

NEWT GINGRICH know how they got that.

Another problem they have is that they said, let us talk about it, but they have decided it is 7 years. Well, at least the Speaker is honest enough to say he just made it up; it just sounded good to him.

Mr. Speaker, the third and the most vicious thing I think one of the leading candidates for President from the other body said, and that is that they have been voting against Medicare ever since it has been enacted. The record is abundantly clear that they want to get rid of Medicare and they want to give tax cuts to the rich.

POLITICAL SHOW TRIAL

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it read like a bad movie, except it's true. This is the story of a career government employee, Billy Dale, a man now 58 years old who had worked for the last seven Presidents helping with travel reservations. But in 1993, the new President and his wife decided to fire the veterans in that office and replace them with relatives and cronies. Billy Dale was fired and the cronies were hired and the Travelgate scandal was born. It became so serious that it was at the center of the note found after Vince Foster's death.

But that was not the end of it for Billy Dale. Apparently, to justify the firing the White House had him investigated by the FBI for more than 2 years. They poured over every aspect of his life and then prosecuted him for supposed embezzlement. From all appearances, Billy Dale and his family were caught up in a political show trial. Yesterday, it took a jury only 2 hours to find him not guilty. This is not supposed to happen in America. But it did.

NO BALANCE IN BUDGET BILL

(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, today, the Gingrich budget comes to the floor. The Republicans like to call it the balanced budget plan but there is nothing balanced about Speaker GINGRICH'S bill.

There is nothing balanced about raiding Medicare to pay for a tax cut to the wealthy.

There is nothing balanced about slashing education while eliminating the corporate minimum tax.

There is nothing balanced about gutting environmental protection in order to placate corporate polluters.

There is nothing balanced about raising taxes on people making under \$30,000 a year while cutting taxes for people making \$500,000.

There is nothing balanced about the Gingrich budget, it takes from our

most vulnerable citizens to lavish gifts upon the most well to do. to quote an old song, if the Republicans want the President to sign their budget: Try a little tenderness.

□ 0945

WORKING TOGETHER TO PASS A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, options, options, options. That is all the President is left with these days. We all know he does not have any solutions of his own.

He chose one of those options. He shut down the Government. He chose poorly.

He did not want to talk about it, but let me outline what his other option was. He could have agreed, in principle, to the idea that we should balance the budget in 7 years. He could have sat down and worked with Republicans to pass a balanced budget.

But the President chose a different option. He chose to shut down the Government, because it made him look decisive—something that has not happened during his entire tenure as President.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are simply trying to do what the American people have asked us to do—balance the budget. I wish the President would join us and end the Democrat legacy of passing the buck on to future generations.

GINGRICH PLAN CUTS SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO WEALTHY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker says one thing and does another. He said he wants to save Medicare, yet Speaker GINGRICH speaking to a group of insurance executives said he wants to let Medicare wither on the vine. He says he wants a balanced budget yet the Gingrich plan cuts \$270 billion from Medicare to give tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country. The Speaker said he wants opportunity for future generations. Yet the Gingrich plan cuts billions in student loans for working families. He said he wants to give a tax break to the middle class. Yet the Gingrich plan raises taxes on 13 million working families.

Sure, Mr. Speaker, listen to what the Speaker says, but more important pay attention to the Gingrich plan. It cuts Medicare, it cuts student loans to middle-class families, it raises taxes on working families, all to give a tax break to the richest people in this country.

REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Day four of the Clinton shutdown of the Government. Why? Because he cannot even agree in principle that we should balance the budget in 7 years. Let me say that again. The President will not even agree in principle that we should balance the budget in 7 years. We are not talking about specifics here. All we want the President to agree to is the concept that we should pass a plan based on independent, honest Congressional Budget Office numbers that balances the budget in 7 years. Period. But the President will not agree to a 7-year plan to balance the budget. Why? Because right now his pollsters and campaign advisers have told him that he needs to appear decisive. So the President is willing to keep the Government shut down.

Mr. Speaker, no more excuses, no more Washington gimmicks. Republicans are committed to a balanced budget. It is time for the President, not Dick Morris who evidently is running the country, to join in that commitment.

DEMOCRATS ASK FOR FAIRNESS

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

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. The last speech, Mr. Speaker, has got to top all of them this morning for turning the facts on their head. The fact of the matter is it is the obligation of the Congress to pass a budget. We are 45 days late. It was supposed to be passed by October 1, and no budget has been sent to the President. That is why the Government is shut down. The President himself of course has not done it.

The fact of the matter is that the Republicans want to send him a budget, although they have not done it yet, that relies upon drastic cuts in the Medicare insurance program for elderly people and big tax breaks for the wealthy to get to what they call a balanced budget.

Everybody wants a balanced budget, but the top 1 percent have an average income of \$600,000 a year. They get a tax cut under this Republican plan of \$15,000 while the bottom 20 percent with an average income of \$6,000 a year either get no tax cut or many of them get a tax increase of \$173 a year. That is not fair, and until it is fair, Democrats will continue to vote "no."

THE BUDGET SHOWDOWN

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago candidate Clinton promised that he would present and support

a 5-year balanced budget plan. He never followed through. Later he said we could balance the budget in 10 years, and then 9 years and then 7 years. Of the two budgets he did introduce to Congress this year, neither of them brings the deficit down at all. In fact in 2005 under President Clinton's budget, the deficit will be over \$200 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this whole budget show-down really goes to the issue of credibility. Does anybody really doubt what would happen if the other side were still in charge? Is there any doubt they would raise our taxes, make government bigger, deficits worse and that they will do it all in the name of compassion? I do not think so.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge the President to break with the past and keep at least one of the promises he made as a candidate. Come to the table, Mr. President. Help us balance this budget.

NOT THIS TURKEY ON THANKSGIVING

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH is bringing his budget to serve to America's families at their Thanksgiving table. The Gingrich budget stands family values as we know them on their head. It means if this passes that the wealthiest families at your Thanksgiving table will get more, the working families at your Thanksgiving table will pay more. The poor will have great trouble. They will never get to the table. The elderly will have great trouble with health care. The young will not be able to get their lunches as easily and the students will not be able to get their loans as easily.

This is not about how long it takes to balance the budget. This is who you stick your fork in as you balance the budget. The only thing standing between Speaker GINGRICH's values and America's values is the President. The President must stand firm and say these are not America's traditional values and spare the American family being served this turkey on Thanksgiving.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SIGN THIS BILL

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, here is candidate Bill Clinton live on the "Larry King Show" in 1992 and I quote: "I would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget."

Here is what the President said on August 1 of this year and I quote: "I mean, I think that it's wrong to say you're going to do something and not do it."

Mr. Speaker, this week we passed with bipartisan support a plan that

would reopen Government. We had only one stipulation: He had to agree to balance the budget using legitimate numbers in less than 7 years. No specifics, a simple question. Mr. President, do you want to balance the budget?

We want to work with him on this plan to achieve that goal. Unfortunately, the President has said, "No, I don't want to balance the budget."

Mr. President, if you meant what you said, then sign this bill. And, Mr. Morris, if you are really running the country, get the President to sign this bill.

DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, a day late and a dollar short. I wish it were only that big a problem. In fact, our Republican colleagues are about 6 weeks late in getting a budget to President Clinton. We will finally take it up for consideration to go to the President today. They are more than a dollar short. In fact, this week NEWT GINGRICH will be paying out millions of dollars eventually, millions of dollars to Federal workers who have now been off work for 4 days and NEWT GINGRICH will pay them for not working. That is the policy of fiscal responsibility that our Republican colleagues are imposing on America. They say they will have a balanced budget today but for seniors who will pay more and get less for Medicare, there is not much balance in it. For working families who will pay more taxes under this budget and get less, there is not much in it. For students who will pay more and get less education, there is not much in it. And for those who care about the environment and who will just get less in this budget, there is not much in it.

CALL FOR BIPARTISANSHIP IN BUDGET BATTLE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the national debt is over \$4.9 trillion. Yesterday Bill Clinton distanced himself from balancing the budget. Is that not sad? We have an almost \$5 trillion debt and the President of the United States does not want to address the problem.

Last night Congress acted in good faith to reopen the parts of Government that are shut down. Many Democrats joined with Republicans to say that we want to end the budget crisis and balance the budget. The President says he will veto our efforts.

Bill Clinton would rather make excuses and play word games with the American people. All the while our national debt piles up and our families suffer the burden of our debt.

Mr. Speaker, the President should end the games and help us balance the budget.

A TWO-HEADED TURKEY

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party are handing the American people a two-headed turkey for Thanksgiving. On the eve of this Thanksgiving, 3,484,947 people are being hurt by this Government shutdown.

I have in my hand a letter to Speaker NEWT GINGRICH which says I join in with my colleagues to keep this Congress working all through the weekend. I am sorry I have not heard from him and he has not heard us. I am here to work.

It seems that intuition is the only basis upon which we have a budget that will hurt Texans all over the map. Forty-one schools in Texas will be closed out of the direct loan program, approximately 57,000 students will lose access to direct loans in Texas. Thirty-three percent of our children under 18 will get absolutely nothing out of the \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthy across this Nation, and \$32 billion will be cut out of the earned income tax for 13 million families earning under \$30,000. They will get absolutely nothing.

I want a real commonsense budget. I voted for a balanced budget, but this Republican budget as presently proposed is nothing but a two-headed turkey for Americans. Who do you think deserves the honor? Who is a turkey here?

COMMITTING OUR TROOPS IN BOSNIA

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, we all want peace in Bosnia, but there is rumor that there is an agreement based on United States troops in Bosnia that has been arrived at. It is beyond belief that the President would agree to an agreement in defiance of a vote of almost three-quarters of the House specifically saying do not base any agreement on United States troops in Bosnia.

We have all learned through sad experience that it is easy to rush in troops, it is extremely difficult to solve the problems when they are there, and it is even more difficult to get out in a timely and an honorable way.

It is the Presidential constitutional responsibility to deploy troops. It is the duty of Congress to either approve or deny funding the troops once they are there. Congress must not fund United States troops in Bosnia until we know exactly what United States interests are threatened and how the troops will protect those interest.

READ YOUR LIPS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address