

Today, as we are considering the Overseas Interests Act that recognizes that we have won the cold war, we will answer that question.

The bill we are considering today reduces, diminishes, lessens, curtails, lowers and yes, cuts foreign aid. It concentrates on cutting aid to countries that do not support us in the United Nations. It punishes the countries that supply weapons to terrorist states. It refocuses our efforts on the countries that do support American interests overseas.

The new majority in this Congress are serious about cutting spending and eliminating agencies in this bill. We save the taxpayers \$21 billion over 7 years. That is a cut. We eliminate three major agencies in the first major restructuring of our foreign affairs operation in 50 years. That is a cut.

When is a spending cut a cut? It is today, when we debate and continue discussion on the Overseas Interests Act.

TWO WEEKS' DEBATE ON MONEY FOR FOREIGN AID, BUT NO FUNDING TO SOLVE AMERICAN PROBLEMS

(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, let us see if I can understand this. There are 25,000 murders a year. We have a Tax Code that is literally killing us. The IRS keeps ripping us off. We have parents without children, Social Security being raided, Medicare almost broke, a record number of school dropouts, workers losing their pensions, losing their health insurance benefits, workers losing their jobs, massive budget deficits, huge trade deficits, and, Mr. Speaker, the Congress of the United States has been debating foreign aid for 2 solid weeks.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Is it any wonder why America is so angry with their Government? While we debate foreign aid and more money for overseas, America is going to hell in a handbasket. Think about it.

CONCERN FOR THE REPUTATION OF THE HOUSE RAISED BY UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS ON SPEAKER'S BOOK DEAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for the reputation of this institution. It is devastating when the Speaker of the House of Representatives does not stand by his words. NEWT GINGRICH announced earlier this year that he would not sign his book deal with Rupert Murdoch until the Ethics Committee had approved the contract. The jury is still out. And what has the Speaker done?

He has ignored the Ethics Committee and signed the contract anyway. Maybe the Speaker knows something that we do not know. Is it because every single Republican on the Ethics Committee has a conflict of interest in the Speaker's case? Is it likely that they cannot be credible as judge and jury?

Mr. Speaker, how can NEWT GINGRICH make such an outrageous claim, that if the Ethics Committee has not finished its deliberations, then he will assume that no rules have been broken. The Ethics Committee clearly said to the Speaker not to make such an absurd assumption. Once again, the Speaker has demonstrated that he will not allow the Rules or the Ethics Committee to stand in the way of his multi-million-dollar book deal. Is this the same person who led the call for an investigation of the former Speaker of the House, Jim Wright? I ask today, out of fairness to the American people, appoint an outside counsel. What's good for the goose is also good for the gander.

TIME FOR THE ETHICS COMMITTEE TO THROW OUT RIDICULOUS CHARGES

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the gentleman who spoke just before me brought up, because of an opportunity to respond to what the Ethics Committee is not willing to do. The fact of the matter is the Speaker did submit a contract for its review. The only role that the Ethics Committee has in this is to determine whether the contract is too generous. In fact, any Member can write a book in this House without having approval, but if the contract is too generous, such as Speaker Wright's, where he got 55 percent royalties, it becomes a gift.

The same contract that the Speaker submitted before two times and was approved in 3 weeks was submitted this time. It is not being approved by the Ethics Committee because the Democrats refuse to approve the very same contract that AL GORE got approved, that the gentleman from Michigan, DAVID BONIOR, got approved.

As a matter of fact, one of the ethics charges is that he used an 800 number on the floor of the House. So did 11 others. Do we discharge that complaint, or do we file complaints against the 11 others? One of the charges is that a cable channel carried his course. Every one of the Members plays on the cable channels for free. Do we level charges against each of them? It is time for the Ethics Committee to throw out these ridiculous, frivolous charges.

PRESIDENT CLINTON COMMENDED FOR VETOING RESCISSIONS BILL

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

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend President Clinton for his leadership in vetoing the mean-spirited rescission bill that passed this body. It is unbelievable that our President has to use his first veto on a bill to stand up for our children and our future. Investing in our children with programs like Goals 2000, Safe and Drug Free Schools, AmeriCorps, and School to Work Programs promote the betterment of our country.

Drastically reducing funds which go toward educating our children sends a bad signal to the rest of the world, telling them, we do not want to be competitive in the next century, we do not want to train our children to be the best that they can be, we do not want drug education in our schools. We need to stop this nonsense of cutting \$16 billion in domestic aid that affect our children at home and turning around to authorize \$16 billion for foreign aid for people abroad. Again, I commend President Clinton for vetoing this ill-advised rescissions bill.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE TAX SAVINGS BILL

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, featuring interactive dialog with John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon, "Forrest Gump" proved that to star in a movie, one not only does not have to be an actor, but through modern technology, you do not have to be alive anymore, either.

Yesterday, by vetoing the \$16 billion tax savings bill, the Clinton administration proved a similar phenomenon: That is, even a dead presidency can continue to enhance its reputation as a big spending friend of bureaucracy long after its political life has expired. That is right. Without asking anybody, Mr. President just went ahead and vetoed.

For a short while, he will be the hero of the big spenders in Washington and the bureaucracy, but the American people will demand: If not these cuts, which cuts; if not this rescission, which rescission; if not these programs, which programs?

If you want relevancy, Mr. President, join the debate. Show us where you want to save the taxpayers' dollars.

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MEDICARE

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take strong exception to the Republicans' proposed massive Medicare cuts.

These cuts will force senior citizens in my district and around the country to pay \$3,500 over 7 years. Many seniors will have to make hard choices between food on their table or the medical attention that they desperately need to survive.

Slashing Medicare will not only hurt seniors, it will hurt all Americans. Medicare cuts will hurt many hospitals that rely heavily upon Medicare reimbursement.

Republicans argue that these cuts are necessary to save the system. However, the very same Republican budget that cuts Medicare contains a \$288 billion tax giveaway for the most affluent Americans.

Senior citizens have worked hard and contributed all their lives to this country. They deserve affordable health care. Let us end these shameless cuts and consider real health care reform.

REPUBLICANS FIGHTING FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that the Republicans have in fact looked at the problem and seen that the Medicare trust fund will go out of business by 2002. We will have no Medicare. But under our proposal, there is an increase from \$4,700 to \$6,300 for the Medicare recipients.

This is not a cut. Only in Washington, DC can an increase be a cut.

Working in a bipartisan fashion, we want to make sure our seniors are protected.

Not only are we going to protect Medicare but we are making sure that Social Security is off the table. More importantly, we just recently rolled back the 1993 increase in Social Security taxes and we allow seniors under 70 years old not to be capped at \$11,280 for income but be able to make up to \$30,000 a year over the next 5 years without deductions from Social Security.

We are fighting for senior citizens. We ask that everyone join together and work with us so that we can make sure that Medicare is preserved, protected, and improved.

CALL FOR AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of our House is an intelligent person. He is a student of history. He has been a professor of history and indeed he has helped write a lot of recent history. He knows well the historical precedent to avoid even the semblance of conflict or impropriety.

Now the House and the House Ethics Committee faces an important question on ethical violations—

Questions concerning the activities of GOPAC under the control of the Speaker; questions concerning possible conflicts of interest with a book deal and a publisher who might have involvement and interest before this body.

Despite promises that the Ethics Committee would approve any signing of a book deal, the Speaker went ahead and signed it, anyway, and then received a letter from the Ethics Committee saying you should not make any assumptions about our signing or approving that conduct.

In previous high-profile cases, 22 out of 46 since 1968, an outside counsel has been appointed including for the most recent Speaker under investigation, Speaker Wright. Today the Ethics Committee is deadlocked on partisan lines.

Historical precedent is clear here—avoid even the semblance of a conflict. I would urge the appointment of an outside counsel.

THE ANSWER IS NO

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, on June 4, 1992, on "Larry King Live," then-candidate Bill Clinton said, "I will present a 5-year plan to balance the budget."

About 3 weeks ago, President Clinton said that he would balance the budget within 10 years. What do we have today? We have got nothing. It is 3 years later from the original promise and the American people are still waiting to hear from this President on a balanced budget.

Two nights ago on "Larry King Live," the President once again artfully dodged Larry King's question about the lack of any attempt by the administration to balance this budget.

We have got to balance the budget in this country. We have a huge problem in this country that is accumulating at a rate of \$33 million an hour.

What does our President do? He goes out and vetoes the first serious attempt in a long time to cut spending.

Does he have an alternative? The answer is no.

Can he balance the budget in 5 years? The answer is no.

Can he balance the budget in 10 years? The answer is no.

Is he even going to try? The answer is no.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to us, the Republicans in the U.S. Congress, to balance this budget.

EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS BRIGHTEN WITH PRESIDENT'S VETO OF RESCISSIONS BILL

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to commend President Clinton for vetoing a bill that took food out of the mouths of children, heat out of the homes of the elderly, and trees out of national forests.

The bill cut student loans and summer jobs for young Americans trying to do something with their lives. It used money for those programs to provide timber barons with massive Government subsidies. This is a clear-cut case of clearcutting.

The new majority has taken a chain saw to education funding and to our disappearing natural resources. But the President's pen was mightier than the chain saw.

His first veto was a defining one. He stuck up for education and the environment.

The Republicans stuck up for corporate welfare and environmental destruction.

Mr. Speaker, the new majority has passed some awful legislation. I hope the President's veto pen has plenty of ink.

THE TRUTH

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, one after another after another of our liberal colleagues take to the well to carp, to moan, to deceive and to distort. * * * They can say the most outlandish things with such ease, you would swear that it was Mephistopheles himself that was up there speaking.

For instance, they say that Republicans are drastically cutting Medicare. It is not true and they know it. Far from cutting Medicare, Republicans are strengthening the program and saving it from certain bankruptcy as said so by the trustees of the program itself. * * *

It is there. Why are my—

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the gentleman's words be taken down. Twice during this time, he called the Members of Congress liars and I would like to have those words taken down or an apology issued.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman will suspend and the Clerk will report the words.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, if the appropriate rule with respect to accusations of untruths arise, does it require