

by. The people on the Republican side of the aisle argued that these tax breaks for wealthy people would somehow fuel the economy. If you just give the rich more money, they sense that somehow this economy will move forward. Well, President Clinton disagreed with that, I disagreed with it, and many Democratic leaders did as well. What we have to show for that decision to veto the Gingrich plan is an economy that truly is moving forward. We have seen 10 million new jobs created since President Clinton was elected as President. One might say, "Well, I'm sure every President does something like that, don't they?" Take a look back at the years of President George Bush. Over a 4-year period of time, we created 2 million new jobs in America, the slowest job creation in 50 years, and the slowest economic growth in half a century. Fortunately President Clinton's plan to reduce the deficit and get the economy moving forward again worked very well in creating jobs and bringing down interest rates.

For a lot of families across America, my own family included, we were able to refinance our home mortgage which meant a lower monthly payment. In fact we now find that we have the highest home ownership rate in 15 years in the United States. If we are talking about realizing the American dream and moving the economy forward, certainly job creation and home ownership are two things that are part of it.

Let me add one other element, reducing the deficit. The Republicans like to talk about being fiscally responsible, reducing the deficit. They tend to overlook the fact that under Presidents Reagan and Bush we had the most dramatic increases in the national deficit in the history of the United States of America. President Clinton came in and said, "I'm going to push a plan that's going to bring the deficit down and yet not strangle the economy." And it worked. We are now about to see the fourth straight year of deficit reduction in Washington, with no thanks to the Republican side of the aisle which did not give the President one single vote in the House or the Senate for his deficit reduction plan. Because of the deficit plan by the President, we have seen the deficit come down 4 straight years. The last time that occurred was the 1840's, over 150 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, things are moving forward. But there are things that this Republican Congress has failed to do which should be done in the closing weeks. There will be a lot of speeches, a lot of efforts by Members on the other side to somehow paint a pretty picture about the days of NEWT GINGRICH and Bob Dole and TRENT LOTT. They want to erase the image out of people's minds of this gridlocked Congress with the two longest Government shutdowns in our history. They want to try to get this image out of their minds of petulance and arrogance and say that perhaps we have accomplished great things.

Let us hope that beyond the speeches, they will do a couple of tangible things: First, pass the increase in the minimum wage. How in the world can we say to 500,000 people in my home State of Illinois who got up this morning, went to work, got the kids off to day care or to some summer program, went to a tough job, making \$4.25, \$4.50 an hour, that that is as good as it gets in America? Over the years we have increased that minimum wage so that young people starting out, so that families working to try to keep things together have a fighting chance. But the Republicans tried to stop us here in the House, they have tried to stop us in the Senate, and that bill even though it has passed both Chambers now, because a few Republicans defected and joined the Democrats, is still stalled. Why in the world have we not passed this minimum wage increase? We owe it to these working families.

Health care. If you talk to families across this country, one of their biggest single concerns is health insurance. The Kennedy-Kassebaum bill, a bipartisan bill by Senator KENNEDY and Senator KASSEBAUM, passed the Senate by a margin of 100 to 0. What it says is you cannot discriminate against people because of preexisting medical conditions when you sell insurance and you ought to be able to move your insurance from job to job and not be afraid to lose it. Simple, honest principles. We should see something positive come out of this Congress for working families across America.

#### FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the editorialists of the Omaha World Herald have prepared, I think, a thorough and telling critique of the Clinton administration foreign policy. I would like to share with my colleagues that editorial.

The document referred to is as follows:

[From the Omaha World Herald]

NATION HAS BEEN LUCKY TO AVOID SERIOUS TEST OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Americans have been lucky. The president they elected in 1992 displayed little expertise or interest in foreign policy. Still, he has held office during a time of relative stability. His administration has had to deal with few international crises.

However, the relative stability that came with the end of the Cold War may not continue. President Clinton's foreign policy is an important basis for judging his qualifications for re-election in November.

Events of the past few days have demonstrated why concerns about the president's judgment continue.

In Saudi Arabia, the monarchy has withheld evidence from U.S. investigators about a terrorist bombing in which 19 American servicemen died. The Saudis have also dismissed the suggestion that U.S. forces in that country ought to be moved into safer

quarters. Saudi Arabia has been called America's closest ally in the Arab world. This is not the way a resolute United States government would allow itself to be treated by its friends.

In Israel, the voters repudiated Clinton's preferred candidate, Shimon Peres. They elected as their prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who promised to pursue a more confrontational policy toward the Palestinians and neighboring Arab nations.

In the former Yugoslavia, the administration has quietly distanced itself further from its promise to remove U.S. troops by the end of the year. A pullout anytime soon would cause the region to erupt once again in civil war.

The administration's bumbling efforts to eliminate the influence of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic have been painful to watch. Moreover, it has been disclosed, the White House looked the other way as Iran's Revolutionary Guards established a strong presence, with guerrilla troops and a supply pipeline, in Bosnia. The administration informed Congress two weeks ago that the Iranians were gone, but indications are that some of them remained behind.

Riots in Northern Ireland call attention to the seemingly irreconcilable divisions that exist there. By swinging U.S. prestige to the side of the Irish Republican Army, Clinton injected the United States into a dispute in which America had no vital interests. In the process, he offended the British government. Then he made the administration look inept when the IRA broke its own cease-fire.

A contributing editor at Reason magazine, Michael McMenamin, has written that the IRA's strategy, which Clinton has aided by pressuring the British government to grant concessions, is to force the British to unilaterally withdraw from Northern Ireland, leading to sectarian war in the north.

"Any American government that doesn't understand this doesn't know Ireland, doesn't know the IRA, doesn't know the Ulster Protestants, and is helping to bring an Irish Bosnia closer," he wrote.

Clinton has presided over an unprecedented reduction in America's ability to use force as a foreign policy tool. More shrinkage lies ahead. George Melloan wrote in The Wall Street Journal that projected military spending in the next five years will be \$50 billion to \$100 billion short of what will be needed to achieve even the reduced force and procurement levels that Clinton military strategy envisions. Melloan noted that Bob Dole would arrest the slide in preparedness, as well as pushing promptly for a missile defense and expanding NATO.

China now has the ability to hit the U.S. mainland with intercontinental ballistic missiles. Yet Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been to Damascus 17 times and Beijing only once, Georgetown University diplomatic scholar Casimir Yost pointed out.

Concerns exist about how careful and competent this administration would be in a dangerous situation such as Presidents John Kennedy and George Bush had to face in the Cuban missile crisis and Gulf War, respectively. It's difficult to observe the Clinton approach without becoming seriously concerned about how effectively this administration would handle a major and sudden threat to vital U.S. interests.

#### MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.