

(c) Archived Records.—Records of the Committee which are deposited with the National Archives shall be made available for public use pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chairman of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of House Rule VII, to withhold, or to provide a time, schedule or condition for availability of any records otherwise available. At the written request of any Member of the Committee, the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination and shall be subject to the same notice and quorum requirements for the conduct of business under Committee rule 3.

(d) Records of Closed Meetings.—Notwithstanding the other provisions of this rule, no records of Committee meetings or hearings which were closed to the public pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be released to the public unless the Committee votes to release those records in accordance with the procedure used to close the Committee meeting.

(e) Classified Materials.—All classified materials shall be maintained in an appropriately secured location and shall be released only to authorized persons for review, who shall not remove the material from the Committee offices without the written permission of the Chairman.

RULE 10. COMMITTEE BUDGET AND EXPENSES.

(a) Budget.—At the beginning of each Congress, after consultation with the Chairman of each Subcommittee and the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman shall present to the Committee for its approval a budget covering the funding required for staff, travel, and miscellaneous expenses.

(b) Expense Resolution.—Upon approval by the Committee of each budget, the Chairman, acting pursuant to clause 6 of House rule X, shall prepare and introduce in the House a supporting expense resolution, and take all action necessary to bring about its approval by the Committee on House Administration and by the House of Representatives.

(c) Amendments.—The chairman shall report to the Committee any amendments to each expense resolution and any related changes in the budget.

(d) Additional Expenses. Authorization for the payment of additional or unforeseen Committee expenses may be procured by one or more additional expense resolutions processed in the same manner as set out under this rule.

(e) Monthly Reports.—Copies of each monthly report, prepared by the Chairman for the Committee on House Administration, which shows expenditures made during the reporting period and cumulative for the year, anticipated expenditures for the projected Committee program, and detailed information on travel, shall be available to each Member.

RULE 11. COMMITTEE STAFF.

(a) Rules and Policies.—Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of House Rule X, as well as any written personnel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt.

(b) Majority and Nonpartisan Staff.—The Chairman shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative employees of the Committee not assigned to the Minority. The legislative and administrative staff of the Committee not assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of these staff members and delegate any authority he determines appropriate.

(c) Minority Staff.—The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint, de-

termine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority within the budget approved for those purposes. The legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate any authority he determines appropriate.

(d) Availability.—The skills and services of all Committee staff shall be available to all Members of the Committee.

RULE 12. COMMITTEE TRAVEL.

In addition to any written travel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt, all travel of Members and staff of the Committee or its Subcommittees, to hearings, meetings, conferences and investigations, including all foreign travel, must be authorized by the Full Committee Chairman prior to any public notice of the travel and prior to the actual travel. In the case of Minority staff, all travel shall first be approved by the Ranking Minority Member. Funds authorized for the committee under clauses 6 and 7 of House Rule X are for expenses incurred in the Committee's activities within the United States.

RULE 13. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES.

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed, by a majority vote of the Committee, provided that 48 hours written notice of the proposed change has been provided each Member of the Committee prior to the meeting date on which the changes are to be discussed and voted on. A change to the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record no later than 30 days after its approval.

RULE 14. OTHER PROCEDURES.

The Chairman may establish procedures and take actions as may be necessary to carry out the rules of the Committee or to facilitate the effective administration of the Committee, in accordance with the rules of the Committee and the rules of the House of Representatives.

MISGUIDED ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening with a heavy heart. I came to Washington, D.C., in 1993 as part of the Clinton administration. We worked hard for 8 years. We passed on to the next administration a \$5 trillion surplus. We passed on to the next administration peace and prosperity.

Today it is not that way. The great country singer Merle Haggard has a song that he sings; it is called "Rainbow Stew." One of the verses in there says when a President goes through the White House door and does what he says that he will do, we will all be drinking that free Bubble-up and eating that rainbow stew.

When the President came here a few weeks ago and gave us the State of the Union, one of the things he promised was that we would not pass our problems on to another Congress or on to another generation. And yet just a week ago Monday we are presented with a proposed budget from that same

President that is nothing more than an assault on our children, on working people, on veterans.

We are asking our young men and women to go on the battlefield, and at the same time we just heard the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) tell us what the President is proposing to do to veterans.

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He said, "We're not going to pass this problem on to the next generation." Yet in his own budget, by his own Office of Management and Budget, we are faced with about another \$468 billion in debt. Check with the CRS. The percent of the gross domestic product that the nation of Brazil has in debt is 60 percent. The percent of debt that the United States of America has of our gross domestic product is 62 percent. And that is what we owe today. That does not include 300-plus billion-dollar deficits for as long as anyone can imagine. Yet the President presents us with this idea that we can have it all: it's rainbow stew. Just reach out there and grab you some. Have a big drink. It's free Bubble-up. We can cut taxes, we can fight at least two wars, maybe more, we can provide everything that anybody is going to possibly dream up, and nobody has to pay. We'll just keep borrowing money.

I have a button back there at my desk that they told me I could not wear when I came on the floor to make a speech. It says, How much is the debt tax? How much are we going to pile on our children and grandchildren? How much of a debt are we going to continue to just put on our children and grandchildren that they cannot pay? No nation, I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, can be free and powerful and broke, and that is where we are headed.

I have been on this floor many times. I have heard people make great patriotic remarks, declare their intense love for this country; and I share that love. I think the Founders, our Founding Fathers, would absolutely be disgusted with what we are doing right now, with the idea that we are going to borrow ourselves into financial oblivion by just continuing to borrow money and borrow money and borrow money and not even acknowledge that we have got a problem.

It is time, Mr. Speaker, that we recognize that we cannot continue to do this irresponsible thing.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I very much want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) for what he had to say. I too heard the President of the United States just a couple of weeks ago stand

in this well and tell the American people we would not pass our problems on to the next generation. Maybe the President does not read his own budget. I would hope he does. He signs it before he sends it to us. Maybe the President is not aware that since the passage of his budget and his tax cuts that our Nation's debt has increased by \$758,108,651,628.89. The first \$2 trillion budget in American history incidentally was not submitted by a guy named Dukakis or a wild-eyed liberal named McGovern. It was submitted by George W. Bush. The first \$2.25 trillion budget in American history was not submitted by a wild-eyed liberal. It was submitted by George Bush.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope someone in this body would explain to me that when the tax cuts take place with great fanfare, they take place during the middle of the day or during prime time TV. But when my Republican colleagues want to raise the debt limit and burden the next generation with these bills, that vote takes place about 3 or 4 in the morning. You will notice there will not be a reporter up there. Most of our constituents will be asleep. If they are proud of raising the debt and seeing to it that an even larger percentage of our Nation's budget is squandered on interest and we are squandering a billion a day, that is a thousand times a thousand times a thousand, then why will you schedule a vote to raise the debt at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning? Why will you change the House rules so that now, by just the adoption of the President's budget, we automatically raise the debt if you are proud of that?

Mr. Speaker, please explain to me and explain to the American people why a group of people is elected to govern this country who promised to balance the budget, who promised to be fiscally responsible, yet in the over 1,400 days that Speaker HASTERT has been Speaker of this House of Representatives, he will not even schedule one vote on a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. We vote to condemn people across the world. We vote to commend people across the world. We have cast 25 votes since this session started. The way I figure it, thus far Congress is being paid \$1,000 per vote this year. But you cannot find time, Mr. Speaker, to schedule a vote on the most important thing of all, which is balancing the American budget so that this generation does not ask the next generation to pay our bills.

Mr. Speaker, answer back. Would you go out and buy a car, go out and buy a Lexus and say, I don't care what it costs, I don't care what the interest payments are because my grandkid is going to pay for it? Would you go buy a house? The same deal. I want the most expensive house in town; I don't care what the interest payments are because my kid is going to pay for it. That is the way you are running this country.

What is particularly sad is that you promised the American people you would not do that. That is how you got in the majority. And then you flat turned around and did just the opposite. You will not let us vote on the balanced budget amendment, you are running up \$300 billion a year deficits, and your only answer to that is more debt and more tax cuts.

I will remind you, Mr. Speaker, in every other conflict in American history, when we asked our young people to put their lives on the line, the rest of Americans were asked to pay the bill, right then and there. And quite frankly, the wealthiest Americans were asked to pay the most. The inheritance tax was a wartime tax. The luxury taxes were all wartime taxes. The folks who got to stay home and enjoy the benefits of America paid while someone else did the fighting. But at least they paid.

What do you say now, Mr. Speaker? You say those who have the most should pay even less and, by the way, the kids from across town, the kids from across the tracks, let them go get shot in Afghanistan, let them go get shot in Colombia protecting a pipeline owned by Occidental Petroleum. Let that kid get shot in Iraq and, by the way, send him the bill for this war when he gets home.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of good people in this body. A majority of people in this body came to this body saying they were going to be fiscally responsible. Where are they now? Where are they going to be tomorrow when we vote on a \$300 billion bill that not one Member has read, that no one has any idea what sort of stuff is buried in it? Mr. Speaker, where are they going to be tomorrow? Because if those people care about their country, they will let us vote on a balanced budget amendment. If they care about their country, they will vote down this bill tomorrow until they have had a chance to read it. If they care about our country, they will quit sticking our kids with their bills.

IN RECOGNITION OF RESCUE TASK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, there is a movie that I saw recently which depicted three actors who became troubleshooters and helped to save a small town in Mexico. The name of the movie was "The Three Amigos." As I recall, they had a slogan that wherever there was injustice or poverty, they would be there. In reality, in real life, there are two amigos who have organized a small task force that is called Rescue Task Force and where there are problems in the world, where people are sick or need medical help or they are victims of a crossfire in a real shooting war, the two amigos are there.

In fact, they are with us today in these Chambers, Mr. Speaker. It is Gary Becks, who works on my staff, and Wendell Cutting, my chief of staff in my congressional district. Wendell is the cochairman of this task force and does it without any remuneration. They have gone to places like Albania. They were the first people into the Kosovo conflict. They went into the first refugee camp, a camp in which every single child had some type of an illness or a malady. They were the first people to distribute food and medicine. And they were the first people to go up into the very remote camps through what was basically a no-man's land where a number of nongovernmental organizations had taken rifle fire just a few days before.

If you look at the outline of what Rescue Task Force does, you can look at the pictures and see Gary Becks dressing wounds in Afghanistan. You can see Wendell in the slums of Thailand teaching sanitation. You can see them both distributing help in Kosovo. You can see them establishing the first-ever dental clinic in the area of the Nicaraguan-Honduran border.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of these two gentlemen and this organization, Rescue Task Force. They also started the program we call Hands Across the Border, where they have directed literally tons and millions of dollars' worth of medical supplies and food and toys for people who hurt, to quote the President, in Mexico. They have gone around the world.

Interestingly, Mr. Speaker, a lot of us in this city are listening to people who are explaining to us why other nations in the world may not like us right now in this particular phase of our foreign policy in the Middle East and explaining that the United States needs to reach out and to educate people as to what we do and what we stand for. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that nobody reaches out as effectively nor is as good an ambassador as these folks, not only in Rescue Task Force but hundreds of American charitable organizations who bring food and medical supplies to Africa, to Afghanistan, to other vast areas of the world, very distant areas where it is obvious that they are not going to receive anything in return. In fact, if you looked at the situation in Afghanistan and you looked at the roster of nations that were supplying humanitarian help in Afghanistan, before the military operations, before we had to go in and find the al Qaeda, you will find the Americans leading the list, supplying most of the food, most of the medicine, and that is reflective of what Rescue Task Force does.

I am very proud of Rescue Task Force, Mr. Speaker. I think it is representative of the goodness that this country has and the willingness of our people to reach out and give some of their resources to other people around the world with no intention to ever receive anything in return except the