

would then, I suppose, in all prudence, have to advise Members that pending action by the other body, we might be prepared to be working Saturday as well.

Mr. GEPHARDT. If the gentleman will continue to yield, obviously, betting is not allowed on the floor of the House, but I am sure that was a friendly wager and not a bet.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, I appreciate that. It is actually a penance that is paid for rhetorical aberrations.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, to reiterate again, I am sure the gentleman said it, but I want to make sure others heard it, the gentleman said there was a likelihood that we would be in session on Saturday and Sunday of this weekend, is that not correct?

Mr. ARMEY. I am afraid that is correct, and I think it is only fair that we advise Members of that possibility.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I thank the gentleman.

EXECUTIONS IN NIGERIA

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, on November 10, Nigeria's military junta, under the leadership of Gen. Sani Abacha, hanged eight human rights activists, including Ken Saro-Wiwa, president of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni people, and seven other human rights activists.

Mr. Speaker, this was an insult to humanity, and this behavior was outside the circle of civilized human behavior. "Nigeria is one of Africa's most richly endowed countries," the New York Times wrote in a recent article, "but a succession of military dictators has looted it and left its people impoverished. Since he seized power in 1993, General Abacha's tolerance for corruption and international drug dealing and his gross abuse of human rights have made matters considerably worse.

"Mr. Saro-Wiwa was targeted because he had been an effective leader of the Ogoni people who inhabit Nigeria's main oil-producing region. He mobilized campaigns to win compensation for environmental damage caused by the oil industry and pressed for a modest share of oil revenues to be diverted from the pockets of the military toward the needs of the Ogoni people." The editorial goes on to say, "This popular movement has brought military repression to Ogoniland."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Saro-Wiwa was executed, and he did nothing wrong. He did nothing wrong except speak out for the Ogoni people, for environmental protection, and for the end of the degradation of the environment of those people.

I think this Congress should call on Shell Oil Co. to use its leverage to encourage democracy and freedom of ex-

pression in Nigeria. I am pleased to say that the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank has decided not to make a \$100 million loan to Nigeria. I hope that this Congress, this House of Representatives, will speak out forcefully against the Nigerian Government and its repression of the Nigerian people, and that we should remember Mr. Saro-Wiwa for the hero that he is.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the full article which appeared in the New York Times.

The article referred to is as follows:

[From the New York Times, Nov. 9, 1995]

A DEATH SENTENCE IN NIGERIA

Gen. Sani Abacha's military dictatorship is moving quickly to execute Ken Saro-Wiwa, one of Nigeria's leading environmentalists and minority-rights leaders, after convicting him on trumped-up charges in a military court. Yesterday Nigeria's ruling council confirmed Mr. Saro-Wiwa's sentence.

Only outside intervention, especially by the United States and the international oil companies whose business keeps the Abacha regime afloat, can now save his life. President Clinton should speak out on Mr. Saro-Wiwa's behalf without delay.

Nigeria is one of Africa's most richly endowed countries, but a succession of military dictators have looted it and left its people impoverished. Since he seized power in 1993, General Abacha's tolerance for corruption and international drug dealing and his gross abuses of human rights have made matters considerably worse.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa was targeted because he has been an effective leader of the Ogoni people who inhabit Nigeria's main oil-producing region. He mobilized campaigns to win compensation for environmental damage caused by the oil industry and pressed for a modest share of oil revenues to be diverted from the pockets of the military toward the needs of the Ogoni people.

This popular movement has brought military repression to Ogoniland. The alleged crime for which Mr. Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni leaders have been sentenced to death, the killing of four moderate Ogoni chiefs, occurred during clashes between moderates and a militant young faction.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa was not even in the vicinity when these clashes occurred. The United States State Department has protested the lack of due process, and the British Foreign Office has strongly deplored both the trial and the death sentences. But more is needed, and fast.

International businesses should normally try to stay clear of domestic politics. But the direct connection of this case to the oil industry, the reliance of the Abacha regime on oil revenues and the looming threat of international sanctions make this an exception. Oil companies, especially Shell, historically the main producer in Ogoniland, as well as two American-based companies, Chevron and Mobil, should use their influence with Nigeria's Government in Mr. Saro-Wiwa's behalf.

TransAfrica, the African-American lobbying group that led the economic boycott campaign against apartheid in South Africa, has been urging an oil embargo against the Nigerian dictatorship. That is a drastic step, but it begins to look like the only way to slow General Abacha's ruinous course. By executing Mr. Saro-Wiwa, the general would powerfully strengthen TransAfrica's case. Justice demands not only the commutation of Mr. Saro-Wiwa's sentence but his immediate release.

THE BUDGET BATTLE

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last September the Republicans sent a continuing resolution to the President so that the Government would not shut down on October 1. We put in that continuing resolution enough time and money so that we could operate through all of October and part of November.

What did the President do? He ordered in travel brochures to see about his pending trip to Japan this week. When we asked him last week what he was going to do, he went out on the golf course last Friday.

We think there is a fundamental policy difference between ourselves and the President. We think that we need to protect our children's future. We need to come up with a plan that balances the budget in the year 2002 without any tax increases.

The President thinks it is a little bit better to work on his putting stroke out on the south lawn of the White House. We are not going to vote for a debt ceiling that does not have fundamental change in it.

We believe, as the last Democratic CBO director does, that the President is defending the low ground when he talks about Medicare premiums.

Let us make a few things perfectly clear. Medicare part B is optional. If the senior citizens do not want to pay the premium, they do not have to.

Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following article from the Wall Street Journal about the Medicare part B premium:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Nov. 14, 1995]
MEDICARE PREMIUMS ARE TAKING CENTER STAGE IN BUDGET BATTLE BETWEEN CLINTON, REPUBLICANS

(By Hilary Stout and Laurie McGinley)

WASHINGTON.—Laura Tyson, one of President Clinton's top economic advisers, went on national television this weekend to declare a "defining difference" between the White House and Republicans in the escalating budget debate: the issue of Medicare premiums.

And last night, President Clinton vetoed legislation to keep the government from temporarily closing down today largely because of an \$11 difference in monthly Medicare premiums.

The irony is that the GOP Medicare measure, which would raise the monthly premiums a few dollars to \$53.50 instead of lowering them on Jan. 1 as current law prescribes, is something that the administration could probably support in another context.

"I think, in a sense, the president is defending the low ground on this" says Robert Reischauer, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, now an economist at the Brookings Institution.

BEST WEAPON

Mr. Clinton objected to the stopgap spending bill for a number of reasons—including, he said, because its deep, across-the-board cuts would hurt education and environmental protection programs. But the White