

I know it is late. We just have five more minutes this evening in our House session, but I am here to represent the Official Truth Squad. And the Official Truth Squad, as so many folks know, was begun by a group of freshmen Republicans. Having been in Congress now for about 15 months, and throughout the last year, we had talked with each other and with others in Congress about why is it that you so often hear so much misinformation and disinformation on the floor of the House. And so we thought what we would do as a group is to get together and begin the Official Truth Squad.

And I know it is late, Madam Speaker, and I was going to give folks a break and not take the remaining 5 minutes of the evening, but I was sitting over in my office and I was listening to the previous presentation by some well-meaning folks on the other side of the aisle, and they talked about this, the need for accountability in the budgeting process. And I know that my colleagues and I couldn't agree more. We couldn't agree more.

What I would like to do in this very brief time that we have, though, is to bring a little truth to the debate, and that is the issue of the balanced budget amendment. We, so many of us, support a balanced budget amendment. We agree that there ought to be appropriate accountability. I believe that the desire or the inertia to restrain spending at the Federal level is, frankly, nonexistent. So I think that it is imperative that we have some kind of control on the amount of spending that we have here in Washington. And one way to do that, and I believe an appropriate way to do that, is through a balanced budget amendment.

We just heard within the past hour some folks on the other side who say, yeah, we think there ought to be a balanced budget amendment. But what's the truth about their actions when given the opportunity? And that is what the Official Truth Squad is about, is to make certain that folks are held accountable for not just talking the talk, but walking the walk.

Here is the most recent opportunity that Congress has had to vote on a balanced budget amendment. Now, this was an actual vote in 1997 on a balanced budget amendment. And how did the other side vote? Well, 8 individuals on the other side said, yeah, that is an appropriate thing to do; we believe that that is the kind of budget accountability that we need: 194 was the "no" vote on the other side. 194.

And, Madam Speaker, I might mention that it included a majority of the folks who call themselves Blue Dog Democrats. And I don't do this to point fingers, but I do do it to say that when you are talking about issues, it is important to speak the truth and to allow and have your vote follow your speech.

The Official Truth Squad, we have some, a number of mottos, and a number of quotes that we enjoy. One of the quotes that we enjoy and appreciate is

that of the former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan who said oftentimes that you are welcome to your own opinion, but you are not welcome to your own facts. And, Madam Speaker, this is a fact. And this is a fact that speaks louder than anything I could ever, ever say which says that when given the opportunity for budget accountability, that the vast majority of individuals on the other side of the aisle said, no, we really don't want to do that. We say we want to do that, but in fact we really don't want to do that.

So I am pleased to come before the House this evening, Madam Speaker. I look forward to coming back tomorrow. We will be back tomorrow to shed some more light on some economic good news with the American people and to bring that truth, those pearls of truth that are so incredibly important as we talk about the remarkable challenges that confront us as a Nation, not Republican challenges, not Democrat challenges, but American challenges that we all need to solve together.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of business in the district.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. SWEENEY (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FARR) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OSBORNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and March 15 and 16.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, March 15.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and March 15 and 16.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 15 and 16.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1053. An act to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine.

H.R. 1691. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin, as the "John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6675. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities [CG Docket No. 03-123] received January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6676. A letter from the Legal Advisor, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Implementation of the Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act and Modernization of the Commission's Competitive Bidding Rules and Procedures [WT Docket No. 05-211] received February 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6677. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Randsburg, California) [MB Docket No. 04-276; RM-11033] (Mooreland, Oklahoma) [MB Docket No. 04-279; RM-11036] received February 15, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6678. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Lovelady, Texas) [MB Docket