

Three guilty verdicts, one dismissed, one to be investigated, one pending. We are all in here together. The Committee on Ethics is our committee. It is a membership committee. It is our grand jury. I regret we have had to bring pressure to bear for them to act, to do what they were asked to do in the first place. This is a time to move forward in a more bipartisan and a more ethical process.

#### MORE IDEAS NEEDED FROM WHITE HOUSE ON BALANCING 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, it is without venom or vitriol that I rise today to respectfully suggest that the major story in Washington yesterday took place not here, but at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, where the President of the United States again opted for showmanship over statesmanship, wielding Lyndon Johnson's pen from 1965, the pen LBJ used to sign the Medicare Act even as the current President was vetoing the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. And, in doing so, again the President opted for fear over facts, when he talked about nonexistent cuts in the Medicare budget. That simply was not true.

Mr. Speaker, I would respectfully suggest that the President of the United States and his Cabinet-level officials get out a sharpened pencil, instead of LBJ's pen, and go to work formulating a plan to get us to a balanced budget in 7 years, because a sharpened pencil is what American families use around the kitchen table to decide how they are going to spend money.

And, oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, one unintended act of symbolism: When the President reached for LBJ's pen, there was no ink in the well. There are no ideas coming from the White House, nor from the minority.

#### DEFENDING AMERICANS LOOKING FOR A BETTER LIFE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, after the President's wise veto of the radical right budget, NEWT GINGRICH tried to bash the Great Society.

Well, I wonder if GINGRICH even wants a good society.

A good society protects the health and welfare of its most vulnerable—the Gingrich society hangs them out to dry.

But the Speaker thinks he can get away with that rhetoric since he used to be a history professor.

Well, let's talk history: the proud history of the Democratic party—and compare it with the sad history being written by today's GOP.

And the latest chapter: the Speaker's sharp rebuke by the Ethics Committee.

We Democrats are the party of FDR's New Deal that gave America economic security. Today's Republicans are the party of the New Deal—a shady book deal to give himself economic security. We are the party of Harry Truman who said the "Buck Stops Here." The Gingrich party tells GOPAC contributors "The Bucks better get here" if you want any help.

Democrats are the party of JFK's "Camelot"—today's Republicans are the party of "Scam-a-lot," as one Gingrich ethics scam after another comes to light.

Republicans try to defend the Speaker's millions in illegal contributions. We Democrats will defend millions of Americans looking for a better life.

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#### STRUGGLING OVER THE BUDGET

(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, today is December 7 and we remember that this is Pearl Harbor day. It was the beginning of the World War II struggle in the Pacific. Today we are starting another struggle over the budget. The President's budget is now available. It is hot off the presses, and I am very optimistic. I hope it is as close to the 7-year Republican plan as the President's Medicare plan is to the Republican Medicare plan.

According to James Glassman of the Washington Post, the expenditures in the President's Medicare plan in 2002 is within 2 percentage points of the Republican plan, 1.6 percent, actually. I am sure all of us have heard about the massive \$270 billion cuts to Medicare. Well, the President's plan is within 2 percentage points.

Mr. Speaker, let us get to the truth of the matter. After all, telling the truth is one of the Ten Commandments. We should move beyond this cheap talk. If the President's plan is that close, 1.6 percent, then maybe we can reach an agreement on the 7-year balanced budget plan. Then we will do what the American public wants, what the Congress wants, we will do the right thing and balance the budget in 7 years.

#### UNITED NATIONS SEEKS PROTECTION FOR CROATIAN CURLY-HAIRED PIG

(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, after an expensive study on endangered farm animals, the United Nations has determined that the world must protect the Croatian curly-haired pig. That is right, while millions are starving in Af-

rica, and many thousands are being slaughtered in Rwanda, the United Nations is immersed in animal husbandry.

If that is not enough to bust your chops, while the United Nations is studying the ham hocks of Croatian curly-haired pigs, with American tax dollars, I might add, American troops are landing in Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, I say the United Nations has officially become the mother of all pork. I question on the House floor today, I want to know what they are using to smoke those hams with. I think they are using something that is an illegal contraband everywhere in the world.

With that, I yield back the balance of all of the rest of this pork. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

#### DEMOCRATS VOW TO GET EVEN WITH SPEAKER GINGRICH

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, remember back when Speaker Jim Wright had to resign from Congress due to his ethics problems? Remember when the Democratic whip, Tony Coelho, had to resign from Congress due to his ethics problems? Back in 1989 the Democrats held NEWT GINGRICH responsible for Wright and Coelho and vowed to get even with him, saying they would destroy GINGRICH if it is the last thing we do.

Well, we have to give the Democrats credit for trying to do just that. Majority whip Bill Alexander filed 467 ethics charges against Speaker GINGRICH in 1989. All charges were resolved. This year the Democrats filed 65 charges against Speaker GINGRICH and all but 1 has been resolved by the nonpartisan Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. The last charge involves a complex Tax Code which an outside counsel will look at.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to quit all these ridiculous character assassinations and get down to the legislative business at hand and work on balancing the budget.

#### EAST TIMORESE SUBJECT TO WORST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE WORLD

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago today the small emerging nation of East Timor was brutally invaded by the nation of Indonesia. Over the past 20 years, the people of East Timor have been subject to some of the worst abuses of human rights in the world. More than 200,000 East Timorese, almost one-third of their entire population, have been killed or have died from starvation after being forced from their villages by Indonesia.