

said the appearance of corruption is spread all over GOPAC and the Speaker's fundraising. If he cannot abide by the laws that are in force, if there is not an appearance of corruption, we must get a report from the Ethics Committee, or we are part of the coverup. If you vote to table, you are covering up. Do not do it.

MORE COMPASSION FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. DURBIN. The Gingrich Republicans just do not understand the problems facing working families, but do not take my word for it. Take the word of the Consumers Union. I hope you are familiar with this organization. They publish Consumers Report. They are noncommercial, nonpolitical.

Yesterday, they analyzed the Gingrich Republican budget and its impact on working families, particularly when it comes to Medicaid, the program that pays for over half the cost of nursing homes across America.

Mr. Speaker, if you have a member of your family in a nursing home or if you anticipate that possibility, it is a troubling challenge to every family. It costs on average \$38,000 a year to keep a person in a nursing home, and the Federal Government picks up the lion's share of that cost so that families will not be decimated and bankrupted by this experience. The Gingrich Republican budget, according to Consumers Union, will force 395,000 long-term care patients off these Medicaid payments for nursing homes.

Now, what will happen to these working families? I wish they had the same sensitivity for working families as they have when they give tax breaks to the wealthy.

JOIN WITH US TO GOVERN

(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, I listened with great interest to my colleague from Illinois, and I dare say to find some of the most stunning fiction in this Nation one no longer needs to visit bookstores, one no longer need go to the library. Simply listen to the rhetoric chanted almost as a mindless mantra from those disciples of big Government who fail to understand one basic principle. You work hard for the money you earn, you ought to hang on to more of it and send less of it here to Washington.

The fact is, and we will repeat it again, we are not making these draconian cuts the other side attributes. We are restraining the rate of growth to save the very programs they purport to champion. Sooner or later, my friends on the other side of the aisle, the lib-

erals in this Chamber and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue will have to step forward with us and govern.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, we extend our hand. Join with us and govern. The American people deserve no less.

IMPOVERISHING FAMILIES IS NO WAY TO BALANCE BUDGET

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, no, we will not join in an effort that, as the report issued on Wednesday by the Consumers Union says, and these are the folks, my friends, when you go to buy your car, you look at the Consumer Reports to find out if you are getting a bum deal or if you are going to get a good deal.

Let me tell you what kind of a bum deal that the folks in this country are going to get. The Republican plans for the transformation of Medicaid may force thousands of American families into financial ruin.

Mr. Speaker, Medicaid pays the bills of 60 percent of nursing home residents in this country. Under the Republican plan, 395,000 of our Nation's long-term care patients are likely to lose Medicaid payment for their care.

Most appalling is that the Republican plan would repeal current regulations that protect the assets of the families of nursing home patients.

In fact, this bill would actually allow a State to place a lien on your home if your mother or father is in a nursing home and cannot pay the bill. Mr. Speaker, families should not have to hawk their homes to pay for the medical care of loved ones. Impoverishing American families is no way to balance the budget.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The Chair would remind the Members that we are in 1 minutes, and the Chair would appreciate it if Members would stay within 1 minute.

VOTING CARD WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CREDIT CARD

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, as one of those who came to Washington to change how Washington works, I found the last year so very interesting.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in the House use this plastic card. It is a card that we carry, and the interesting thing is, our friends on the left, the Democrats, for the last 26 years have used this card, their voting card, as the world's most expensive credit card, running up a \$4.9 trillion national debt.

What does that mean to the people in the land of Lincoln, my home State of

Illinois? Well, everybody's share is \$19,000 if we wanted to pay off that national debt. We have been operating under deficit spending for 26 years. Not since Neil Armstrong has Congress balanced the budget.

Just like every American family, Republicans are committed to living within our means. We have a plan which balances the budget over 7 years. We increase spending for Medicare by \$724 billion over 7 years. We increase Medicaid funding for the State of Illinois by 55 percent. We have a plan to balance the budget. We reform welfare.

Where is the Democrat leadership plan? Where is the President's plan?

CONGRESS OF BUSINESS, BY BUSINESS, AND FOR BUSINESS

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, a year ago Speaker GINGRICH signed what he called a solemn Contract With America to end Congress' cycle of scandal and disgrace. Yet all we see today is government as usual, even worse than usual.

Record levels of campaign contributions. The Washington Post reports that the majority whip is known as the hammer because he hammers people for contributions. Yesterday, we saw again more of this as we read in the Wall Street Journal how contributions are becoming more and more closely linked to legislative favors. While business should certainly be at the table, this has become a Congress of business, by business, and for business.

Then, finally, today we read, according to the FEC, that GOPAC, the Speaker's fat-cat PAC, gave him a quarter of a million dollars in hidden Newt support. Yes, we said yesterday disclosure for lobbyists but, of course, no disclosure for the Speaker. This bill came 5 years too late.

BALANCED BUDGET BONUS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget by 2002 means a bonus for current and future generations. Lower interest rates, for example, will mean that people from Michigan will save \$3,914 per year on an average fixed-rate mortgage. Students at Michigan State University would save, on average, \$584 on a 10-year student loan.

Republicans have passed a budget that balances by 2002, paving the way for American families to reap the benefits it will bring for our economy.

The President has produced no specific plan to balance the budget. His refusal to offer his own details not only risks missing this opportunity to have a balanced budget, lower mortgages,

cheaper student loans, and a more secure future. It would deny the people of Michigan, and all Americans, a brighter future.

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN
FICTION

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, truth really is stranger than fiction.

These budget negotiations are beginning to remind me of a movie that came out a few years ago.

You might remember it. A television weatherman wakes up in the twilight zone. He finds himself living the same day over and over and over again.

It was an amusing premise for a movie.

But, for the last month, the American people have been waking up every morning to the same budget nightmare. Only it is not a nightmare, it is inescapable reality.

It is a budget crafted by Speaker GINGRICH. Everyday the American people wake to confront the same Republican budget, the same deep cuts in education, in Medicare, and environmental programs.

Its a monument to misplaced priorities. They have put tax breaks for the wealthy first, and the interests of working families last.

Fortunately, a group of Democrats have put forward a sensible, 7-year budget—a budget that offers a path out of the twilight zone of posturing and positioning that now consumes Washington.

We owe it to the American people to take a look at this budget—a Democratic budget that protects our priorities and achieves real, concrete deficit reduction.

□ 1030

MISSING INGREDIENTS IN BUDGET
PLAN

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, when I talk to people at home, their biggest fear is that their children will not have the same future as they have had. One way to change that is to balance the budget so their children can have more jobs and more opportunities.

The Republicans have come out with a plan. The President says, "Well, I am for a balanced budget plan." Well, where is his plan?

We have come out with a reasonable plan that increases education and job training and student loan programs by \$25.7 billion over the next 7 years; Medicare spending by \$724 billion over what we spent over the last 7 years; a \$40.6 billion increase for veterans and welfare programs. All the important pro-

grams are increasing, but yet my friends across the aisle keep saying these are cuts.

That is incredible. Not only is the truth missing, Mr. Speaker, but also the President's plan to balance the budget.

CALL FOR ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT ON SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House quite properly voted unanimously for lobby reform. Last week it voted for Speaker GINGRICH's amendment, which I supported, to ban trips and dinners and even T-shirts. Why? To restore public credibility in this Congress.

But now the front pages of today's newspapers say that the Federal Elections Commission is filing a civil suit against GOPAC, the political action committee set up and run by Speaker GINGRICH. One concern: A \$10,000 check and a letter objecting to a regulatory problem.

Let me get this straight. No trips, no T-shirts, no ball caps, and yet the same person who voted against requiring the Ethics Committee to give a status report after many months of investigation of other charges against the Speaker will say that they stand up for reform. If ball caps are bad, how about \$10,000 checks in the mail? Or can you accept a T-shirt if it is wrapped around a check to GOPAC?

If you voted yesterday saying you were cleaning up Government, you must vote today to have the Ethics Committee give a status report on what cleaning up it is doing.

REPUBLICANS PROMISE
BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, we hear all this Chicken Little talk about how the end of the world is coming because of what the Republicans are doing to save this country for our children and our children's children. We hear that we are increasing spending on defense and we are making draconian cuts in social programs.

Let me just advise you that under the Republicans' plan defense spending will go down \$146.8 billion less than spending over the last 7 years, welfare up \$386 billion over spending in the last 7 years. The total increase for the Republican budget is \$2.5 trillion over the next 7 years.

When I was running for election last year people said to me, "Let's freeze Federal spending. Isn't freezing Federal spending a good way to balance the budget?" Well, we are not freezing Federal spending, we are increasing Federal spending substantially.

I think it is time that we laid the facts on the line here. We have a plan that will save this country for the next generation and the generation after that.

AGAINST REPUBLICAN BUDGET
PLAN

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget plan cuts to ribbons programs that are crucial to the development of our Nation's youth and the security of our Nation's seniors. Head Start, the summer youth employment program, and student loan programs are shredded. Medicare and Medicaid are bled by \$450 billion, doubling Medicare premiums and shredding the level of medical care, and forcing millions of families to choose whether to mortgage or sell their homes to pay for their parents' stays in nursing homes.

Yet while the sledgehammer falls on the heads of millions of middle- and low-income Americans and all our seniors and children, the Republicans want to eliminate all Federal income taxes on profitable multinational corporations, and they want to give people earning \$350,000 a year a \$10,000 tax break.

I do not support balancing our Nation's budget in this manner, on the backs of our seniors, the middle class, our children, and the poor. I commend the President for insisting on the wellness of seniors, children, and the environment, and I urge the President to continue to stand firm against the Republican budget agenda.

THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN
POLICY

(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, in order to judge Bill Clinton's policy in Bosnia, remember this President's track record.

First, he has opposed every legitimate use of American power for the last 30 years. When we deployed American troops to protect our national security interests, one thing was certain, Bill Clinton opposed it. He opposed it in Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf.

Second, he turned over direction of our foreign affairs to the whims of the United Nations high command. He turned a humanitarian mission in Somalia into a \$2 billion nightmare and wasted the lives of our finest soldiers in pursuit of something called nation building.

He then turned his attention to Haiti and used American troops to restore Aristide to power. Well, Aristide says he wants to stay in power and we have spent about \$3 billion making Haiti a