

to pay tribute to the owner of the San Francisco 49ers, Edward J. DeBartolo, Jr., my constituent.

I predict the 49ers will win. The Chargers are great, but the reason I predict the 49ers to win is the standard of excellence of the 49ers from top to bottom.

The reason for that excellence, ladies and gentlemen, was a humble construction worker from Youngstown, OH, by the name of Edward J. DeBartolo, Sr., who became the No. 1 developer of shopping malls in America. He started work at 6 o'clock in the morning. He has recently passed away, but he passed on that work ethic to his son.

I predict from top to bottom owner Eddie DeBartolo, Jr., Carmon Poucy, another one of my constituents, and Coach George Seifert and the great 49ers will win because of that work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to Mr. DeBartolo, Sr. Mr. DeBartolo, Sr., was a big supporter of H.R. 390: Innocent Until Proven Guilty.

The 49er standard of excellence will prevail.

REPUBLICANS MAKING PROGRESS ON THEIR CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. WATTS] pointed out, we do have a Contract With America. We are working very hard.

I want to say it was a bipartisan contract in the last few weeks. The line-item veto came out of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight with a 30-to-11 bipartisan margin.

The Shays Act to apply to Congress every law which applies to the rest of the country passed with a huge bipartisan margin.

The victory last night for the constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget was a bipartisan victory.

I want to thank all of the reform Democrats who are joining us again and again in doing good bipartisan things. We do have a contract. We are going to keep it.

A friend of mine gave me this this morning earlier and said, "Why don't you punch in this contract that you always carry, why don't you take out the very first one." I want to punch a hole to indicate one is down. We will be back for nine more.

GIFT BAN

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, while we are on the subject of reform Democrats, from fruit baskets to first-class flights, it is time to give it up. It is time to pass the gift ban for lobbyists.

In his State of the Union message, the President encouraged Congress to voluntarily abandon lobbyist gifts and trips. He is right.

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We do not need a law to do what each of us can do individually. Today, I am implementing in our Charleston, Martinsburg, and Washington offices all the provisions of the reform law that still have not passed. That means no lobbyist-provided meals, no lobbyist gifts, and no lobbyist trips.

Food, like fruit baskets, will either be declined or given to charity. Happily there will not be much change for our office. I believe we have received three cans of popcorn and one birthday cake in the last few months.

Mr. Speaker, as I do this in my office, so does Congress need to pass the lobby reform legislation that puts this into law. Twice last year I voted to make it law. Two weeks ago I voted to make it law.

As I have put this gift ban into effect and made it the law of the West Virginia Second Congressional District office, Mr. Speaker, now I ask you to help make it the law of the Nation.

WE WILL WORK TO KEEP OUR PROMISES

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the balanced budget amendment passed the House yesterday. We have demonstrated to the people that we have heard their concerns, and the Republican controlled Congress will continue to work to keep our promises with them by enacting the rest of the Contract With America.

But I have to say I am disappointed that the Barton language, which provided a protection to the taxpayers by preventing tax increases without a three-fifths majority vote, did not pass. In fact, even though 97 percent of Republicans voted for this language, less than 20 percent of the Democrats voted for it. I guess it is hard for the Democrats to accept that the days of tax and tax and spend and spend are over.

I want to assure the hard working taxpayers in our country that the fight is not over. We will spend the next year building support for a tax limitation amendment and bring it back to the floor for a vote.

I am confident that with hard work, we will win. In the meantime, let us continue to pass the rest of the Contract With America.

URGING PASSAGE OF THE GIFT BAN

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, we need to take up the President's challenge and ban gifts of any kind from paid lobbyists, and we need to restrict the amount of royalty income that Members of Congress are permitted to receive to one-third of their annual salary. The Bryant bill would do just that. It is the toughest lobby reform and ethics legislation ever considered by Congress.

We must pass the Bryant bill, because it is not enough for each Member of Congress to simply pledge that we will not longer take gifts or accept royalties, we also need to enforce disclosure by lobbyists. The American people have a right to know what legislation these groups are attempting to influence and how much money they are spending in those efforts.

On January 4, the first day of the 104th Congress, House Democrats moved to impose tough gift restrictions and royalty limits. But that effort failed—not a single Republican voted for the gift ban.

It is time for Republicans to live up to their rhetoric on reform. Perks and privileges demean this institution and everyone who serves here. Let us pass the gift ban, now.

CELEBRATING THE PASSING OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day to celebrate the passing of the balanced budget amendment. I want to give you two particular reasons that we should celebrate.

First of all is that we yesterday fixed the flaw in the Constitution that Thomas Jefferson talked about over 200 years ago in 1787. He said "There is one omission that I fear in this Constitution, and that is that we have not restricted the ability of the United States Government to borrow money."

Well, as we restricted it yesterday with a three-fifths requirement to raise the ceiling on the debt.

The second thing I want to particularly celebrate is that this passage of the balanced budget amendment is one more step; maybe it is a giant step, maybe it is a baby step, but my goodness, it is a step toward restoring confidence in the American people's ability to elect people that will actually do what they say they will do, and their ability to trust their elected representatives. By keeping our promises, we are restoring confidence in this institution and confidence in America.

MAJORITY URGED TO JOIN IN EFFORT TO CLEAN UP CONGRESS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)