personally believe, since it has now been well over 40 days since the President promised to clear the air and tell the American people the full truth, in fact I think he promised more rather than less, sooner rather than later, I want to say that I do believe that the President owes us all as fellow Americans, since we are all his constituents, he is the only elected official who represents every American, that he owes us all a complete explanation.

I also want to tell my colleagues that it is my interpretation of the law that it is simply not true, as the President claims, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR) said the other day, that the rules of law or the rules of any court prohibit him, the President, from commenting, or from clearing the air and telling the truth.

I do not believe that the law or any court order constrains the President from following through on his promise to the American people to tell more rather than less and sooner rather than later. I believe that it is his choice, his decision alone, that keeps the President from commenting on the matters that swirl around him and keep the President from telling the American people the whole truth.

By the way, I personally believe that you can trust the American people with the truth, even when it is bad news. All I can say is that I would hope that the President will come forward soon and speak to the American people.

I also again just want to tell our young people that there is nothing more important than your personal morality, your word. There is nothing more important than the character you are developing now as you go through school and the character you will display as a young person. I want to say that character does count.

I salute those who are coming forward now, such as the American women who had a rally last week here in Washington on March 5, a week ago today, in John Marshall Park. The theme of their rally was very simple; it was, Character Does Count, exclamation point.

These women, I think, are really to be commended, because they came forward. They are asking their fellow Americans to add their voices to those who believe that the American people deserve leaders of honesty, faithfulness and integrity, leaders who respect rather than dishonor and undermine marriage and the family. I want to tell those ladies that I admire them; I think that they are sending a very important message to our young people.

I personally believe that Americans do care. I know that I care personally, and that together, if enough of us care, we can demand leaders who will tell the truth, obey the law and who are worthy role models for our children.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GOSS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for March 10, 11 and 12, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. REDMOND (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for March 10, 11 and 12, on account of personal reasons.

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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. LANTOS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. BARCIA, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELDON of Florida) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. PETERSON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. KIND.
Mr. MARKEY.
Mr. EVANS.
Mr. TOWNS.
Mr. ROEMER.
Mr. SHERMAN.
Mr. BERRY.
Mr. MASCARA.
Mr. MENENDEZ.
Mr. SCHUMER.
Mr. BORSKI.
Mr. KUCINICH.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. WELDON of Florida) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
Mr. OXLEY.
Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. RIGGS) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. GINGRICH.
Mr. WEYGAND.
Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon.
Mr. STARK.
Mr. PASCRELL.
Mr. EVANS.
Mr. RUSH.
Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
Mr. RADANOVICH.
Mr. FORBES.
Mr. KANJORSKI.
Mrs. MORELLA.
Mr. PACKARD.
Mr. LOBIONDO.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1605. An act to establish a matching grant program to help States, units of local government, and Indian tribes to purchase armor vests for use by law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 16, 1998, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7923. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled ''Reserve Component Update, FY 1999 Budget''; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7924. A letter from the Under Secretary, Aquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the Department's determination that it is in the public interest to use other than competitive procedures for the procurement of the supplies described therein, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304(c)(7); to the Committee on National Security.

7925. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting a report entitled ''Restructuring Costs Associated With Business Combinations,'' pursuant to Public Law 105—85; to the Committee on National Security.

7926. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the number of military technician positions that were held by non-dual status military technicians on September 30, 1997, pursuant to Public Law 105—85; to the Committee on National Security.

7927. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Loans to Executive Officers, Directors, and Principal Shareholders of Member Banks; Loans to Holding Companies and Affiliates [Docket Number R–0940] received March 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7928. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the Board's reports entitled ''1998 TF Salary Structure'' and the ''1998 TS/TM Salary Structure''; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7929. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Mutual Holding Companies [98–23] (RIN: 1550–AB04) March 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7930. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Notice of Final Funding Priorities for Fiscal Years 1998–1999 for Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers received March 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.