

The President just had a news conference at the Rose Garden. Again, I want to point this out, he said that the Congress basically is going to be clipping his wings. He needs more power in foreign affairs. The truth of the matter is that he has had all the power in foreign affairs.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally in order that the House may receive a message.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana) 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.

□ 1637

#### AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT OF 1995

The committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK].

Mr. BROWNBACK. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

I just wanted to clarify one other point, if I could, of what is taking place here.

There has been some discussion about Radio Free Asia, and I do not touch any of the funding for Radio Free Asia in the amendment that I am putting in front of this body.

Furthermore, I just would point out that I think the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] makes some good points about what has the foreign aid been used for, at different points in time. Is it really being used for foreign aid, or is it being used for some forms of corporate welfare, like Robert Riech, the Secretary of Labor, has talked about? I think there is a fair amount, and with the streamlining with this reasonable 3-percent cut, we can hope to get back some of that.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I urge my colleagues to support the gentleman from Kansas in order to bring this bill within the budgetary resolution so that we can move forward.

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, let me first begin my remarks by complimenting the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations for bringing to the floor of the House the first attempt to change the basic course of American foreign policy in several decades.

H.R. 1561 does send a message that America will no longer tolerate nations who receive the helping hand of the United States at the same time they thumb their noses at our generosity by voting against us at the United Nations.

That said, Mr. Chairman, the Committee on International Relations needs to do more. America's foreign policy structure needs to be overhauled immediately. The current system is a relic of the 1950's and 1960's.

The State Department is a labyrinth of competing and overlapping agencies, offices and bureaus whose redundancy and waste has hampered our national interest over the last 30 years. It is up to this Congress to abolish the residue of the cold war and bring the State Department in line with the diplomatic and security needs of the American people as we head into a new century.

Mr. Chairman, the new Republican Congress was sent to Washington to get America's priorities straight. Last week we began the glide path toward a balanced budget. It is not an easy process.

We will eliminate entire Cabinet departments, cut out the welfare programs of the 1960's, and end most Federal subsidies across the board.

Each of us has heard from students, seniors, veterans, and farmers in our districts. Many of them are upset, and they are looking at this bill. They have every right to be. How can we go home and say we are cutting out Commerce, Energy, and Education and perhaps HUD, and reducing the size of every Federal department at the same time we leave the State Department virtually untouched? Despite what some in Foggy Bottom and the bureaucracy there will tell you, will, cuts that are proposed by the Brownback amendment are not Draconian cuts, and the cuts which I would suggest that we also put into the process are not Draconian cuts.

According to the report the chairman, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH], delivered to the House last week, the State Department budget has grown from \$1.7 billion in the mid-1980's to \$2.6 billion this fiscal year 1995. The Budget Committee's review notes that the continued increase in State Department funding has come from the growth in salaries and expenses, areas that should be addressed.

We need to wake up the State Department. We need to send the word that business as usual has ended.

I am sure that some will say that any cuts in the State Department will hurt our fight against terrorism and out-of-control immigration. Such cuts will do no such thing. The way to combat terrorism and immigration abuses is not to spend more on bureaucrats and diplomatic staff, but it is to boost the morale of our foreign and domestic intelligence agencies, to increase the rapid response capability of our Armed Forces, and to lower the numbers of people who can come to this country at any one time.

Mr. Chairman, the State Department employees over 33,000 people. We have over 300 embassies, consulates, consular agencies, and missions overseas.

The committee bill folds the USIA, the ACDA, and AID into the State Department, and in that sense the bureaucracy will continue to grow. The cuts proposed by both the Committee on International Relations and the Clinton administration merely accept the status quo, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.

As the American people said last year, the status quo is not good enough. America's foreign policy priorities need radical surgery. We can start the process by cutting the fat at Foggy Bottom.

We need to tell the American people we are serious about cutting the budget and we are serious about streamlining and downsizing the bloated bureaucracy at the State Department.

□ 1645

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FUNDERBURK TO THE AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROWNBACK

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment to the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FUNDERBURK to the amendment offered by Mr. BROWNBACK: In the matter amending section 2101(a)(2) of the bill (relating to authorizations of appropriations for salaries and expenses of the Department of State) strike "\$355,287,000 for the fiscal year 1996" and insert "\$337,522,265 for the fiscal year 1996 and

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK] is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his amendment.

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Chairman, this amendment reduces the bill's authorization level for State Department salaries and expenses for 5 percent for the fiscal year 1996.

Mr. Chairman, I feel that since we are asking the American people to cut the rate of growth and to cut in actual expenditures across the board, that the Gilman and the Brownback bills and amendments have cut USIA, ACDA, and AID drastically but have only asked for a very minimal cut of 1 or 2 percent in the State Department. The State Department should not be sacrosanct, and I feel, having worked in the State Department as a U.S. Ambassador overseas for 4 years, that there is a lot of waste and that we have too much money being spent in that area, in the modern age of high technology and instant communications, and what we have had and what we have seen there in the last few years is that, while other Government agencies and programs are being cut back or using a reasonable measure of trying to cut wasteful expenditures, we have actually had an increase in the building of consulates in countries where we really have no major problems and an increase in the building of embassies, and the salaries have been increasing at too high a level.

Now most of the people in this country are being asked to tighten their