

Floor of the House that remarks in debate may include references to personal misconduct on the part of the President.

While an inquiry is under way in committee, the committee is the proper forum for examination and debate of such allegations. In the meantime, it is incumbent on the House to conduct its other business, again quoting from the action of the House in 1909, "in an orderly manner and without unnecessarily and unduly exciting animosity among its Members or antagonism from those other branches of the Government with which the House is correlated."

This is not to say that the President is beyond criticism in debate, or that Members are prohibited from expressing opinions about executive policy or competence to hold office. It is permissible in debate to challenge the President on matters of policy. The difference is one between political criticism and personally offensive criticism. For example, a Member may assert in debate that an incumbent President is not worthy of reelection, but in doing so should not allude to personal misconduct. By extension, a Member may assert in debate that the House should conduct an inquiry, or that a President should not remain in office. What the rule of decorum requires is that the oratory remain above personality and refrain from terms personally offensive.

When an impeachment matter is not pending on the floor, a Member who feels a need to dwell on personal factual bases underlying the rationale on which he might question the fitness or competence of an incumbent President must do so in other forums, while conforming his remarks in debate to the more rigorous standard of decorum that must prevail in this Chamber.

The Chair will enforce this rule of decorum with respect to references to the President, and asks and expects the cooperation of all Members in maintaining a level of decorum that properly dignifies the proceedings of the House.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on either side.

#### IN SUPPORT OF PAUL MCHALE

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

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a Republican in strong support of my Democrat colleague, my fellow veteran and my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE). I rise to defend the gentleman because as an individual who admires the virtues of honor, courage and commitment wherever they are found, in Congressman PAUL MCHALE they are found in abundance.

Last month, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) called for

the President's resignation stating that, "perjury is not excused by an apology compelled by overwhelming evidence and delivered under pressure."

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) has served this country in uniform as a Marine and as public servant. He is a man of honor, courage and commitment who has stood fast to his convictions.

These convictions have led the gentleman from Pennsylvania to examine the course of conduct by the President and to reach a somber conclusion. As a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I, like others in this body perhaps are still examining, soul searching and analyzing the case, and that is also appropriate. However, what is reprehensible is the vilification to which Congressman MCHALE has been subject for exercising his First Amendment rights and voicing the views of his constituents.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE) has had his military record slandered. Rumors and innuendos have been whispered about his reputation. All of this White House mudslinging, because Congressman MCHALE has put honor above party loyalty.

These are times when every ounce of wisdom and courage will be required by all. It is not a time for smears on character when voices of conscience are raised.

I admire the honor, courage and commitment of Congressman MCHALE. To the President, order and stop these character assassinations by your staff and the defense team.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). The Chair would remind the Member not to refer to the words of others which refer to the personal conduct of the President.

#### NEW MORAL STANDARD TO REPLACE TRUTH AND JUSTICE

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, from the military to the Oval Office, America now has a new moral standard: Do not ask, do not tell. Do not ask, do not tell. What is next, Madam Speaker? Cannot ask, will not tell? Beam me up.

The First Amendment was never intended to hide truth. The First Amendment was intended to promote and preserve truth and justice.

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No wonder that values and morals in America have gone to hell. Just think about it. Congress aided and abetted this whole process when they removed God from our schools. Now we face the test, the test of morals and values.

#### ELIMINATE THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, let me ask a basic question of fairness: Is it right, is it fair, that the average married working couple with two incomes pays higher taxes, just because they are married, than an identical couple living together outside of marriage? Is it right that 21 million married working couples pay on the average \$1,400 more in taxes just because they are married? \$1,400 in the south suburbs in Chicago, that is one year's tuition at Joliet Junior College, three months' worth of day care at a local day care center in Joliet.

In the remaining weeks of this session let us go about doing the people's business. Let us ask the President to work with us. Let us help the middle class with the Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty. Let us do it now, and make it our top priority in the next few weeks.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL MINING CAUCUS, PRESERVE JOBS, AND BRIDGE THE KNOWLEDGE GAP ON MINING

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, whether it is just the pocket change in our purses or pockets, or our Nation's highways and bridges, or our personal computers, minerals are paving our Nation's way into the 21st century. Without the minerals and materials supplied by the mining industry, Americans could not have that small change in their pocket, bridges, roads, or that personal computer.

However, the mining industry yields more than just small change. In addition to acquiring metals for coinage, Uncle Sam reaps more than \$57 million in annual receipts from the mining industry. This does not include the \$27 million in State and local government collections from mining industry revenues.

Mining contributions to our Nation do not stop there. Mining in all forms pumps \$524 billion into the American economy. That is equivalent, Madam Speaker, to \$60 million an hour from mining.

Mining matters. It matters to each Member, it matters to Congress, and it matters to every American. I ask my congressional colleagues to join the Mining Caucus.

#### TIME TO PASS FURTHER TAX RELIEF AND HOLD THE LINE ON SPENDING

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, last summer Congress passed the Taxpayer Relief Act. This legislation cuts taxes on every stage of life, providing for a \$500 per child tax credit, a reduction on the family farm and family businesses at the same time of death, and a reduction in the tax on capital gains.

But Congress should go further. America is overtaxed. Not only is America overtaxed, but middle class families in particular are overtaxed. The economy is projected to produce a significant surplus over the next 5 to 10 years, and Congress should use some of that money for tax cuts.

There are many politicians in Washington who cannot wait to get their hands on that surplus so they can do what they always do with taxpayers' money, spend it. Washington is not careful with the taxpayers' money. It wastes too much, and it never seems to be held accountable for its failures.

It is time to change direction. We need to pass further tax relief, and we need to hold the line on spending. I urge my colleagues to support the Republican package of middle-class tax cuts.

#### CALLING FOR FURTHER TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, we recently marked the first year anniversary of the Taxpayer Relief Act, the first major tax reduction since the Reagan tax cuts of the 1980s. Let us face it, there would have been no tax cut at all were it not for a Republican Congress.

In fact, the last time the Democrats controlled Congress they did what Democrats can be expected to do, raise taxes. The Republican Party is the party of tax cuts, the Democrat party is the party of bigger government and higher taxes; two different directions, two different visions of what the people's representatives in Washington should do with other people's money.

Last year tax cuts were only a first step. The Taxpayer Relief Act reduced the tax on capital gains, cut the estate tax, expanded IRAs for middle class savers, provided a \$500 per child tax cut, and passed into law a host of other tax reductions. But this Congress would like to go further. We should eliminate the marriage tax penalty and pass more tax relief for middle class taxpayers.

#### THE "SCARE ME AL" DOLL

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it seems each holiday

season a hot new toy or doll takes the Nation by storm. Parents and kids line up and pay hefty prices for the item of the season. If it is not beany babies, it is a doll called Tickle Me Elmo.

If the Vice President has his way, this year's sensation will be a new doll called Scare Me Al. Scare Me Al is a carved wooden doll with one of those pull strings connected to prerecorded messages for our kiddies. It says things like, "Today was the hottest day in the history of the world." Pull the string again and Scare Me Al will tell your kids that unless you get rid of that sport utility vehicle that mom uses to drive them to soccer practice, the ice caps will melt and raise the sea levels until we all drown.

Scare Me Al is the perfect companion for all of the EPA taxpayer-printed coloring books and other literature which relate the same frightening global warming scare stories to the children K through 12. As for me, Madam Speaker, I would rather take my chances with the Clinton Justice Department, and buy my grandkids a new game of monopoly.

#### URGING INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES AGAINST MINORITIES

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concern for the victims of the rapes and riots in Indonesia, and to stand with those victims, the Chinese ethnic community, the Christian, and the other religious minority communities.

Yesterday I was briefed by Indonesians themselves on what is happening in their country. In the last 3 months, 15 churches have been destroyed or burned since Habibie has been in power. I want to join with those Indonesians and the Chinese people worldwide in condemning these gross violations of human rights, in particular, the raping of ethnic Chinese women.

Reliable reports suggest that the attacks on ethnic and religious minorities were orchestrated. Unfortunately, individuals and organizations which are assisting these victims have been harassed, threatened with phone calls, explosives, and even death should they continue to help the victims.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Indonesian government immediately to proceed with a thorough investigation to promptly bring to justice all individuals who are associated with or who are perpetrators of these crimes against minorities.

#### REGARDING TAX REFORM AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, now that both Houses of Congress are back in session, I believe one of the primary goals that we should set our sights on is providing an across-the-board tax cut for all Americans. The Clinton administration has said that they do not support any tax cuts until Congress has made sure that Social Security is solvent for the so-called baby boomer generation, of which I am one.

Madam Speaker, I believe we can achieve both of these goals. With an anticipated budget surplus of \$1.6 trillion over the next 10 years, there is no doubt in my mind that we can continue to have a balanced budget, begin paying down the national debt, provide tax relief for hard-working Americans, and maintain the solvency of our Social Security program.

Simply by paying off our \$5 trillion national debt, which probably is not all that simple, and maintaining budgetary balance, the future of Social Security will be secure for Americans into the next century.

There is a plan being offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. NANCY JOHNSON) which will achieve these worthy goals. While their proposal is not everything I would envision in the way of tax reform, it is a good step in the right direction.

#### THE JONES ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an act known as the Jones Act. The Jones Act is an act passed by Senator Jones of Washington as a floor amendment in the Senate in 1920. It is a protectionist act that requires that any transportation of goods by ship between any two U.S. ports has to be on a ship made in the U.S.A., manned by U.S. sailors, paying U.S. taxes, et cetera.

I have legislation that is going to tremendously make a difference in helping farmers this fall and next year that says, let us allow these vessels to be built anywhere in the world to transport these agricultural commodities, still require that they be manned by U.S. crews, that they be American-owned, American-flagged, pay all American taxes, and comply with environmental laws.

Agriculture is going through a tremendously depressed time. We cannot afford to further depress those commodity prices by limiting the transportation to move these goods between U.S. ports.

#### MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY REFORM ACT OF 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 521