fought hard to avoid. Some might even say that it is payback time for organized labor, since they gave campaign contributions to Democrats versus Republicans by a ratio of 9 to 1.

Mr. Speaker, the President yesterday slapped the face of Congress, and I am ready to settle the matter as a gentleman. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1179 that would nip this Executive order in the bud by making it null and void.

FARM BILL AWAITS WHILE POST OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE REMAINS VACANT

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton nominated Dan Glickman to be his Secretary of Agriculture on December 28, 1994, over 2 months ago. Here we are in the first week of March, and no hearings have been held on Mr. Glickman's nomination and it could be many weeks before the Secretary is confirmed.

News reports indicate that the nomination is stalled because of unanswered questions. This is unfortunate as there is no proof of any wrongdoing.

This Congress will begin holding hearings on the 1995 farm bill in the next few weeks, and the Clinton administration has nobody in charge of its agriculture policy. In fact, it would appear that agriculture policy generally is of minor concern to the administration. How can we write a fair and reasonable farm bill or establish agriculture policy when the lights are out in the Agriculture Secretary's office?

IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR LIHEAP

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

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of continued funding for LIHEAP, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

LIHEAP is a block grant that provides funding for programs that assist low-income households with heating during the winter months. On February 22, the House Appropriations Committee voted to eliminate funding for the entire program. Lack of funding for this program would effectively destroy the ability of 5.8 million American families to pay their energy bills. Cutting LIHEAP would effectively put people—children, seniors, disabled, and the working poor alike—out in the cold. In my State, Pennsylvania, 466,000 households would be affected.

At a time when the crux of all the rhetoric coming from the other side of the aisle is the need for input and control for those on the State and local level—why is it that LIHEAP, a successful block grant providing an outstanding example of a Federal-State partnership with the built-in flexibility that allows States to design programs to respond to the heating needs of their citizens being decimated? The irony of this situation is rich, Mr. Speaker, but irony will not keep you warm—at any time—and especially not during a Pennsylvania winter. The constituents of western Pennsylvania did not send me to Washington to participate in ideological shell games that employ a bait and switch mentality. All of us were sent here to ultimately improve the quality of life for those we represent.

I urge for continued funding for the proven successful Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

CONGRESS MUST CORRECT THE PROBLEM OF FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, as a lawyer, I am the last person to suggest that everybody in my profession is a money-grubbing, scum-sucking toad. The actual figure is only about 73 percent.

Ha ha, I am of course just pulling the Speaker's honorable leg. The vast majority of lawyers are responsible professionals, as well as, in many ways, human beings.

But we really do need to do something about all these frivolous lawsuits. We have reached the point where a simply product such as a stepladder has to be sold with big red warning labels all over it, telling you not to dance on it, hold parties on it, touch electrical wires with it, hit people with it, swallow it, and so forth, because some idiot somewhere, some time, actually did these things with a stepladder, got hurt, filed a lawsuit—and won.

My feeling, Mr. Speaker, is that anybody who swallows a stepladder deserves whatever he gets. And I am sure the vast majority of the American people would agree with me. The minority would probably sue.