

PENS, DISAPPEARING INK, AND
SHARPENED PENCILS

(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 will withstand the temptation to talk about football because I did that most of my professional life. Instead I would simply offer the following observations:

It is my sincere and solid hope that President Clinton did not take the pen Lyndon Johnson used to sign the Tonkin Gulf resolution with him to Paris to sign the treaty. Of course last week President Clinton took LBJ's Medicare pen to discover it was out of ink, and about a month ago President Clinton, amidst great fanfare, signed a public law, a budget agreement agreeing to get to a balanced budget in 7 years using honest numbers, but I suppose the President believes he used disappearing ink in signing that agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the President should take out a sharpened pencil and, with his budgeteers, work toward an honest balanced budget within 7 years. That is our mission. The American people will settle for no less.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 325. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to provide for an optional provision for the reduction of work-related vehicle trips and miles travelled in ozone non-attainment areas designated as severe, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 116. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make technical corrections in the enrollment of S. 1060.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills, a joint resolution, and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1136. An act to control and prevent commercial counterfeiting, and for other purposes;

S. 1331. An act to adjust and make uniform the dollar amounts used in title 18 to distinguish between grades of offenses, and for other purposes;

S. 1465. An act to extend au pair programs;

S.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding Wei Jingsheng; Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the next Panchen Lama of Tibet; and the human rights practices of the Government of the People's Republic of China; and

S. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make technical corrections in the enrollment of S. 1060.

REPUBLICANS FILLING THEIR
CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS WITH
MORE GOODIES

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today's paper reports that the Republican leadership has again dropped the ball in terms of trying to limit Members of Congress' outside income. We know this past year there have been great scandals about the book deal with the Speaker, and in the past, this problem is nothing new, because it occurred with past Speakers and with other Members of the House and Senate. But now, after the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the embarrassment that this body has gone through this past year, the report is that the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct that has passed a proposal to limit outside earned income from book deals is going to be rejected. It is going to be put off so that the leadership, the Republican leadership in this House and across this country, can continue to fill their Christmas stockings with more goodies, not just this year in December, but throughout the next year. Happy New Year to the book deals—business as usual.

It is time to properly limit the outside earned income and the book deals and get back to the work we were elected to do, not writing political fiction about our glory days in the 104th Congress.

The 104th Congress should be about—delivering on a balanced budget that is both balanced fiscally and balanced fairly for the people of this country we represent, not to take away from the Medicare recipients and the Medicaid recipients and the less fortunate to provide and give tax breaks to our rich friends. Congress ought to get on with the task that we are elected to do to finish up the work that is 2 and 3 months past due, and get home so we can be with our families and friends and serve our constituents, not make bad history for political trash novels—with fat incomes for the congressional sponsors holiday stocking and a lump of coal for the taxpayers.

WITHOUT A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY
WOULD BILL CLINTON BE
NEGOTIATING A BALANCED
BUDGET?

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, this morning our national debt stands at 4 trillion, 988 billion, 438 million, 854 thousand, 514 dollars and 79 cents.

All this year, Republicans have devoted tremendous effort and energy to doing something about this debt. We have passionately advocated balancing the budget and doing the right thing for America. Everybody in America

knows that balancing the budget is sane and responsible. The debt that previous Congresses have saddled on our Nation is a form of bondage. And our children and our grandchildren will pay for our failed governmental experiments.

And what has been the response from the President? Last week, he vetoed the first balanced budget in a generation. And today, he is at least negotiating a balanced budget with the Congress. But does anyone here believe that if there were no Republican majority that Bill Clinton would be negotiating a balanced budget? The answer is clearly, "no."

Mr. Speaker, let us end the excuses and balance our budget.

REPUBLICANS MANUFACTURING
ANOTHER CRISIS

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the stage is set for another Government shutdown tomorrow night. That means that citizens will not be able to apply for Social Security or veterans' benefits.

We find ourselves in this situation because the congressional Republicans have not sent a continuing resolution to the President. They are manufacturing another crisis because the President will not cut Medicare and education the way the Republicans want him to.

This poster was given to me by a constituent of mine, a small businessman in the Houston Heights area of Houston, that he is worried about what is happening up here, and obviously he is a fan of the Speaker when he says the rich get richer, we see the end of a great Nation in Godnewtzilla. What he is worried about is we are seeing the destruction of our country by cutting most seniors and the education for our children, and yet he wants to make sure that he can earn his living as a small business person in Houston.

Mr. Speaker, this crisis is contrived, and it is taking place because the Republican leadership has not been able to get their own appropriation bills to the President.

WHY WE HAVE TO BALANCE THE
BUDGET

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, balancing the budget is not about Republicans or Democrats. It is not about partisan victory. It is not about a victory of one group over another group. It is about setting priorities. It is saying that we care more about the future and worry about our children's future than just getting re-elected. Balancing the budget is not just about economics, and it is not just