

\$38 billion in spending, if we will shake up departments like HUD, like Veterans, there is little question that we can improve the way we deliver these services to Americans across the country.

If the gentleman from Massachusetts is satisfied with the way many veterans are served by standing in lines half the day, then the gentleman is welcome to that satisfaction. It is my view that it is time we shake these departments in a fashion that causes them to pay attention to those we want to serve as human beings, not just as people with numbers on their forehead.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will rise informally in order that the House may receive a message from the President.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMAS) assumed the chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will receive a message.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND RESCISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. ROEMER].

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment, but opposed to the choices.

Greek history gives us the term pyrrhic victory, meaning that one army found against another and won but was so weakened by the time that it won that it could not go on to fight other battles.

This choice pitting veterans programs which we need to fund, and I will support, and I hope we accept this amendment, pitted against AmeriCorps, which does not have pork, which is at the grassroots, which Speaker GINGRICH signed a letter supporting AmeriCorps, a program run out of the University of Notre Dame last year.

We should not be pitting these programs against each other. Why not cut the CIA's \$28 billion budget \$206 million? Why not section 936 of the Tax Code? Better choices should be in order.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER].

Mr. FILNER. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to substitute for the amendment the restoring of the full \$206 million for the Veterans budget without any offsetting cut.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair has no amendment in writing.

Mr. FILNER. Do you want to force us to choose between—

Mr. SOLOMON. Regular order, Mr. Speaker. Let's get some order around here.

Mr. FILNER. I have the time.

The gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] wants to force us to choose through his objection between the veterans and service opportunities for our young people.

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I think this is hypocrisy.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's unanimous-consent request was out of order. The gentleman is recognized for debate only.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, there is obviously a new game being played in Washington. It is called bait and switch. The rules are simple. Propose massive and irresponsible budget cuts and then 2 weeks later stand up in front of the TV cameras and claim you are fighting to restore the very cuts you have initiated.

I am tired of this hypocrisy, Mr. Chairman. We should not be having choices between our veterans and our opportunities for our young people.

Regular order in this Nation is not being followed by this budget.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. SOLOMON. I have a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Chairman, if Members are going to be yielded 45 seconds at a time, are they not supposed to stick to the 45 seconds and not carry it to a minute and one-half?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. SOLOMON. Then let us abide by the rules of the House.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield three-quarters of a minute to the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ].

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, I move to restore the rescission of \$206 million for veterans affairs, but I question the wisdom of trying to take the money away from a program that is a yearly program, an expenditure program. When we take \$206 million out of Americorps we are actually taking \$1 billion away in 5 years.

I think the reasonable proposal was made here by the gentlewoman from Connecticut who proposed that capital expenditure programs be substituted by another capital expenditure program in NASA for projects that have not even been authorized.

I ask the leadership of the other side of the aisle to reconsider on their conditions. It is unfair to take a capital expenditures program and offset it with expenditures in the regular pro-

gram because it is 5 times in 5 years the savings that you take.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY].

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I say to my colleagues whether they like it or not this is a raid on veterans programs. And what concerns me is later on the budget will be coming out; how much are they going to cut the veterans programs? How much is the appropriations going to come back and cut veterans programs gain?

I reluctantly will support the amendment, but I do not think this is the right way to do it. I asked for a clear amendment earlier and I did not get it, so I thank the gentleman for giving me this time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] has 1 minute remaining and the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself my remaining time, and I would simply say this in closing: I urge Members to vote for this amendment. But I would also urge Members to recognize the cynical situation that is presented to us by the majority party. The fact is that it is their party who proposed the \$200 million cut in veterans funding in the first place. They have now chosen to prevent us from restoring that money by going to a more benign source such as the bloated NASA budget. Instead they want to go after the domestic volunteer program.

It is a lousy choice but I think the record is clear that the Democratic Party intends to keep its commitment to veterans no matter what the political machinations on the other side of the aisle.

I urge support for the amendment, misguided though half of it is.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield the final 45 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BUYER].

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman, the last comment of the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] was probably the most correct one. This is an issue of policy. Do not allow politics to overtake policy and try to think of other reasons. I am one who gave the suggestion that this should be taken out of Americorps.

Listen to some of the testimony before the Readiness and Personnel Subcommittees of the House National Security Committee.

The Marine Corp Sargeant Major testified that for the first time since 1980 the Marine Corp missed its fiscal year 1994 recruiting goals.

If we look at DOD's fall 1994 Youth Attitudes and Awareness Survey, after hearing about Americorps, 47 percent