

tragedy in Oklahoma showed us so very well that these people bleed real blood, they cry real tears, and they lose real lives.

To paraphrase a familiar saying, we have met the government, and it is us.

WORK ON BALANCING BUDGET BEGINS TODAY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, what a difference this Republican majority has made. I think it is real simple. We did what we said we were going to do. It was promises made and promises kept. The American people like what they saw in the first 100 days, and the Republican majority is committed to keeping our promise with the American public, to balance the budget and make Government smaller and less costly and more efficient and more accountable to the people.

But much remains to be done. Much of the heavy lifting remains to be done. Now we have to get to work, balancing this budget. We begin today.

GOVERNMENT MUST BE A PARTNER IN TRUTH

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, no doubt the bombing in Oklahoma City was an evil act, and those responsible truly deserve the death penalty. But April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City, and April 19, 1993, Waco, TX, do not appear to be a coincidence to me, and I think the investigation should also focus on that. Many Americans simply did not believe the Federal Government's account in Waco, TX. And when our Government, Mr. Speaker, appears to conceal and hide the truth, our Government plays right into the hands of radical fringe groups with an ax to grind.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know the truth about Oklahoma City; and, Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve the truth about Waco, TX. The truth shall set you free, there is no substitute for the truth, and the Government must also be a partner in the truth factor in America.

BRINGING TOGETHER THAT WHICH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we come back fresh, relaxed; refreshed in the spirit of good will, working together, feeling good; feeling good about having been away, frankly, away from the partisan ship, away from the negativity, away from the acrimony. And we come

back with the high hopes for balancing our budget, for bringing together the things that the American people want.

I am reminded of something that Abraham Lincoln said over 100 years ago, and I wanted to share it with the House in the hopes that it might encourage my colleagues to bring this spirit in the next 100 days.

He said: "You can't bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You can't strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You can't help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You can't further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You can't keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You can't build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

SUPPORT FOR FREE SPEECH

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the Oklahoma City tragedy has spread some connective tissue among Americans. It has compelled us not only to recognize our fragile vulnerability, but to reaffirm our basic unity. I am bemused by the new crop of civil libertarians the crisis has awakened. They are a welcome sight, especially those who regularly vilified others who defended unpopular speech on the left and right. Talk show hosts and Members of Congress now often sound like card-carrying members of the ACLU.

I hope that the new found zeal for civil liberties carrier forward when the next bill to curtail them comes to the floor, or when the militia come at us from the left instead of the right.

As a young constitutional lawyer, I was put to the first amendment test when I was called on to defend racists and neo-Nazis. I really had no choice. Surely now we know that none of us do. Free speech is unequivocal, unpolitical, and indivisible.

REAUTHORIZATION OF LEGAL SERVICES

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, very soon now the Congress of the United States will be taking up the vexatious issue of the reauthorization of Legal Services. Over the years, the original purpose of this effort to help the poor has become warped and expanded, and sometimes described as out of sight from the original purpose. The shade of opinion as we sit here today ranges from an attempt to zero it out entirely to expanding even further the powers that already are vested in it.

We intend in our committee, in the Administrative Law Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary, to take up this issue through a reauthorization set of hearings, possibly beginning next week. At that time we will let the American public know what these opinions are. Should we expand the powers of Legal Services or should we zero it out, or perhaps somewhere in the middle. To go back to the original purpose, to allow the poor to have access to the courts, should be the guiding light of what we finally do with Legal Services in our country.

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TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and I wish to pay tribute to all Federal employees who are so dedicated in their service to our Nation.

At 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, April 19, when the blast leveled half of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, Federal employees were helping veterans receive benefits and other assistance they need; Federal employees were helping poor families afford decent housing and to one day own their own home; Federal employees of the Social Security Administration were helping seniors obtain retirement benefits they so rightly deserve, and Federal employees of the ATF and FBI were working to make our streets safer and our lives more secure.

Ironically enough, we saw the clearest evidence of the invaluable work of Federal employees after the Oklahoma City bombing. We saw Federal employees from FEMA go to Oklahoma city to help free victims from the rubble of steel and cement and help save lives. We saw Federal employees of the FBI quickly respond with an all-out manhunt which produced the prime suspect within hours of the bombing. We saw Federal employees here in Washington volunteering their accrued leave time for the benefit of the survivors of the bombing.

Mr. Speaker, it is the dedication of these Federal employees that truly makes our Nation a united one in times of crisis and hardship.

REVOLUTION SWEEPING ACROSS AMERICA

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, it certainly is an honor to be here this morning, and it was an honor to be back in my district during the break and see the excitement that people had