I am not overstating the issue when I say that there are children that are literally starving in our inner cities. I am not overstating the issue when I say you can go across this world to Third World countries and find Third World country citizens that are living better than many citizens in the South Bronx, that are living better than many of our citizens in South Central L.A., that are living better than many Americans across this country that go to bed every night fearing for their lives, wondering whether they will wake up in the morning alive, whether their children will wake up in the morning alive, what will happen to their children when they go to school, when they have to pass drug dealers to go to school and make the decision every step along the line. Do I play by the rules, do I play fair? What do I do?

Those are the questions that are supposed to be brought to the floor of this House. And when you talk about a book deal and compare it to Speaker Wright's book deal, what are you doing? Read the Washington Post. The Washington Post this week editorialized that the book deal was not the same as Speaker Wright's book deal, that it may have been bad politics but it was not inherently illegal, or improper, or unethical.

Mr. Speaker, it is time in 1995 for us to turn our eyes and ears and open our minds to the real issues that are facing this country? That as we are $4 trillion in debt, as our inner cities are crumbling, it is time to address the issues that really matter. That is what Americans demand of us and that is what we want.

RENEWED CALL FOR INDEPENDENT COUNSEL IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I concur with my colleague who was up here a moment ago, that in fact what we are about here is the people's business and that we need to talk about the issues that affect middle-class families, working families every single day.

As a Democrat, I have done that in the 2 terms that I have been here and I submit to you this evening that the President will build on what he said several weeks ago on a middle-class Bill of Rights that will include a minimum wage.

I would like to find out from my colleagues if that is something that he will support because in fact people in this Nation are not looking at an increased higher standard, but that is an important issue.

Education and training. Not cutting Social Security for families. And when we look at the balanced budget and what that is going to do, when my friends on the other side of the aisle would not in fact exempt Social Security from the balanced budget amendment.

There is rhetoric and there probably is rhetoric on both sides. But let me tell you what is important and what my Republican colleagues do not want to talk about.

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That is a need for an outside counsel to answer questions. That is what is being asked, answer questions about Speaker GINGRICH's financial empire.

The last 2 weeks have been filled with press revelations. We are not making these things up about this multi-billion-dollar book deal but, more importantly, about a private meeting with publishing magnet Rupert Murdoch. Any appearance of impropriety could have been voided if the contents of the book had been disclosed.

My colleague from Colorado talked about a Newsweek report. This week Americans read in Newsweek this is not the first time Rupert Murdoch has published a book by politicians, promoting them huge sums of money. In 1990 while seeking special rules to allow his Australian company to expand his empire in Great Britain Rupert Murdoch asked the help of the Thatcher government, and not long after Margaret Thatcher signed an eye-popping $5.4 million book deal. This appears to be a pattern for Mr. Murdoch.

We need to have an outside counsel take a look at it.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT EFFECTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. TUCKER] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting day today. We are not only going to hear from the President of the United States later on tonight, but we have heard from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have offered us some interesting accolades.

First, we heard one of our Republican colleagues quote Rodney King. As long as I live I did not think I would hear one of my illustrious conservative colleagues quote Rodney King, but I have heard it today. And as we say in South Central, ''Don't go there,'' because I do not think that he certainly understands the pain of a Rodney King.

Then we heard another one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, indicate that he had some empathy for South Central and for South Bronx and for the people across this country who are wallowing in the inner cities. I do not know if he has ever been to South Central, but I represent some of South Central and let me say, Mr. Speaker, when you hear the voice of those people talk on the one hand about their concern about the people of South Central and on the other hand exempt Social Security from a consideration in the balanced budget amendment, then I say, Mr. Speaker, that my colleagues speaketh with forked tongue because, Mr. Speaker, the balanced budget amendment is going to cause a great deal of pain for people in the South Central and South Bronx and parts of inner cities all across this country.

Indeed, when we get down to the details of what a balanced budget amendment is going to mean, we have to be honest and we have to be truthful with the American people and let them know that the people who are speaking about their concerns for the poor are going to try to balance the budget on the backs of poor people. And this is where the real debate is going to come in, Mr. Speaker. How are we going to balance that budget?

They say they are going to exempt Social Security, but when BARNEY FRANK offered an amendment in the Committee on the Judiciary, they did not support that amendment. So we can see, Mr. Speaker, that they talk the talk, but they are not walking the walk.

The balanced budget amendment is a good idea. A lot of politicians like to stand in line and say so. This is the right thing and it is a constitutional amendment in its time, but it is not a time to take away the money of those who have been putting into Social Security all their lives.

THE SEARCH FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, a Democratic President and Congress passed a budget that cut the deficit by more than $600 billion over 5 years and produced real deficit reduction for 3 consecutive years—the first time this has happened since World War II.

The question today is: How should we build on this success? Should we now pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution?

Seeing the passionate fervor that was driving this amendment's sponsors, I began to ask my Republican colleagues the magic formula for achieving this budget miracle. With envy, I assumed my colleagues had already concocted the recipe for balancing our budget and were now simply applying the finishing touch: A constitutional requirement to do that which they had already devised.

My envy turned to curiosity. Like Roger Moore from the movie ''Roger and Me,'' I set out through the Halls of the Capitol searching for the magic budget plan. I checked in the offices, the cloak rooms, and the chambers. I