

The fact is the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, led by a very able, nonpartisan, tough lady, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] dismissed 64 of the 65 complaints. There was nothing wrong with the Newt book deal. They never said he was guilty of anything. But the other side is going to continue these character assassinations because they view that as the only way they can regain control, reverse the election, and once again turn back the clock and go for more spending, more deficits, and the ruin of this country.

This freshman class was sent here to get the job done. We will not be deterred by these types of personal attacks on our leader. We will stay here to balance the budget and do what the American people sent us here to do.

#### THE GOPAC DEAL

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, about 6 months ago I addressed this House about the GOPAC deal with NEWT GINGRICH. My words were written down then necessarily. But the mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly well. So the mills of the gods have caught up with Mr. GINGRICH, and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct has said that it is time to really look at the true facts.

The Republicans have showered this floor with acrimony, swaggering bravado. I have heard the President vilified and called a bugger. I have heard welfare recipients called alligators, all from this side of the aisle. So to say now that we are trying to assassinate Mr. GINGRICH's character is wrong. We are not trying to do that.

I am happy to say today that the President of the United States vetoed the reconciliation bill and well he should have. Regardless of the type of pen that he used, he turned back this really, really vicious attack against the poor and the elderly and the underserved of this country.

#### ETHICS COMMITTEE RESULTS

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand before this House and thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON], for her courage. She is one of the most ethical people I have ever met.

I think colleagues on both sides of the aisle can agree. During this thorough, bipartisan investigation by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, she was not allowed to defend the actions of the committee. The investigation committee had six different specific complaints. Five of them were dropped. Only one is being

looked at, and that is to hire a special counsel to investigate the tax implications of two nonprofit organizations which helped the Speaker in his course, a course that was in 21 universities, a course for which he never received a penny.

Was he guilty of encouraging people to call an 800 number to learn more about this course? Yes, if you call that guilt.

Was he guilty he had an unpaid advisor help him during the transition to decide who he should hire in his office? Yes, if you call that guilt, I do not.

He had a town meeting and he advertised his town meeting on the floor of the House.

Bottom line: The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct dropped five of the six complaints and is having a special counsel look at the one remaining issue, the tax implications of the Speaker's college course.

I salute my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who serve on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. They worked hard and resolved a number of difficult issues on a bipartisan basis. I hope we can now get back to the business of balancing our Federal budget.

#### PRESIDENTIAL VETO

(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, the more the American people know about the Gingrich revolution, the less they like.

I was so proud yesterday when the President vetoed the Gingrich budget. It is what the American people have asked him to do. The American people have spoken. They do not support a budget that cuts Medicare and Medicaid, education and the environment to pay for tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. Last month the President cut a deal with the Republicans to balance the budget in 7 years while protecting the priorities of the American people. The budget that the President vetoed yesterday failed to meet that agreement because it did not protect the values that the American public holds so dear. It is time for the Republicans to send the President a balanced budget that protects the priorities of the American people and then he will sign it and then we can get on with the business of the people.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. PETERSON] is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I, along with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON], offered a privileged resolution concerning the investigation by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of Speaker GINGRICH. This request was nonprejudicial. It was not a character assassination. It simply asked for a report of the activities of that committee.

Last night's action by the committee and the assurance that the House will receive a report on the investigation was welcome news. I regret we had to resort to a privileged resolution to get such a report, but in light of last night's announcement, I am announcing that we will not offer our privileged resolution as planned today.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2099, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 291 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 291

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the further conference report to accompany, and the amendment reported from conference in disagreement on, the bill (H.R. 2099) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration, and against the motion printed in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference to dispose of the amendment of the Senate numbered 63, are waived. The conference report, the amendment reported in disagreement, and the motion shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its final adoption without intervening motion except debate pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule XXVIII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. QUILLEN] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California [Mr. BEILENSON], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.