

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will notify all Members that Members should address the Chair during 1-minutes.

□ 1040

HOUSTON ROCKETS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP IN REMARKABLE PLAYOFF SWEEP OF ORLANDO MAGIC

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, as Gene Petersen, long-time voice of the Houston Rockets is fond of saying, "How Sweet It Is."

Last night the world champion Houston Rockets completed one of the most remarkable playoff runs in NBA history by sweeping the Orlando Magic. Given little respect by the so-called experts after winning their first world championship, the Rockets claimed their second consecutive world championship by rewriting NBA playoff history.

The numerous individual and team records set by the Rockets during this playoff run include: being the first team to beat 4 teams with 50 or more wins on their way to a championship; the Rockets are the first team to claim their second consecutive championship by sweeping their finals opponent; the Rockets were the lowest seeded team to ever win a championship. Some of the individual records set include Kenny Smith's seven three pointers in game one for a single game record, and Robert Horry setting a single game record for steals with seven.

And, what an accomplishment to see the return of the powerful Houston duo Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon avenging the 1983 NCAA finals loss.

Of course, what the Rockets accomplished during this playoff run isn't about records. As Rudy "T" declared last night, it's about "the heart of a champion." We could learn a lot from this team, staring elimination in the face five separate times, the Rockets consistently rose to the challenge. As a result, they are again in their rightful place atop the basketball world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN ACTION ACT FOLLOWS SUPREME COURT'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION DECISION

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding racial preferences and quotas.

In a country where everyone asks to be treated equally, this decision moves us closer toward such a reality. As Justice Clarence Thomas stated in his

opinion, "government cannot make us equal; it can only recognize, respect, and protect us as equal before the law."

But the Court's decision does not go far enough. This Congress should work to end all discrimination, including preferences and quotas. In the spirit of equality, I am introducing legislation this week which will promote equality. The American Action Act will ban racial and sexual discrimination against any individual in employment, education, and contracting. The concept of this legislation is simple: All discrimination must end.

THE HOUSTON ROCKETS AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was almost getting ready to put on this hat this morning, but I hope my colleagues will be able to know where I am and where I stand.

Hakeem Olajuwon, Sam Cassell, Kenny Smith, Clyde Drexler, Mario Ellie, Rudy T., Les Alexander, and many, many others who stood before the American people said, "We have heart, we have soul. We have character, and we have perseverance."

Mr. Speaker, my hat is off, and sometimes it is on, to the National Basketball Association champions of 1995, the Houston Rockets.

But let me say something else. I salute the city of Houston, the State of Texas, and, yes, the Houston fans, because it is all about people gathering together, supporting folks who determine to do the right thing and never say die, never say that we cannot do it. That is the American dream. That is what this Congress is all about. That is what the Democratic Party stands for, that we believe in people.

Let me also salute those in the Houston Rockets who have given of themselves to the inner city youngsters in my district, for do my colleagues realize that the Houston Rockets have provided for basketball programs in our city parks and support our city parks by keeping them open late hours so that youngsters will have something to do?

I salute the Houston Rockets. What other team has come from out of the ashes, stood up, and said to America, "Yes, we can"?

Congratulations to the 1995 National Basketball Association champions, the Houston Rockets.

CLINTON'S TOP 10 REASONS FOR PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, Bill

Clinton's top 10 reasons for proposing a balanced budget:

No. 10, Hillary: Out of town.

No. 9, I did what?

No. 8, time to really tick off GEP-HARDT.

No. 7, sneaking suspicion that Republicans have been right all along.

No. 6, tired of being irrelevant.

No. 5, if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.

No. 4, only way to get networks to cover him.

No. 3, ploy to get DAVID OBEY to join his fan club.

No. 2, too much McDonald's coffee.

And the No. 1 reason Bill Clinton proposed a balanced budget: Newt envy.

CLINTON BUDGET: TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE, AND TOO EXPENSIVE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have yet to hear more than a handful of Democrats praise the President's budget sequel.

I believe 10 years is too long to balance the budget—especially after he promised to do it in 5.

His budget does give future Congresses, like those in the past, more chances to overspend again.

It does give little of the tax relief the House budget does.

And it does add several hundred billion dollars to our overwhelming national debt.

Still, you would think that more of our colleagues on the left would give the President credit for moving toward saving our children's future.

But come to think of it, the President did not do other liberals much of a favor.

He just undercut all the people we have heard cry wolf about Republican budgets.

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton budget sequel is too little, too late—and too expensive.

Still, I am surprised his own party has not given him a little credit for showing a little concern about balancing the budget.

THE FARM FREEDOM ACT

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. ZIMMER] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], are sponsoring what they call the Farm Freedom Act. It is, to be kind, a very short-sighted proposal that would have a devastating impact, not just on rural America, but on urban America as well.

All of the Members of this House, urban and rural, suburban, have to understand that we are all in this together. Agriculture is our Nation's No. 1 industry. It is larger than Chrysler, Ford, and GM combined.

The ag sector provides 16 percent of our Nation's gross domestic product, and one of every six jobs.

And our ag exports are one of the few bright spots in our Nation's overall trade picture.

Mr. Speaker, adoption of this bill would cause severe economic dislocation and job losses, not just in agriculture, but throughout our entire economy. It is a very, very bad proposal.

THE MAGIC WILL BE BACK

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the National Basketball Association champions, the Houston Rockets. Clearly this year the better team won the series that just was played between the Rockets and the Orlando Magic, but I want my colleagues to know that I and the people of Orlando are mighty proud of the Orlando Magic. They had a terrific season. They gave Orlando a wonderful experience. I have never seen our community more tightly drawn together for any one cause than they were during these playoffs around the Magic. They were the eastern division champions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to specifically congratulate: Shaquille O'Neil, Anfernee Hardaway, Horace Grant, Dennis Scott, Nick Anderson, Brian Shaw, Anthony Bowie, Jeff Turner, Donald Royal, Anthony Avent, Tree Rollins, and Brooks Thompson, the players, coach Brian Hill and his wonderful staff, and the ownership and management team of Rich DeVos and Bob Van der Weide and their group.

The Magic will be back. Wait until next year.

STANFORD STUDENTS SEND 20,000 LETTERS SUPPORTING STUDENT AID

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

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, in April I addressed hundreds of students at Stanford University, which I am privileged to represent, about Republican proposals to cut Federal aid for higher education. At that time I said that if student aid was important to them, they needed to educate themselves about what was happening in Congress and become involved.

And get involved they did.

The Associated Students of Stanford University Senate allocated \$1,000 to fight Republican cuts to student aid—aid which assists over half of Stanford's student population. This effort culminated in a 48-hour letter-signing drive which generated 20,000 signed letters to budget resolution conferees protesting these ill-conceived cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be prouder of the Stanford student body. I hope

my colleagues on the conference committee will reconsider these budget cuts which would undermine America's commitment to higher education, America's ability to compete in a world market, and America's investment in our future.

TIME TO TARGET THE IRS FOR POLITICAL REASONS

(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, the IRS says our investigation of the National Rifle Association is not politically motivated. Right. Who is kidding whom? How can the IRS make that statement with a straight face?

The truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, plain and simple, the Internal Revenue Service has targeted the National Rifle Association for political reasons. My colleagues know it, I know it, and the American people know it, and I want to say this:

I think it is time for the Congress of the United States to target the Internal Revenue Service for political reasons, and that political reason is very simple. Here in America the people govern, and it is time that the Internal Revenue Service get that message. Think about it.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL ENDING FEDERAL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced H.R. 1764, legislation to eliminate over 160 Federal affirmative action programs ranging from public employment to education. Mr. Speaker, affirmative action is an affront to the dignity of every American. It is an assault on the principle that no American should be handicapped or advanced simply on the basis of his skin color. It has been 40 years since Little Rock and almost 35 years since the hoses were shut down in Birmingham. As Bruce Fein points out in yesterday's Washington Times, "Special preferences for minorities and women have dominated civil rights laws for the entire adult lives of the 18 to 40 years old group."

Mr. Speaker, to continue to see America through the prism of racial entitlements reinforces the same type of dangerous thinking that led to slavery and Jim Crow. No matter what face the liberals put on it there is nothing good about racial discrimination in any form. Calling affirmative action "benign discrimination" is obscene. It is about time the liberals recognize that we are all one people in this country. We are all American. Let us do something right for our children, let us end affirmative action as we know it.

WHY THE REPUBLICANS ARE CUTTING MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, why are the Republicans cutting Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest people in our society? We should be strengthening our Medicare system, not using it as a piggy bank or a cash cow to let the wealthiest individuals in the corporations take advantage of middle income people in America today.

If we really want to strengthen Medicare, we should shut down some of these corporate tax loopholes and expenditures totaling about \$225 billion a year and corporate pork and help our senior citizens and their families make ends meet.

I say to my colleagues, Let's give our senior citizens help with the cost of prescription drug care, with long-term care, not cut their deductibles like the Republicans want to do, or increase their premiums or raise their deductibles as the Republicans want to do. Let us do that, and let us make the wealthiest in our society pay their fair share.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DOES NOTHING TO SAVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the President of the United States into the budget debate, and I commend him for at least putting forward a balanced budget on the table, even if it does go 10 years, even if it does not cure the Medicare and Medicaid crises.

I heard the last speaker speak for a second talking about how the Republicans were cutting Medicare. The fact of the matter is the President of the United States own commission came back to him and said, "Mr. President, Medicare and Medicaid are going to be bankrupt in the year 2002. You have got to do something about it." Unfortunately the President's budget does not do anything about it. It does not take care of the Medicare and Medicaid crisis. It still goes bankrupt.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan does take care of it, and, because of that, I think we need to move forward with the Republican plan, but at the same time I welcome the President of the United States and some of his advisers for finally standing up and showing a little courage, and daring to get into the arena and bloody themselves up instead of just saying, "No, no, no, that's not a good deal."

But we have got to do more. We have got to protect senior citizens. We have got to protect Medicare. We have got to protect Medicaid.

We invite the President of the United States and the Democratic Party to