the balanced budget amendment, but I think amnesia has set in here in the House. I am absolutely amazed that the distinguished minority leader and distinguished minority whip would come to the House and castigate and chastise Republicans for the open rules that we have given them on unfunded mandates, over 150 amendments? Gosh, I can never remember when the Democrats were in charge that they ever had an open rule on a major piece of legislation.

Well, amnesia has been cured. The American people will now have debated a balanced budget amendment, unfunded mandates, term limits, line-item veto. We have been cured. We do have open rules, Members have not been gagged.

Get with it. We are in charge, and we will set the agenda.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENTS

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to revise ad extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I first read it in the Washington Post and I had my doubts about it. Then I read it in the Farm Journal. This is a quote. ''We have to explain to people in advance what a balanced budget amendment is going to mean. I am for it, but you got to tell people you can't have it without giving something up.'' Our Senate majority leader, a Republican.

He needs to tell the people on this side in the House the same message. Unlike his Republican counterparts over here who steadfastly refuse to discuss the actual cost of the balanced budget amendment, claiming that if Americans knew the real costs, their knees would buckle.

The balanced budget amendment may be good political public relations. but it is not integrity and open government, which is what the Republicans say they want.

We have to be honest with the American people about the balanced budget amendment.

VOTE FOR UNFUNDED MANDATES BILL

(Mr. CHRYSLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the Members to vote for the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. This measure would dramatically alleviate the devastating impact Federal mandates have levied on the States for decades. Additionally, we must protect the private sector from overbearing mandates and regulations. This measure will show the American people that this congress is providing real leadership and is sincere in this efforts to create a streamlined and more efficient and responsible Federal Government.

Coming from the great State of Michigan, one of America's strongest industrial and agricultural communities, I have seen how such mandates and Federal regulations often result in lost jobs or impede job creation.

The effects Federal mandates have on the private sector are no less devastating and should be analyzed on equal levels as those affecting States and local governments.

A BALANCED BUDGET YES, BUT NO THREE-FIFTHS

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, in this body as well as the other body we have people with different ideas. Ideas are what make legislation. We are seeing that with the unfunded mandate bill. That is all it is, a question of ideas. We are going to see it with the balanced budget amendment.

I have supported a balanced budget amendment since I have been here, 18 years. I have never supported however, in that time, the principle that you should have a three-fifths majority in order to increase revenues. I will never support a constitutional amendment that has that.

I believe in my principles. I just wonder how many freshmen Members on the other side of the aisle believe in their principle of a three-fifths majority and how many of them will actually stand by that principle, or how many of them will, just for expediency, decide that they want a balanced budget amendment and they do not care what is in it. I am just curious to see who really stands by their ideas.

STOP THE BICKERING

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, tonight, as the President addresses the Nation, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reflect on what they have done to reform the government.

Have they come out in support of a tax-limitation, balanced budget amendment?

Have they fought to reform unfunded mandates, have they embraced the Republican-led changes in the way the Congress does business?

Or have they fought the reforms put forth? Have they tried to filibuster, delay, and destroy the Contract With America?

Mr. Speaker, many House Democrats, guardians of the failed past, have come to the floor today and in the past weeks for one reason, to stop needed reform of this Congress.

They attack Republicans on irrelevant issues. They complain about fair procedures, they whine when we make necessary cuts.

The time has come to stop this silly bickering, this endless partisanship. Let us work together to complete the Contract With America and restore the people's faith in their Congress.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I did not say anything when the gentleman was in the well and just spoke, but as I said earlier, and I was asking about one of the previous speakers, the House rules do not permit the impugning of motives.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Will the gentleman state his inquiry, please?

Mr. VOLKMER. The inquiry is, Do the House rules forbid the impugning of motives of the Members of the House, either party, anybody?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would point out to the gentleman that personal motives are out of order. Political motives are not.

Mr. VOLKMER. All right. Fine.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, my constituents asked, as I came to the U.S. Congress, that we engage in deliberation and serious debates on the problems of the American people.

I have been reading in my office letters that have come, handwritten, notably by aged individuals, who asked me simply to save their Social Security.

I went home almost the very first week, not to tell people what I was going to do but to ask them what they would have the U.S. Congress do. In a hearing, one after another pleaded and begged that we would respond to the needs of those who needed Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, a balanced budget amendment that does not protect Social Security violates the rights of needy citizens across this Nation.

In recognition of this great tragedy, those of us on the Committee on the Judiciary offered an amendment, a simple bipartisan amendment, to save Social Security. This was soundly defeated by the Republican majority.

We have already heard over 100,000 million dollars will be taken out of Medicare and Medicaid. Texas will lose 35 percent of its benefits.

I simply ask that we own up to our responsibility and save Social Security.