

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

about accounting. It is about the fact that we live in a great country, we live in the greatest country the world has ever seen, and yet we can live in an even greater one if we live within our means.

There are a lot of economic reasons to balance the budget, but what would it mean to the person back home? Mr. Speaker, experts have said, including Alan Greenspan, that living within our means under a balanced budget could mean a drop in the interest rates, perhaps as much as 2 percent, and, if the interest rates drop 2 percent, the average homeowner could have a lower mortgage. If a family has a 30-year mortgage on a \$75,000 house, then over the lifetime of the loan that family will save and pocket \$37,000.

That is why we need to balance the budget, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the Democrats and Republicans will all step forward, put partisanship aside, and do the right thing.

#### WORK OUT OUR DIFFERENCES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the deadline for the continuing resolution, and once again it appears the Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, is prepared to shut down the Government because of the disagreements over the budget.

I have said before, and I will say it again, we may have differences between Democrats and Republicans on the budget, but the negotiations should continue and the Government should not shut down because the Speaker cannot come to an agreement.

Already the President has said that he wants to continue the Government operations for at least another week, if not beyond. The Senate leadership on the Republican side has also agreed to that. Speaker GINGRICH once again says "no" because of his own ideology.

We should work out our differences on the budget. I think right now there is no question that the American people feel that Medicare and Medicaid must be preserved and the Republican leadership in the House must come up with a budget proposal that protects Medicare and Medicaid, protects our environmental protection, our education programs. They have not done so. The President has agreed even to the 7-year balanced budget that the Republicans have proposed, but now it is up to Speaker GINGRICH and the Republicans in the House to come up with a program that agrees with the priorities of the American people.

#### LOWER TAXES AND SPENDING RESTRAINT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrats love to chant over and

over that "heartless" Republicans are "slashing" Government to give tax breaks to their friends. False. But it is true that in some areas of Government, like foreign aid, we are cutting. In other areas, like Medicaid and Medicare, we are increasing spending.

And it is also true that we advocate tax cuts. Remember, higher taxes means more spending in Washington. I am proud that Republicans are going to give a \$500 tax credit to children and to working families. The money that Americans make belongs to them; it does not belong to the Government. And let me say this about lower taxes: We need lower taxes to help grow the economy. It is essential to balancing the budget that we have strong economic growth. This time lower taxes will be coupled with spending restraints in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, let us end the excuses and let American families keep more of what they earn.

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#### DEMOCRATS STAND FOR MEDICARE, REPUBLICANS STAND FOR MEDIOCRE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues focus on this chart, which says "Medicare." It is one little word, but I think it says more about the differences between Democrats and Republicans than any other word. Mr. Speaker, Democrats care very much about Medicare, and Republicans want to take the care out of Medicare. They want to slash Medicare by \$270 billion to give a tax break for their wealthy friends.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans would like to take the "care" out of Medicare. By their budget they are taking the "care" out of Medicare. I hope we look at this. When they take the care out of Medicare, this is what happens to health care in this country. It becomes mediocre care. Democrats stand for Medicare. Republicans stand for mediocre health care for our seniors, mediocre care so our seniors cannot get the care they need; mediocre care so people go without health care; mediocre care so senior citizens have to suffer, all to give a tax break for the rich. For shame.

#### THE DEMOCRATS SHOULD GET THE FACTS

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I would love to respond to the gentleman who has just addressed us and tell him that we have a standing offer: It is \$1 million if he can find those cuts. We are still waiting. The challenge has been out there.

It is not working. The people in this country no longer are being deceived. The polls show that. I have been to town meetings. I find that people are angry that Democrats are trying to mislead them, that the Clinton administration is trying to mislead them. People do not like to be scared unnecessarily. I think that is a very good thing that they do not.

I would suggest that the gentleman might want to talk to our new colleague, Tom Campbell, when he arrives here and find out just exactly what is going on out there in America, because people know the truth. We are providing for Medicare. We are increasing Medicare. We are going from \$4,700 per capita to over \$7,100 per capita in our budget. President Clinton's budget does not balance. CBO says it one more time, it does not balance. We will stand behind our challenge. Get some facts.

#### OUR COUNTRY AND OUR TROOPS DESERVE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Members of this House, Republicans and Democrats alike, cast votes of conscience on our mission to Bosnia. Some Members endorsed the mission, some expressed serious concerns, and some opposed it altogether. That is the way democracy should work. But there can be no excuse, there can be no justification, there can be no rationalization for prohibiting this House last night, which the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER], did, from having a unanimous vote in support of our troops that are already in Bosnia.

Let me read the resolution the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER], and his colleagues who supported him killed last night on this floor:

*Resolved:* That the House of Representatives unequivocally supports the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who are carrying out their mission in support of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina with professional excellence, dedicated patriotism, and exemplary bravery.

For anyone to stop this simple resolution is at best a lapse in judgment and, at worst, mindless partisanship. Our country and our troops deserve better than that.

#### A CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON A BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a very important day. It is my birthday. I am either 56 or 65. I cannot remember which. But I want you to know I am a little concerned about something. It is 10:20. I have gotten a call from my daughter, Laura, and my son, Ted, and