

Charge: Misuse of the House floor for apparently commercial purposes. Finding: GINGRICH guilty. Charge: Improper promotion of GOPAC. Finding: GINGRICH guilty. Charge: Commingling of political and official resources. Finding: GINGRICH guilty.

And the Rupert Murdoch book deal, so bad that the committee on a bipartisan basis strongly questions the appropriateness of what some will call capitalizing on your office and says we need even a new rule because of this impression of exploiting one's office for personal gain.

Now, all the GOPAC dealings, the tentacles of GOPAC, the tax-free foundations, the book deal, the college course, so bad that they have called in an independent counsel. Not some tax adviser from H&R Block, but an independent prosecutor to get to the bottom of this. Until that is done, an ethical cloud is going to linger over this Congress.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

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

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Committee has finally reached a unanimous conclusion about the wild attacks that have come from liberal Democrats against Speaker NEWT GINGRICH: Much ado about nothing.

They have concluded that 64 of the 65 charges brought to the Ethics Committee about Mr. GINGRICH were without merit. The 65th charge requires an outside counsel because it is narrowly focused on a technical tax law.

I urge the American people to focus not on the media hype, but on the big picture.

Republicans are trying to balance the budget for the first time in decades. We are doing this to provide a better future for our children, to get lower interest rates for families today, and for a stronger America.

Instead of joining with us to balance the budget, liberal Democrats have launched a smear campaign meant to derail our legislative agenda. And as the Ethics Committee has concluded, these charges are baseless.

I urge my colleagues to stop playing political football with the Ethics Committee. It was established to bring greater integrity and respect to this institution. When you drag the Ethics Committee through the mud, every Member of this House gets dirty.

AT LAST, AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last night, after more than 14 months of deliberations, the Ethics Committee found Speaker NEWT GINGRICH guilty of violating House rules on three counts.

The Ethics Committee has also taken the long overdue step of appointing an outside counsel or prosecutor to investigate Speaker GINGRICH and untangle the web of nonprofit and political slush funds he directs.

In addition, the bipartisan committee rebuked the Speaker for accepting a \$4.5 million book deal from media mogul Rupert Murdoch. In their words: "the committee strongly questions the appropriateness of what some could describe as an attempt by you to capitalize on your office".

Though long overdue, the ethics committee has begun the process of investigating the Speaker of the House. It is high time.

The committee found Speaker GINGRICH guilty of violating House rules on three occasions. Could this be just the tip of the iceberg? The special counsel will find out for sure.

TIME FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, when President Clinton vetoed the Balanced Budget Act yesterday, not only did he reject the first balanced budget to hit the President's desk in 25 years, he also vetoed the only plan that will save Medicare for the next generation.

Under the Republican budget plan, Medicare spending per beneficiary will increase over the next 7 years from \$4,800 to \$7,100 and the Democrats call that an unacceptable, draconian cut. The last time I checked, going from \$4,800 to \$7,100 is an increase, not a cut.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President to get his priorities in order. Does he want to help deliver a balanced budget to America, or does he want to try to demagogue the issue for political pints. The Republican majority wants a balanced budget. The American people want a balanced budget. It's time for the President to show leadership—give us a balanced budget.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROTECTION ACT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the last shutdown, I began this countdown on the floor to help Members understand the special outrage of closing down the Capital City.

Mr. Speaker, this is day 9 of the countdown to December 15. Mr. Speaker, 85 percent of the money in the D.C. appropriation is money raised from D.C. taxpayers. How would Members feel if the Congress used their own local money to shut down their district over a national dispute in which they were uninvolved?

The gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] says that the Federal shutdown was dumb, but shutting down the Dis-

trict of Columbia was dumber. The District of Columbia is already on the operating table suffering an acute financial crisis so severe that the city has a control board. Even a month-to-month continuing resolution would cripple the District of Columbia. Doling out money in small amounts makes it almost impossible to run a complicated city and pay obligations on time.

Mr. Speaker, that is why a bipartisan bill, the D.C. Fiscal Protection Act, is being marked up on Friday. It is the responsible and fair thing to do.

SUPPORT AMERICA BY SUPPORTING A BALANCED BUDGET NOW

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last night the President vetoed the only balanced budget seen in 26 years.

The President's veto is a blow to our children and the future of this country. To me a balanced budget means prosperity, it means growth, it means stability. It means that our children will live in a country that can give them more than it gave us. To me, it means freedom.

The President vetoed all this.

Republicans sent the President a balanced budget—not because it is good politics but because it is good for America. We see a future where there's workfare not welfare, where there's independence not dependence.

Republicans believe that people, not the Government, drive the Nation and they—not us have made it the best and most prosperous country in the world.

Support America—support a balanced budget now.

SPEND AND SAVE MONEY WISELY

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, when we pass a budget, we must make sure we protect our elderly, our students, and our working families.

One way to do that is by spending our health care dollars wisely.

The Medicaid Program is designed to supplement Medicare for the elderly and provide health care for children and the disadvantaged.

A plan aimed at preventing pregnancies among teenagers could mean significant savings in our health care expenditures.

Many in Congress have complained about the problem of teenagers having babies.

Demagoguery is easy; meaningful action and deeds are more difficult.

I hope we will get beyond the talk and pass a budget that is wise in how we spend money and how we save money, yet fair in how we protect the health of the old, the young, and the