

GOPAC have just been brought to light in documents filed in Federal court here in Washington. While now-Speaker GINGRICH chaired GOPAC, apparently the go in GOPAC meant go beyond the law. GOPAC was little more than a slush fund to subvert the Federal election law.

Quoting from those documents:

GOPAC routinely and continuously provided what was described as Newt support, expenditures for projects especially for Newt. GOPAC paid political consultants to help Newt think. Helping Newt was described as probably the single highest priority we've got in dollars. The expenditures total for Newt's support a quarter of a million dollars, not one dime of which was reported in accordance with Federal law.

Is it any wonder that Speaker GINGRICH refuses to act promptly on meaningful reform of our campaign finance laws when he would not even comply with the laws that we have on the books today? The GOPAC scandal is not going to go away. It is a serious violation of our laws. The Ethics Committee cannot duck it and this House cannot dodge it.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A BALANCED BUDGET NOW

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, 1995 President Clinton signed the following statement in a continuing resolution: "The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002." Yet, just a couple of days ago when asked whether the White House would prefer to put off the larger budget debate until next year's elections, the White House press secretary, Mike McCurry, responded in saying, "Debate next year during the national election, campaign when we should, as Americans have that kind of debate."

They are trying to avoid balancing the budget this year, but we know what the American public want. They proved it in 1992 when Mr. Clinton told them that he could balance the budget in 35 years. They proved it in 1994 when they elected a Republican Congress. They proved it in 1995 when the people and the Congress wanted a balanced budget again. Now, against the will of the American public and against the will of the American people, the President is trying to avoid balancing the budget.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we know what the American people want. It is a balanced budget. Let us give it to them now.

WE MUST REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF TAX BREAKS TO THE WEALTHY IF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID ARE TO SURVIVE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is crucial in the budget negotiations that are now taking place that the amount of the tax breaks for wealthy Americans be reduced in order to provide sufficient funds for Medicare and Medicaid. Otherwise, seniors and low-income Americans will not have quality health care, or in many cases will not have any health care at all.

As we see from this scale that we have shown before, the amount of tax breaks almost equals the amount of Medicare cuts for seniors. If we do not reduce this, there is no way we are going to have sufficient funding for both Medicare and Medicaid.

The Treasury Department recently came out with some statistics that showed conclusively that the Republican tax cut is heavily weighted toward the rich. They estimated that the richest 1 percent would rake in almost twice as much, or 17 percent of the tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, the message has to go to these budget negotiators that they have to reduce these tax breaks for wealthy Americans if Medicare is going to survive, if Medicaid is going to survive, and if we are going to continue to provide quality health care under those two Federal programs.

DEMOCRATS AND FEARMONGERING

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if, since the gentleman who just spoke is concerned about the cuts that the Republican plan is going to make in Medicare, if he would prefer then that we have a freeze. Would that satisfy the gentleman since, if he is concerned that we are cutting all of these programs, perhaps he would feel better about having a freeze in the programs? Would that work?

Of course it would not work, and the reason it would not work is that we are not cutting anything. In fact, if you see these numbers, you can see that the budget for 1995, the Federal budget, is \$1.5 trillion. It goes up to \$1.85 trillion in 2002.

What is unfortunate is that the minority wants to obscure the truth and obscure the facts and confuse the public about what is really happening, because by resorting to demagoguery and fearmongering and scare tactics, they believe that they can maintain a kind of tenuous political edge in the most disingenuous and exploitive way.

CONGRESS MUST VOTE ON SENDING TROOPS TO BOSNIA

(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, when our Founders drafted the Constitution,

the hottest debate centered around the power to declare war. Legislative history, legislative debate, legislative intent is absolutely clear. The Founders painstakingly articulated what they felt ensured, that in America no one person, no one person could place America at war or place Americans in harm's way.

Now after all of the political rhetoric, after all of the opinions by the military experts, after all of the analysis, after all of the newspaper writings and all the speeches, the fact remains that one person, one man, has decided to place troops in harm's way.

I believe that the Congress of the United States, who has abdicated the power in America where the people govern and turned it over to the White House, must vote on this issue. In America, no one man is deigned by the Constitution to have that power to place troops in harm's way. I think it is time to literally take our Government back.

NO MORE EXCUSES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for years politicians in Washington have paid lip service to the idea of balancing the budget. But when it came time to get the job done, special interests and weak backbones have always carried the day.

The new Republican majority made a commitment to end business as usual in Washington. We promised the American people that we would balance the budget so they could have more jobs, lower interest rates, and more take-home pay.

We have kept our word. After months of hard work and several tough votes, we put America's families and America's children above the politics of the past and passed the first balanced budget in 26 years.

Mr. Speaker, we have provided President Clinton with the opportunity to do the right thing. I sincerely hope that he seizes the day. The American people cannot afford to have the same old excuses and Washington gimmicks kill the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

ELISA IZQUIERDO

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, when we were all giving thanks, 6-year-old Elisa Izquierdo was beaten to death. Her death has been added to the brutal slaying of Debra Evans as the latest ploy for attacking assistance to the needy. This type of outrageous opportunism that takes tragedies and twists them for political gain is shameful and immoral.

Many have claimed that the welfare system is to blame for these deaths. Instead of getting to the heart of the