

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

Washington, DC, November 28, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 2702(a)(1)(B)(vi) of Public Law 101-509, I hereby appoint as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the following person: Roger Davidson, 3510 Edmunds Street, NW, Washington, DC.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE, Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bills on Monday, November 20, 1995:

S. 440, to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for the designation of the National Highway System, and for other purposes; and

S. 1328, to amend the commencement dates of certain temporary Federal judgeships.

TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, as one of the Republican freshmen, one of the new Members of this body, I came here with a commitment to change how Washington works. I now as a privilege of serving as a Member of the House carry a voting card, a piece of plastic with which to record my vote.

For the last 26 years, Members of the House have used this card and made it the world's most expensive credit card, running up a \$4.9 trillion debt. We think about our own families, when someone runs up a massive credit card debt, what that means and how it needs to be paid off.

I have with me a bag full of play money, but this bag represents the \$19,000 that every Illinois citizen, that very American citizen currently owes as their share of the national debt. If we had to pay off the national debt today, every American citizen would have to write a check for \$19,000.

It is time to change how Washington works, to balance the budget. The President has now agreed with the Congress that we should do it in 10 years.

Republicans have a plan to balance the budget in 7 years by reforming welfare, strengthening Medicare and providing tax relief to working families, but the President has failed to show us his plan. Now he is going to leave the country for 6 days. All he issues is a press release saying he would like to do it in 7 years.

Mr. President, I think it is time, before you leave the country for 6 days, when we need to provide a balanced budget by December 15, that you show us the specifics. Show us, Mr. President, if you do not like our plan to balance the budget, how you would do it. We need to see the fine print.

REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN IS UNFAIR

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have been very critical of the Republican budget plan because I believe that it cuts Medicare in order to provide major tax breaks primarily for wealthy Americans. This of course is disputed by some of the Republican leaders, most notably the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], who is the chairman of the Republican, or in this case, the House Committee on Ways and Means, the tax-cutting committee.

The New York Times last week put out an editorial based on the Treasury Department's figures. Basically the Treasury Department shows that in fact the tax breaks are primarily for the wealthy in this Republican bill.

It says in the New York Times editorial that the Treasury estimated that the richest 1 percent would rake in almost twice as much, or 17 percent of the tax cut under the bill. Indeed, under the Republican bill the poorest 20 percent of families, taken as a group, would pay higher taxes as a percentage of their income. The Treasury figures are solid evidence that the Republican tax cut is heavily weighted toward the rich.

As we proceed over the next 2 weeks in this budget battle, in negotiating a compromise, I am very hopeful that we will see a lot of money brought back into Medicare, to make sure that the Medicare Program is viable, and that we cut back on these tax breaks for wealthy Americans. It is not fair to cut Medicare and essentially destroy it at the expense of the average American in order to finance tax breaks primarily for those wealthier members among us.

PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN BALANCED BUDGET ACT

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, if the President is honestly looking for a plan that balances the budget in 7 years, uses legitimate numbers, and protects his priorities, he need look no further than the Republican Balanced Budget Act. Let us consider some of the areas the President says he has problems with our bill.

Medicare—our plan increases Medicare spending every year and ensures Medicare's solvency through at least 2010. There are no cuts.

Education—there are no education cuts in the Republican bill. The dollar volume of student loans increases 50 percent during the next 7 years. More student loans will be available next year than ever before.

The environment—not a single environmental protection program is touched in the Republican Balanced Budget Act. There are no environmental cuts in the Republican bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Balance Budget Act is a good bill. It balances the budget while preserving the American people's priorities. The President should sign this bill.

SAYING NO TO GROUND TROOPS IN BOSNIA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I oppose sending ground troops to Bosnia. All military experts agree that Bosnia is not a military threat to the United States. Also, they agree that Europe has more than enough military capability to handle the peacekeeping problems in Bosnia.

But there is another argument that keeps popping up, and that is that we must protect the integrity of NATO. My colleagues, NATO was created to protect Europe from Soviet invasion. I say it is time that America stop subsidizing Europe's protection. It is time to disband NATO, let them create their own military alliance that they can support.

Let Congress not forget, in the 1960's the Johnson administration asked Europe to help us in Vietnam. Europe said, "It's too costly. There's too much killing. It's your way, America."

I say, look, we have all come to know him as Uncle Sam. Now we are letting him be treated like Uncle Sucker. They have enough money. They have enough military capability. This is in Europe's backyard. Let them send their troops to the front. We can provide support with air strikes, with training, with advisers, but not with ground troops.

COLONIAL BEACH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNI- VERSARY

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

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department got its start in March 1884, with a resolution passed at the 35th meeting of the town council, promising cooperation with property owners in raising funds to purchase a fire extinguishing apparatus to be operated by a volunteer fire company. A committee was appointed in October 1895, to ascertain the cost and to determine how much money interested citizens would contribute toward its purchase.

A request was received in July 1896, from the Howe Pump and Engine Company of Indianapolis, IN, to demonstrate a piece of fire apparatus in Colonial Beach, VA. The apparatus was to be drawn by a team of two horses, and would be operated by eight men, four on each side of the pump by cantilever action. It would be capable of dispensing 60 gallons of water per minute and was equipped with 500 feet of 2¼ inch

hose. One of the rear wheels had a striker, which hit a gong with each revolution of the wheel. The apparatus was purchased in August 1896, for \$875, a far cry from the \$250,000 to \$500,000 required to purchase one today. Since the fire department did not own any horses, it was agreed to purchase a set of double harnesses and that a premium of \$2 be given to the first person to reach the fire house with two good fast horses and hook up to the apparatus.

Today's fire sirens, beepers, and radios are a far cry from the way fire alarms used to be sounded. The first alarm used in Colonial Beach, was by striking a metal triangle with a hammer and later on a large ring was struck with a sledge hammer. Both the triangle and the ring are displayed at the fire station on Colonial Avenue.

In August 1896, a bid was submitted by Charles Pfeil to build the first fire house for a sum of \$24. A year later, Pfeil was appointed fire chief at a salary of \$3 per month. His duties were to keep the apparatus, fire house, and fixtures clean and in ready condition. The fire house was moved to the old town hall in March 1907 and did not move again until another fire house was built in 1940. In 1952, a second story was added with the help of the Ladies Auxiliary. A brand new building was built in 1961 on Colonial Avenue and is the current fire house.

The first 100 years of the Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department have been an exciting time of service and growth. The department has always stayed one step ahead of its peers with new, innovative thinking and proactive programs. Their members have committed themselves for over 100 years now with a sense of pride, tradition, and service to all those in their community. The Colonial Beach Volunteer Fire Department vows to continue to carry the high level of professional service that has become their hallmark into the next century, protecting the citizens of the community through the next 100 years.

SUPPORT THE BOSNIA PEACE PLAN

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, for the past 4 years Bosnia has witnessed atrocities not seen on the European Continent since the horrors of World War II. Among these are concentration camps, women and girls raped as a tool of war, documented instances of mass murder, and the nightmare of ethnic cleansing becoming a reality.

A quarter of a million people have been killed in this war, many of them defenseless civilians. This number includes women and children. Two million people, about half the population, have been forced from their homes and

are now suffering the miserable life of refugees.

For 4 years war has raged in Bosnia, and the United States has rightly stayed out of the war. The United States could not force peace on the warring factions. Now the situation is different. Due primarily to American leadership, peace has been brokered between the war-weary combatants.

Mr. Speaker, let us say thanks that the war and the killing has ended. Genocide has stopped and the war is over because of American leadership. We should thank the President, Secretary of State Christopher, Madeline Albright, Richard Holbrook, and the man that probably had the most to do with this peace, Robert Frazier, who gave his life to this process. I would also like to particularly acknowledge the key role played by National Security Adviser Tony Lake in securing the peace agreement. The peace process was initiated during his trip to Europe in late July.

The United States now has the historic opportunity to help Bosnia return to normalcy and bring stability to this troubled region.

THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT MADE THE CASE IN BOSNIA

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, last night the President came to the American people to convince us it is a good idea to send ground troops to Bosnia. He says he will come to Congress. Both of these things are the things he should be doing. We have been asking him to do it.

I sat there in front of my television half wanting to be convinced, because you do not want to embarrass the President, you want him to be right, you want him to represent the country in the right way. What I found with his speech was a great deal of emotion. He talked about rapes and concentration camps and mass executions, all things that we would like to stop if we possibly could, but he was short on substance.

He talked about vital American interests but he does not tell us what that was. He talked about American leadership and he seemed to be saying that the only way we can have American leadership is if we pay the bill, if we pay the price with our blood and with our money. I found myself wondering, I wonder if it is so bad if in some cases if someone else takes the leadership. Do we have to lead in everything? Is this not a European problem? Could we not rely on Europe to take the leadership in this?

I wonder how the President is going to respond to the families who lose children in this conflict, and they will lose some. Is he going to say, "Your son died for the future of NATO?" Is he going to say, "Your son died because we might stop World War III?" Is he

going to say, "Your son died for American leadership?" I do not think he has made the case.

THE LESSON OF HAITI

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, as the subject of Bosnia has come up, Haiti has somehow crept into the conversation as some sort of a model.

I think people should know that things are not so good in Haiti. Public security there is literally falling apart. There is violent rioting through the country, mob rule, the streets are unsafe. This past weekend a 6-year-old school girl waiting for a schoolbus was shot dead. Businesses are closed and shuttered.

I do not know how many people have been burned to death or hacked to death, but I know it is more than one. The police station in the major city has been burned down. A drive-by shooting took place at city hall. Fear is pervasive. You can measure it; you can feel it.

The wave of unrest and violence that is going on is not something that is caused by citizens from the ground up. It was unleashed by the democratically elected President, President Aristide, 2 1/2 weeks ago at a funeral.

The new police force that is supposed to protect and provide law and order there was disassembled and disarmed by the mob and chased out. The judiciary is in hiding. The presidential elections that we are supporting and paying for are in doubt.

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Certainly, even if they come off, they will not be full, fair, and free. Investment is not happening. Privatization is not taking place. Corruption is not being taken care of.

But refugees are starting again. The drownings are happening again. This is not a model for success.

Let us not hope we are going to do in Bosnia what has happened in Haiti.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

A BALANCED BUDGET: GOOD FOR NEW YORK AND NEW YORKERS

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have talked generally about the national merits of our achieving a balanced Federal budget. However, I want to talk about the balanced budget and what the subsequent