

one other person from Maryland, but I have gotten no gifts. I know that time has been rushed and we have been doing a lot of things.

What I am going to propose today is that we have sort of like a continuing resolution so my birthday can extend from the 14th through the 21st, to give you all a chance to give me a gift. I do not want this to be a partisan affair. We should be bipartisan in this effort in every way. I do not want you to worry about the gift ban either, or about the fact that I missed your birthday and did not give you a gift. If you all start the charity, then I can respond. I want to thank you for this opportunity. Please keep me in your minds and your thoughts.

REPUBLICAN PARTISANSHIP WILL WRECK THE REPUBLIC

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

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about two subjects this morning. First, I am outraged over the Speaker's and the chairman of the Committee on Rules' declaration that they intend to gridlock action on the Ethics Committee recommendation to close the Gingrich loophole to prevent misuse of congressional offices for personal gain. This is a serious attempt to muzzle the Ethics Committee, and it must be stopped.

The second, I am also outraged, grossly disappointed, that last night this House could not put politics aside and send a clear message to our troops that they have our unequivocal support, our troops in Bosnia, and recognize their sacrifices in the service of our country. That is very, very sad. This kind of partisanship will ultimately wreck this Republic.

SAVINGS WILL PRESERVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, new estimates from CBO project an additional \$135 billion in revenue over the next 7 years. That is very good news, but those estimates are based mostly on gains resulting from optimism all around this Nation regarding our movement toward a balanced budget.

Now the bad news. As soon as the word was made public, old politics reared its ugly head: "Spend that money, spend that money." That is the old way. The problem, if we start spending this new, imaginary money, confidence in a balanced budget will drop and the money will not be there. The lesson: Do not spend that imaginary money. If we do our job, the money will be a bonus to our children by lowering the debt. We must beat back the old politics, save that money,

and protect the American dream for our children.

POLLS SHOW AMERICANS RESPOND TO THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, everyone is talking about signals and messages, but here are some facts and results from the latest New York Times CBS poll:

President Clinton has emerged from the Federal budget standoff with his highest public ratings in nearly 2 years, while House Republicans have lost much of the goodwill they enjoyed after their sweep of Congress last year.

Today President Clinton signed an American-led peace plan on Bosnia in Paris. Under his leadership, American-led peace initiatives in Northern Ireland and the Middle East are flourishing. Somehow, the other side does not want to give him credit for these achievements, but the American people are. The other side wants to shut the Government down, but the President and Senator DOLE want to achieve a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are responding to responsible Government, and not to politics.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD JOIN REPUBLICANS IN BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, 25 days ago, President Clinton promised in writing to sign a balanced budget agreement by the end of this year. It is now December 14. How much longer do the American people have to wait? Last week, the President vetoed the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. Last week, the President said "no" to a brighter future for our children and for our grandchildren.

I would like to read something that this same President said back in March 1994, and how he said it: "Why, then, are we confronted with an opposition party that just stands up and says 'No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no?'" Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to ask himself that same question: Why is he saying no, no, no, no, no, no, no, to balancing the budget? Come on, Mr. President. Join us in balancing the budget now.

OUR SPENDING MUST REFLECT BETTER PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we complicate

things so much here and we lose perspective, that when we are talking about a budget, it is about setting priorities. It is just like our budgets at home. What we spend our money on reflects our values and our priorities.

As we proceed with these negotiations that are going on, I hope we will keep that in mind and reject the priorities that were set out in the budget reconciliation bill that the House and Senate passed and the President vetoed. Those priorities are mean-spirited: more expensive, less accessible, and lower quality health care; less commitment to education; higher taxes for working people; less nutrition; less immunization, less protection, and more poverty for children; less safe drinking water, more air pollution, more exposure to toxic waste; higher State and local taxes; less taxes for the rich at the expense of the poor. We ought to reject those priorities and set some better priorities for our country.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUTS GO TO WORKING AMERICANS

(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, contrary to what the gentleman just said and contrary to what we have been hearing from the Democratic side, the tax cuts, all those billions of dollars, \$245 billion, are not for the wealthiest Americans. In fact, 89 percent, almost 90 percent, of the \$500 per child tax credit, that is the largest tax cut in our budget, goes to families making less than \$75,000 a year. Over the next 7 years, this pro-family credit will increase the take-home pay of the average American by \$7,000. I do not know about your district, but \$7,000 is a fair amount of money in mine. In Washington that may not sound like much money, but to the working parents of families who have children, they need that. That is a lot to them. It may help them on their mortgage payments, it may help them save for a college education. They can spend it as they will. It is their money in the first place. It should not have been taken from their pocket.

Mr. Speaker, we must put Uncle Sam on a diet and balance the budget, but we must allow working families to keep more of what they earn.

One other point. Balancing the budget and cutting taxes are not mutually exclusive. The Federal Government spends too much money, not because it taxes too little.

THE SPEAKER'S BALANCED BUDGET PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE VETERANS

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, in last month's continuing resolution agreement, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] and President Clinton committed to a balanced budget that "must provide adequate funding for veterans," but NEWT GINGRICH's current budget plan hurts veterans. That budget cuts health coverage for veterans, it increases costs for prescription drugs for veterans, it hikes costs for veterans' home loans, and it even cuts some pension benefits for veterans. That budget provides \$400 million less than what the veterans' health system needs in fiscal year 1996 to provide current quality health care for veterans. Many of NEWT GINGRICH's own Republican Members objected to this cut until they had their arms twisted by their leaders. NEWT GINGRICH should live up to his commitment to a balanced budget that gives veterans what they deserve.

PRIVATE PROPERTY IMPACTS OF H.R. 1020

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to express my strong opposition to H.R. 1020, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1995. My colleagues have heard many, many reasons why H.R. 1020 is not a good bill. I have discussed at length how H.R. 1020 would preempt States rights, slash environmental standards, bust the budget agreement by \$4.2 billion, and today I will tell my colleagues how it endangers the rights of private property owners.

H.R. 1020 proposes that thousands of shipments of high level nuclear waste be shipped from the 109 reactors around the country, across 43 States to Nevada. As written, there is no language in H.R. 1020 to protect private property rights. I know that and many of my colleagues and I are strong supporters of private property rights. As this nuclear waste travels across our local communities, there is no protection for private property owners if their property is devalued. A recent case was decided in Santa Fe, NM, that accurately describes the reality of this situation. The New Mexico State Supreme Court ruled that Mr. John Komis, of Santa Fe, NM, be awarded more than \$884,000 for damages resulting from devaluation of his land due to the transportation of radioactive waste past his property. Your constituents, whether in Wichita, KS; Medford, OK; or Charleston, WV, or anywhere along the transportation routes, could suffer from this very same experience.

I intend to offer an amendment to H.R. 1020 to ensure that private property owners be compensated for any property devaluation. While this single amendment could in no way ever correct all the drastic problems with the legislation, it does provide a mechanism to protect the innocent property

owners from erroneous Government action. I urge my colleagues to protect their constituents and support my amendment.

THE SPEAKER SHOULD SUPPORT A BUDGET WHICH REFLECTS AMERICA'S PRIORITIES, NOT HIS OWN

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last month, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. GINGRICH] shut down the Government because he did not like his seat on Air Force One. But now he is at it again, and while the President and the Republican leaders of the other body work together to negotiate a budget deal, Speaker GINGRICH can only offer obstruction. Why is the Speaker determined to shut down the Government again?

□ 1030

Was he invited to breakfast at the White House and got only one piece of toast and President Clinton got two? Who knows. What we do know is that the Speaker is using the threat of a Government shutdown to force his budget priorities on the American people.

My colleagues on the other side have said that the polls show that the American people know what is going on. In fact, they do know what the Republicans are doing here, and they do not like it. They oppose a budget that cuts Medicare, education, environmental protection to finance a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

So, Mr. GINGRICH, quit playing games. Give the American people an early Christmas present, a budget which reflects America's priorities, the priorities of the people of this country, not yours.

LINGANORE LANCERS ARE NO. 1

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, there is life outside the Congress.

I rise today to recognize the achievements of Linganore High School—the Lancers—and its three 1995 State championships. This fall, the Linganore girls cross-country team and team member Kristen Ritter won the State Division 2-A team and individual State championships.

Most recently, Linganore's football team won its third State championship in Division 2-A.

It last won the championship in 1991. The Lancers' first State football championship was earned in Division 3-A in 1989. I am very proud that a member of my staff, Jeff Jones, started as the middle-linebacker on that first championship team.

First year Linganore head football coach Bill McIntosh deserves a lot of credit for nurturing these fine young men into a winning team.

The 1995 State championships were a great and difficult goal.

The Lancers set their sights on achieving that goal. Then they went out and made it happen—three times so far this year.

May the example of the 1995 Maryland State Champion Linganore High School girls cross-country team, Kristen Ritter, and the football team inspire those of us in Congress to achieve our goal of a balanced budget in 7 years.

ETHICS COMMITTEE NAILS DOWN BOOK ADVANCE LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I think every Member of this body 1 years ago felt embarrassment when we learned that the incoming Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, was about to pocket \$4.5 million under an extraordinarily book deal that would have richly benefited him and the individual seeking to pay him, an individual with substantial stake in the legislation to come before this Congress.

The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, in a bipartisan, unanimous vote, has voted to make certain that never again will we have a Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, or a Republican or a Democrat ever again try and cash in in this fashion by nailing down the book advance loophole.

I was shocked to learn in this morning's papers, Speaker GINGRICH is trying to delay indefinitely this measure from coming up for a vote in the House, and other Members of the Republican leadership are on board in trying to delay us or stop us from having a vote on this good Government reform.

Think again, Mr. Speaker. Think again, Republican leaders. The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has spoken and we will have a vote, either under your auspices or under a discharge petition.

ETHICS COMMITTEE'S REFORM STALLED

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has unanimously voted to close the loophole on outside income limitations for Members of Congress from book royalties. Now the Speaker and the majority leader and the Committee on Rules chair all inform us that there will be a stall in that reform. I think that is a very sad day.

I wrote the code of ethics under which 18 Members of this House have