

Charge: Misuse of the House floor for apparently commercial purposes. Finding: GINGRICH guilty. Charge: Improper promotion of GOPAC. Finding: GINGRICH guilty. Charge: Commingling of political and official resources. Finding: GINGRICH guilty.

And the Rupert Murdoch book deal, so bad that the committee on a bipartisan basis strongly questions the appropriateness of what some will call capitalizing on your office and says we need even a new rule because of this impression of exploiting one's office for personal gain.

Now, all the GOPAC dealings, the tentacles of GOPAC, the tax-free foundations, the book deal, the college course, so bad that they have called in an independent counsel. Not some tax adviser from H&R Block, but an independent prosecutor to get to the bottom of this. Until that is done, an ethical cloud is going to linger over this Congress.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

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

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Committee has finally reached a unanimous conclusion about the wild attacks that have come from liberal Democrats against Speaker NEWT GINGRICH: Much ado about nothing.

They have concluded that 64 of the 65 charges brought to the Ethics Committee about Mr. GINGRICH were without merit. The 65th charge requires an outside counsel because it is narrowly focused on a technical tax law.

I urge the American people to focus not on the media hype, but on the big picture.

Republicans are trying to balance the budget for the first time in decades. We are doing this to provide a better future for our children, to get lower interest rates for families today, and for a stronger America.

Instead of joining with us to balance the budget, liberal Democrats have launched a smear campaign meant to derail our legislative agenda. And as the Ethics Committee has concluded, these charges are baseless.

I urge my colleagues to stop playing political football with the Ethics Committee. It was established to bring greater integrity and respect to this institution. When you drag the Ethics Committee through the mud, every Member of this House gets dirty.

AT LAST, AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last night, after more than 14 months of deliberations, the Ethics Committee found Speaker NEWT GINGRICH guilty of violating House rules on three counts.

The Ethics Committee has also taken the long overdue step of appointing an outside counsel or prosecutor to investigate Speaker GINGRICH and untangle the web of nonprofit and political slush funds he directs.

In addition, the bipartisan committee rebuked the Speaker for accepting a \$4.5 million book deal from media mogul Rupert Murdoch. In their words: "the committee strongly questions the appropriateness of what some could describe as an attempt by you to capitalize on your office".

Though long overdue, the ethics committee has begun the process of investigating the Speaker of the House. It is high time.

The committee found Speaker GINGRICH guilty of violating House rules on three occasions. Could this be just the tip of the iceberg? The special counsel will find out for sure.

TIME FOR A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, when President Clinton vetoed the Balanced Budget Act yesterday, not only did he reject the first balanced budget to hit the President's desk in 25 years, he also vetoed the only plan that will save Medicare for the next generation.

Under the Republican budget plan, Medicare spending per beneficiary will increase over the next 7 years from \$4,800 to \$7,100 and the Democrats call that an unacceptable, draconian cut. The last time I checked, going from \$4,800 to \$7,100 is an increase, not a cut.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President to get his priorities in order. Does he want to help deliver a balanced budget to America, or does he want to try to demagogue the issue for political pints. The Republican majority wants a balanced budget. The American people want a balanced budget. It's time for the President to show leadership—give us a balanced budget.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PROTECTION ACT

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the last shutdown, I began this countdown on the floor to help Members understand the special outrage of closing down the Capital City.

Mr. Speaker, this is day 9 of the countdown to December 15. Mr. Speaker, 85 percent of the money in the D.C. appropriation is money raised from D.C. taxpayers. How would Members feel if the Congress used their own local money to shut down their district over a national dispute in which they were uninvolved?

The gentleman from Virginia [Mr. DAVIS] says that the Federal shutdown was dumb, but shutting down the Dis-

trict of Columbia was dumber. The District of Columbia is already on the operating table suffering an acute financial crisis so severe that the city has a control board. Even a month-to-month continuing resolution would cripple the District of Columbia. Doling out money in small amounts makes it almost impossible to run a complicated city and pay obligations on time.

Mr. Speaker, that is why a bipartisan bill, the D.C. Fiscal Protection Act, is being marked up on Friday. It is the responsible and fair thing to do.

SUPPORT AMERICA BY SUPPORTING A BALANCED BUDGET NOW

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last night the President vetoed the only balanced budget seen in 26 years.

The President's veto is a blow to our children and the future of this country. To me a balanced budget means prosperity, it means growth, it means stability. It means that our children will live in a country that can give them more than it gave us. To me, it means freedom.

The President vetoed all this.

Republicans sent the President a balanced budget—not because it is good politics but because it is good for America. We see a future where there's workfare not welfare, where there's independence not dependence.

Republicans believe that people, not the Government, drive the Nation and they—not us have made it the best and most prosperous country in the world.

Support America—support a balanced budget now.

SPEND AND SAVE MONEY WISELY

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, when we pass a budget, we must make sure we protect our elderly, our students, and our working families.

One way to do that is by spending our health care dollars wisely.

The Medicaid Program is designed to supplement Medicare for the elderly and provide health care for children and the disadvantaged.

A plan aimed at preventing pregnancies among teenagers could mean significant savings in our health care expenditures.

Many in Congress have complained about the problem of teenagers having babies.

Demagoguery is easy; meaningful action and deeds are more difficult.

I hope we will get beyond the talk and pass a budget that is wise in how we spend money and how we save money, yet fair in how we protect the health of the old, the young, and the

average American, fair to the elderly, fair to the young, and fair to the average citizen.

VETOING THE BALANCED BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the President has missed a historic opportunity to reverse his spending addiction. Since his 1992 campaign, Bill Clinton has told America that he would balance the budget in 5 years, 10 years, 8 years, 9 years, and even 7 years.

When the President vetoed the balanced budget plan he showed the American people his true colors. The President does not want to balance the Federal budget. Not now, not ever.

America, don't be fooled. The President will say anything.

He will tell you that Republican efforts to balance the budget are extreme. He will tell you that Republicans are cutting Medicare. He will tell you that Republicans are taking food out of the mouths of children. He will tell you that Republicans are taking away student loans.

That is not true. He tells you this because he loves big government, big spending, and big taxes.

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GOPAC

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

Ms. VALÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of a sense of deep outrage. Not long ago this House-passed legislation on lobbying reform, but it seems the Speaker feels he and his personal slush fund were exempt from it.

It's no wonder that the Speaker refuses to act on campaign finance reform, when there are allegations that GOPAC financed his own campaign to the tune of \$250,000. The evidence is so damning that last night the Ethics Committee issued a stinging rebuke to Speaker NEWT GINGRICH.

My colleagues, I call on the Speaker himself to release the list of past GOPAC donors, and the list of past GOPAC contributions to his own campaign.

Mr. Speaker, if you really have nothing to hide, then you have nothing to be afraid of. The American people demand the truth, it is time for you to come clean and end this charade.

BALANCED BUDGET PEN

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the only thing that stands between this country and a balanced budget is President Bill Clinton. Unfortunately, he ve-

toed the only balanced budget bill in the Oval Office yesterday. Instead of balancing the budget, the President has made it clear that he wants more spending, not less spending.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that the American people's priorities are just the opposite. It seems to me that the people want a smaller, less costly, and more efficient Federal Government. The American people want to keep more of their hard-earned money through tax cuts, not tax increases. The American people want an economy that stimulates job creation, not stifles economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, by vetoing the Balanced Budget Act, it's obvious the President doesn't know what the American people want. So I'll tell him. The American people want a balanced budget, and they want it now.

HOOKED ON REAGANOMICS

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that for the last few weeks, my Republican colleagues have stopped talking about saving Medicare. That's probably because no one believes that cutting \$270 billion from Medicare while providing \$245 billion in tax breaks will save anything except the lifestyles of the rich and famous.

Now the Republicans talk only about balancing the budget. However, their so-called balanced budget proposal actually increases the deficit next year and the year after that. This should come as no surprise considering that their tax breaks come first, while leaving the hard spending cuts to future Congresses. That is exactly what Ronald Reagan did to increase our debt by \$3 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, it appears my Republican colleagues can't help repeating the mistakes of the past. I suppose that's what happens when you're hooked on Reaganomics.

WHAT ARE THE DEMOCRATS TALKING ABOUT

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a moment to comment on what we are hearing from the other side of the aisle today. Particularly because yesterday the President vetoed the most important bill, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, that has ever come across his desk. And after 2 years and 11 months, we are still waiting to see his version of a balanced budget.

Here is what most of the Democrats are talking about today, Speaker GINGRICH. Let me just tell my colleagues, selective memory is a fine thing, but there is a fine line between self-righteousness and hypocrisy, or have they forgotten the House bank and post office scandals that happened on their

watch. Have they forgotten the two votes in the last Congress when they voted to block a Committee on Standards of Official Conduct investigation into Dan Rostenkowski who was then a member of the House Democratic Party leadership, for allegations of misconduct and ghost employees, the same gentleman who is under indictment today. They have forgotten that.

Here is the bottom line with this discussion. If my Democratic colleagues had any ideas on how to solve the major problems facing our country, they would be down here talking about them and not just continuing this character assassination against the Speaker.

I think the American people see through it. It is time to get on with the people's business. It is time to do the right thing for our kids and our country, and it is time to balance the budget.

DEMOCRATS HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, no, we have not forgotten. We thought you had. But finally after the filing of many complaints against Speaker NEWT GINGRICH and 14 months later, the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct found the Speaker guilty, guilty on one, two, three counts of violating House rules by misusing official resources and the committee appointed a special outside counsel to investigate another serious charge about the Speaker's political GOPAC operation.

Well, it is about time. Believe me, the American public does not appreciate double standards. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. No one should be so big, so important, so powerful they can violate the rules of this House and the laws of this country without suffering the consequences. NEWT may be Speaker, however, he, too, must account for any and all wrongdoing. It is about time.

Let us get on with the business of finding out who NEWT GINGRICH really is.

DOING WHAT WE WERE SENT HERE TO DO

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

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, let us face it. What is going on here is an outrageous attempt to reverse the election results of 1994. The defenders of big government did not like the fact that a Republican majority came in and agreed we were going to balance the budget and reduce the size of the Government. So they turned to outrageous personal attacks against the Speaker of the House.