

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we worked from yesterday until early this morning. We now have nothing to do on the floor for the next couple of weeks. At the end of each day, I believe it is important to be honest and to ask the question: Who was helped and who was hurt by what we did?

Do not get me wrong, Mr. Speaker, we passed important reforms, many of which Democrats had pushed last Congress.

But, who did we help, and who did we hurt? The jobless remain unemployed. Those without health care still don't have it. Our young have no new direction. The chill of winter is certain to claim the lives of some homeless people. And, no hope was given to small farmers.

We have been asked to meet the challenge of change, but what did we change on day one and day two of this Congress? I ask my colleagues in the majority, what did we do to reinforce families? What did we do to restore the American dream? What did we do last night to take back our streets? Who did we help?

I would suggest that when it is summed up, all we did was make a move for news; those suffering citizens got nothing.

A GOOD BEGINNING TO CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a beginning. We ended Congress' special exemption from the laws that they have passed for others. We reduced committees and subcommittees and committee staff. We determined that budgets should be done with zero baselines, with honest numbers. We opened up the House books.

Most of these bills passed with bipartisan support. It was the beginning of keeping promises that were made. I look forward to working with my Democratic colleagues to balance the budget and to reform the welfare state. This way we can keep our promises and our Contract With America.

A CALL TO ADDRESS THE REAL NEEDS

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

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I think it was Emerson who said, "If we make our Deal with life for a penny and we get no more, then there's no one to blame except ourselves." There was a lot of motion yesterday, but very little action on the issues that affect the heartland of our Nation.

I would like to compliment the majority on a day in which they accomplished what they set out to do and ask

them to raise their vision slightly now to focus on the real problems of our land. Let us spend 13 hours on how to create jobs in this country, how to provide training and opportunity so Americans can come to work and earn a decent wage.

We all started a new job yesterday. There are some Americans, millions of them, who do not have a job to go to. Before we pat ourselves on the back too much, let us look now at the real needs of this Nation, and as those who have been given the tremendous responsibility to help shape the future of this land, let us now dedicate our work and our actions to those issues.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. What a difference a day makes, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday was a great and historic day for the American people and the House. Yesterday was all about promises made and promises kept.

We were sent a strong message in November. The people want less government, lower taxes, they want to let people keep more of what they earn and save and they want to let people make their own decisions about how they spend their money, not government. They want a government that works for them and not against them.

We fulfilled the first part of our Contract With America with an overwhelming bipartisan coalition and we will continue to work in a bipartisan fashion to pass the rest of the Contract With America in the next 99 days.

I was proud to be part of the beginning of this historic revolution and to keep my promises to create a new agenda for Congress and a new direction for America.

A POSITIVE FIRST STEP

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

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, all too often politicians make promises, but don't keep them. That is in large part the cause of cynicism among the American people about their government institutions.

Last night and early this morning, the American people witnessed monumental change in the House of Representatives as we kept our promises. With votes from both sides of the aisle we began to deliver on the Contract With America.

It was a first step to restore the bonds of trust between the American people and all of us, their elected representatives. By changing the very way this institution operates—cutting committees, cutting staff, banning ghost voting, auditing the House books, and using honest budgeting we have set a

positive tone for fulfilling the rest of our promises during the next 99 days.

DELIVERING ON PROMISED REFORM

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was truly a historic day. For me it was a personal privilege to represent the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Arizona and to be here with my 9-year-old son and my 13-year-old daughter. Yesterday was historic for many reasons. We set the tone for a very different U.S. Congress. We proved that the American people asked to trust us and that we could be trusted, that we promised reforms and that we delivered on those reforms.

The people in my district thought it an outrage that the laws we impose on the rest of America do not apply to the Congress. Yesterday we applied those laws to the U.S. Congress. The people of America thought it an outrage that our committee and our committee staffs had grown bloated and oversized and we cut those committees and we cut those committee staffs. We began the premise and the process of fulfilling the promises we had made to the American people. In the next 99 days, we will carry forward real reforms, reforms which will truly change the lives of Americans.

I invite the people of the Nation to look in and to join us in this great and historic process.

THE POWER OF GOOD IDEAS

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

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House made an excellent start in holding this body accountable to the people, cutting its costs. What particularly impressed me about what happened yesterday was the strong bipartisan majorities that supported most, if not all, of the measures that were brought before the House.

The following measures and many others as well passed by unanimous or near unanimous votes: Substantial cuts in committee staff, an independent auditor to examine the books of the House, banning of proxy voting, congressional compliance, that this body would finally be brought under the same laws that it has passed for everyone else.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, what we heard was the sound of gridlock breaking. It was broken not by partisanship or by arm-twisting but by the power of good ideas. I look forward to the power of good ideas dominating in this House for the next 100 days, substantial support from both sides of the aisle toward an agenda that brings this body back to the people of the United States.