for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, we Americans are rightfully proud that our country is known as the land of opportunity. Unfortunately, Native Americans have not always enjoyed the upward mobility we are so proud of, but obstacles faced by Native Americans can and are being overcome.

Prior to 1970, for example, the Choctaw Indians had no industrial development, suffered from high unemployment, and were dependent on assistance from Washington, D.C. for their survival. But since then, under the leadership of Chief Martin, a persistent and entrepreneurial attitude has enabled the Choctaws to break away from Federal dependency.

The incredible progress enjoyed by the Choctaws is living proof that self-empowerment, private enterprise, and entrepreneurship are the keys to opening the doors of opportunity for all Americans, especially Native Americans. The governmental and business leadership of Chief Martin has made the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, since his election as chief, a shining example of what self-determination is all about.

I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the Choctaw tribe and Chief Martin's leadership.

TRIBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, as a Member from a State representing large Native American populations, I have taken a special interest in helping Native Americans and tribal businesses foster entrepreneurship and rigorous reservation economies.

Too often our Nation's Indian policies stifle tribal economic development in favor of big government solutions that continue to retard the developments of viable reservation-based economies. More devastating is that the rules and regulations that come with Federal control discourage private enterprises from investing and establishing businesses on reservations. The absence of a private sector to create wealth and employment for Native American people remains one of the biggest problems tribal leaders must confront.

I have risen today to join my colleagues to pay tribute to Chief Phillip Martin, whose belief in free enterprise and self-reliance inspired the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to overcome its dependence on the Federal Government by creating a productive role for itself in the national economy.

Chief Martin recognized long ago that the key to becoming a self-governing tribe was in building a tribal government and educating and training their people.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has accomplished something that was once considered impossible. When the other party controlled this House, some of their Members talked a good game about balancing the budget, but when I was elected just 4 years ago, the deficit stood at over $200 billion and, according to the Congressional Budget Office, was going to get worse, not better.

We said that we would balance the budget within 7 years by slowing the growth in entitlement spending, putting a flexible freeze on defense spending and making targeted cuts in domestic discretionary and other areas. We eliminated over 300 wasteful and unnecessary Washington programs and streamlined countless others.

Mr. Speaker, on October 1st, we will celebrate the first balanced budget in almost 30 years, 4 years ahead of schedule, and we will have a large surplus. We did it while keeping our promise to provide tax relief for working families.

Mr. Speaker, what a difference a Republican Congress has made.

□ 1015

CENSURE FOR THE PRESIDENT IS INAPPROPRIATE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, there has been recent talk in the press and around the country since the release of the Starr report that censure of the President would be appropriate punishment. Under our Constitution, Congress has absolutely no power to censure a sitting President. Censure is an exercise for each body of Congress to discipline their own Members, not a sitting President. The only historical case of censuring a President was when Congress censured Andrew Jackson regarding the policy of the National Bank. It is clear that Congress acted outside its constitutional powers then because the censure was for policy differences, not because laws were broken.

If Members of Congress believe that the President has violated the law, Congress should move forward with courage and start the impeachment process rather than create a false solution by censuring the President. Either laws were broken or they were not broken. If they were broken, then we should step up to our constitutional responsibility and do what is necessary to complete it. The rule of law is the rule of law. That is what my argument would be, to follow the law rather than the censure and start the impeachment process if laws are broken.

URGING PRESIDENT TO COME CLEAN

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, it is with some pain and some chagrin as a friend of this administration, as a Democrat that I rise to say and really to echo the comments of some of my colleagues in both the House and the Senate, namely, my leader in the House and my leader in the Senate. For the President by his own admission has lied. He has lied about a situation that many in America have said perhaps justified——

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman should avoid such references in regard to the President.

Mr. FORD. Well, I say this to my friend and my leader and my party. I would urge the President to come clean at this point. For he has admitted that he has lied. He has disappointed us in his party and disappointed many in this Nation. For it is difficult for those of us in this party and those of us in this House to continue to give the President the benefit of the doubt. Mr. President, please come clean.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman should refrain from references such as lying and directly addressing the President in debate on the House floor.

NO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(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, I note that there are stories that continue to appear in the press to the effect that we are facing a possible government shutdown. The fact is that, in my view, there is virtually no chance whatsoever that we will experience a government shutdown. The President has already made clear that if the Congress cannot get its work done before the fiscal year expires on October 1 that he will immediately sign any neutral short-term continuing resolution in order to keep the government open while the Congress does catch up to the schedule that it is supposed to be on. I would assume that the majority leadership of this House would make certain that such a short-term continuing resolution is in fact ready, because it is obvious that this House is way behind the curve in getting all of our appropriation bills done in the necessary time period before the beginning of the next fiscal year.

So I think rather than hearing more of this rhetoric about a possible government shutdown, I think that people

need to be aware of the fact that there certainly is no predisposition on this side of the aisle nor is there any predisposition on the part of the White House to allow that to happen. And assuming that the House and the Senate meet their responsibilities to pass a neutral short-term continuing resolution that would take us sometime into October so that Congress would have a chance to produce an omnibus appropriation bill, because I assume that that is going to happen, there is absolutely no reason to expect that there will be a government shutdown in the wings. I just do not see that happening.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess for approximately 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess for approximately 15 minutes.

□ 1036

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING) at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4101, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4101) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. KAPTUR moves that in resolving the differences between the House and Senate, the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill H.R. 4101, be instructed to agree with the provisions of the Senate amendment which provide funding for agricultural disaster assistance and reserve inventories, including the designation of such funds as an emergency requirement under section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and with no offsetting reductions as provided in the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) each will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to explain my motion to instruct conferees on this agricultural appropriations bill, and fundamentally this motion would require the conferees on H.R. 4101, which is the 1999 appropriations bill for agriculture and related agencies, to agree to the language in the Senate bill which provides funding for agricultural disaster assistance, including reserve inventories, and designates that assistance as emergency spending without offsets.

Mr. Speaker, there is a real crisis facing most American farmers and rural communities today, and many have been unduly affected by the drought and other extreme and unusual weather conditions. Some are suffering the impact of crop disease, and others have been impacted by falling farm prices and an increasing inability to obtain credit. While the rest of the country may be experiencing economic recovery, thousands of farm and ranch families and the communities that depend on them have been left behind.

But the current farm crisis is one that will eventually touch every American, rural and urban, if we do not address this problem and this set of circumstances immediately.

The Senate agriculture appropriation bill provides a total of $521 million in emergency spending to begin to assist farmers in addressing this crisis. My motion does not address the adequacy of the funding level. That provision was added in July before the true extent of the summer drought and its impact on crops and livestock could be known. The appropriate funding level is something that we on the Committee on Appropriations will be discussing with the administration, with the authorizing committee and the Members most impacted by this crisis as we move to completion of this appropriations conference.

But my motion does address the designation of the funding provided to assist farmers in crisis as emergency spending, as defined under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, with no offsetting reductions in other areas. This has symmetry with the Senate bill.

I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will argue that the Congress has been offsetting emergency spending since 1994 and that this emergency should be treated no differently than the other supplemental spending bills we have passed. Well, it seems to us that we have found a way to bend these self-imposed rules on offsets in selected emergencies. We have done so in the supplemental appropriation bill passed last year. We offset only domestic emergency spending, not the defense-related emergency spending included in that bill. Surely our Nation's farmers are as deserving of emergency assistance and designation, particularly this year, as have been our military forces in prior years, and the offsets used for the earlier domestic supplemental bills were primarily funds from the HUD section 8 housing program, funding which we will eventually need to pay back in that program to ensure adequate low-income housing for low-income citizens, particularly the elderly who need this program.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to rob Peter to pay Paul when it comes to addressing funding for natural disasters and other emergencies. It is time to abandon the so-called budget shell games and face our responsibilities and address the real emergencies facing our country today.

Mr. Speaker, this farm emergency is real. Several of my colleagues who are here on the floor have districts more directly impacted by this crisis, and I will be pleased to yield to them so that they can discuss the severity of this crisis and the immediate impact on their constituents. I ask that the House support this motion to instruct conferees and send a message to America's farmers that we recognize the impact of this farm crisis, that we recognize the contributions that farmers and ranchers make to this country's economic success and the well-being of our families and that we are going to act in a responsible way to assure that they get the assistance they need to get beyond this crisis and continue to ensure the productivity of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to instruct and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), bringing this matter before the House. We all know about the desperate situation in agriculture and the problems caused by flood and drought. These are the kinds of problems that we have solved together in a bipartisan fashion in the past, and I look forward to working in that same fashion again in conference to help our farmers and ranchers.

There already is a $500 million emergency spending provision accepted by the other body. It is what we call a plug or a marker, and I refer my colleagues to the debate in the other body on the bill in which it was understood that the amount and scope of any emergency disaster plan for agriculture would have to wait for the administration to submit a detailed package. It is