

DOWN PAYMENT ON AMERICA'S
FUTURE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that even after a very compelling State of the Union Address, the President still only pays lip service to a balanced budget. He spoke of a smaller Government, of reforming welfare and Medicare and of limitless possibilities for the 21st century. Well, the truth is, he has vetoed the very legislation that would implement these changes and proposed countless new programs.

Balancing the budget is not a partisan issue. It is an American issue. We need to find a way to do it—to work together as the President urged. I fear, however, that the President remains a congenital liberal, taxing and spending away America's future. Unless the President is willing to make hard decisions, such as reforming entitlements, we will never get a handle on unwieldy Federal spending. Right now, entitlement programs alone, account for more 50 percent of Federal outlays. We cannot continue on this path.

My Republican colleagues and I will continue to work for a balanced budget. While it may not be possible with this President, we can make a down payment. The funding bill before us today takes those critical first steps. It continues to fund existing programs for which the President has not signed a regular appropriations bill, reducing spending on many bloated programs, and eliminating some which have proven to be ineffective.

Mr. Speaker, the President has talked the talk, but it is time for him to walk the walk. He made a commitment to the American people on Tuesday night not to shut the Government down again. This funding measure gives him the opportunity to not only keep his word to the America, but to make a down payment on a balanced budget and a better future for the generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL S. WIENS
ST. JOHN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's more dedicated and caring individuals, Michael S. Wiens St. John. I wish that I could be with his colleagues, friends, and family tonight as we celebrate his remarkable accomplishments.

Michael is particularly recognized for serving the people of Marin County in his capacity as search and rescue operations coordinator and he has earned the reputation for saving lives. He has been working for many years to improve and coordinate our emergency response system in Marin County. I wish to recognize Michael for his commitment to the people of Marin County, and to thank him for his long record of public service.

He has been a role model for young men and women and he has devoted the better part of his life to helping others. Michael

Wiens St. John has been instrumental in planning and implementing changes that improve the quality of Marin County emergency response, and, for developing interagency collaboration. He is largely responsible for taking what was a search and rescue program with less than a dozen members and making it into what it is today—a very well organized and recognized unit of 60 trained individuals. I continue to be impressed by his dedication and vision.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Michael S. Wiens St. John during this special evening at the Alta Mira. Marin County owes a great deal of gratitude for the tireless efforts of Michael Wiens St. John over the years. Time and time again he has extended himself on behalf of many people and for many causes. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Michael and to his wife Nancy for continued success in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained, due to pressing personal business during both votes on Thursday, January 25, 1996.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on House Resolution 342, "yes" on the motion to recommit on H.R. 2880, the short-term continuing resolution, and "yes" on final passage of H.R. 2880.

ROMANIA IS HELPING PEACE
EFFORTS IN ANGOLA

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Government of Romania for its contribution to the U.N. peacekeeping force in Angola. It is heartening to see that Romania is willing to spend its own limited resources to help maintain peace and stability in an African country that has witnessed so much tragedy and fighting.

Romania currently has nearly 1,000 peacekeepers in Angola, which is the second largest national contingent in the U.N. force. Romania has also established a program to help train and educate Angolans so that they can better rebuild their country and has contributed 54 medical personnel to run a 40-bed hospital. Romania is involved in these efforts even though they have no economic or geopolitical interests in the region. As far as I can tell, Romania is participating in this humanitarian venture because of a commitment to the United Nations and a sense of responsibility to fellow human beings.

Democracy in Angola is important to the stability and the vitality of the region. In the post-Cold War era, we as a nation must work with other countries to help promote democracy and freedom throughout the world. I am pleased that Romania, despite facing its own

challenges as it moves toward a market economy, understands the importance of supporting democracy elsewhere in the world. Romania's participation in the peacekeeping force in Angola is an important reminder that we are all part of the international community and have a responsibility to help each other.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I enter the following story into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This story was written by Nancy Welch. It was printed in the Statesboro Herald on December 10, 1995:

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

(By Nancy Welch)

President Clinton stood on a podium draped with army camouflage. Soldiers stood in formation on the parade field in front of him. Their families dotted the surrounding hills. It was gray and foggy. He tried to cheer them. He told the soldiers they would soon be leaving for Bosnia, not to worry, they would be back in a year or so.

I shivered, aware of that damp cold that so often enshrouds the small village of Baumholder, Germany. I could almost feel the snow stinging my face and my feet turning icy cold.

But the real chill hit my heart.

I remember too well the time I spent in Baumholder. On top of a mountain. Caring for babies. Doing laundry. Washing dishes. Being frightened.

The cold war still raged. The enemy sat just across the East German border. And our husbands were constantly put on alert.

The days of fear would begin before dawn. An MP car with a loudspeaker would cruise the streets of the military housing areas.

"This is an alert. Report to your units," would be the deafening words from the speaker. We would be jolted awake. All over the area men would rise from their beds, jump into their uniforms, grab their gear, kiss the wife and kids and leave.

We never knew at that early hour whether they would be gone an hour, a day, a month or a year. We wouldn't find out until later in the day whether the early morning call to arms was a practice or for real.

As the snow fell on the foggy mountain, we wives turned to each other for any news a husband might smuggle through. We drank hot tea and offered moral support. We continued to take care of the children, do laundry, cook, wash dishes and fight the cold fear that nagged at the pits of our stomachs.

Sometimes there was good news. Just as the early dark of winter fell, the call would come. He would be home for dinner.

But other times it would be weeks before the men would come home. It was awful.

But the wives of the soldiers in Bosnia today are faced with a greater challenge. They face at least a year, without their husbands, on the cold, snowy, foggy mountain in a country far away.

And they face the long separation just before Christmas.

My heart goes out to them. They will deal with so much. They will have to tangle with the Santa Claus wishes, do the tree, go to the school programs and church programs. They will have to put on a happy, hopeful face for the children.

They will have a strong support system. Military families do take care of their own.