

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 132. Joint resolution affirming that budget negotiations shall be based on the most recent technical and economic assumptions of the Congressional Budget Office and shall achieve a balanced budget by fiscal year 2002 based on those assumptions.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2539) "An Act to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, to amend subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, to reform economic regulation of transportation, and for other purposes."

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

S. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical changes in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2539) entitled "An Act to abolish the Interstate Commerce Commission, to amend subtitle IV of title 49, United States Code, to reform economic regulation of transportation, and for other purposes".

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMP). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. DICKEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DICKEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. POSHARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. POSHARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

BALANCE THE BUDGET BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, this past Friday night, "Nightline" had a special program entitled "Mr. Longley Goes to Washington."

This program was about our colleague, the gentleman from Maine [Mr. LONGLEY], and the very strong commitment by him and the other House Republican freshmen to balance our budget.

Mr. LONGLEY said at one point that if we do not get our fiscal house in order, "we are going to have a crash that will make the Great Depression look like a party at the beach."

I thought his was a very strong but very appropriate and accurate way of describing the situation we are in now.

There is hardly anyone today, on either side who disagrees with the goal of balancing our budget.

We simply cannot go on like we have without causing very serious economic problems.

Yet some people just pay lip service to this goal. They say, yes, we need to balance the budget, but—

And it is this "but" that has gotten us \$5 trillion into debt—so deeply into debt that many people think we will never get out without greatly inflating our money.

I take the floor at this time, Mr. Speaker, because I am sure there are many people who think—well it would be good to balance the budget, but it really does not make that much difference to them.

Let me try to explain why this does make a difference, and a very big difference to everyone, even those making minimum wage, and those receiving food stamps or other Federal benefits, and students, and everyone else.

First, as Mr. LONGLEY said, we could very easily have a major economic crash in a few years if we do not straighten this mess out.

That may be hard to believe when the stock market is at record highs, but the stock market was at record highs just before the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Second, times are good now for some, but they could and should be good for everyone.

People making \$5 or \$6 an hour could and should be making two or three times what they are if we did not have a national debt of \$5 trillion holding us back economically.

Third, anyone who is receiving any type of Federal check should be insisting that we balance this budget.

If we don't, it won't be long at all before we will no longer be able to meet our obligations to veterans, Social Security recipients, Federal retirees, and others.

Fourth, buried in the fine print of our last budget, and something that was picked up and written about by

former Senator Paul Tsongas, is the fact that young people of today will have to pay average lifetime tax rates of an incredible 82 percent if we don't get things under control.

If we keep going like we have been, we will absolutely destroy the standard of living of our children and grandchildren. They won't be able to buy a tenth of what we do now.

Fifth, no one—young or old, should be misled into believing that balancing the budget in 7 years requires anything radical or extreme.

All we seem to hear about are cuts—cuts—cuts. But the Washington Post columnist James K. Glasman called the Republican budget the "No Cut Budget."

All we are trying to do is to slow spending increases down to about 3 percent each year, about where inflation has been for the last 10 to 12 years.

Federal spending right now is almost three times what the first Reagan budget was—an almost 300 percent increase in 15 years.

Almost no private businesses are spending three times what they were 15 years ago. Very few employees in the private sector are receiving salaries three times higher than they were 15 years ago.

And that brings us one more very important point, Mr. Speaker. The middle class is being wiped out, and the gap between the rich and the poor is growing rapidly.

Why? Because of big government, that's why. Our Federal Government has become too big, and very few have received the benefits from this, at the expense of the very many.

Federal bureaucrats have benefited, because they pay and retirement benefits have gone way up.

Federal contractors have benefited, because they have been allowed to reap exorbitant profits, because even with exorbitant profits, they can still do things more cheaply and efficiently than our Federal bureaucracy can.

Extremely big business has benefited because they get most of the big Federal contracts, most of the favorable regulatory rulings, and favorable tax breaks.

Federal rules and regulations have a much greater impact and a much more harmful effect on small business than on large ones. In fact, big government has forced many small business out of existence or into merging with other larger companies.

Thus, the big get bigger, and the small go by the wayside. This is not a conspiracy, but simply an inevitable consequence of big government.

The only really fair system, Mr. Speaker, the only system where an average person without great capital or great political influence really has a chance, is a true free enterprise, free market system.

What we have today is a free enterprise system that has been greatly and unfairly distorted by a big government that favors big, well-connected companies.

If we are going to save this Nation from fiscal disaster—if we are going to give someone without great wealth or political connections, a real chance, once again, we have got to get our Federal Government under control.

And we do not have much time left—we must do it now, before it is simply too late.

CORPORATE INTEREST IN THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the sanctimonious advertisements in favor of the Gingrich budget that have been taken out in major newspapers across our country signed by some of the richest, most powerful chief executive officers in this Nation representing large multinational corporations like Boeing, IBM, Eastman Kodak, Zenith, Sarah Lee, and General Motors.

Did you ever stop to wonder why these corporations are spending a small fortune lobbying for the Gingrich budget? In fact it costs \$60,000—double the salary of an average worker in my district—just to buy one page, much less two, in major dailies like the Washington Post, USA Today, the Wall Street Journal, and many of the other ones in which they have been advertising. In fact, they spent over a half a million dollars just in four of these papers over the last couple days.

Now do you believe what they say in the ads, that they really have a common concern for America's future? You know, I was trying to put this together as I was reading various articles, and I came upon the Time magazine special, the Christmas issue.

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It talks a lot about Speaker GINGRICH in this issue. I turned to page 65 of the Christmas issue of Time. I read down here where it says, "The Speaker invited a small group of chief executive officers" from these very same companies to meetings here in the Capitol on the first floor, and it names names: Jack Welch of General Electric, Jack Smith of General Motors, Business Round Table, Chairman John Snow of CSX, who by the way has a very large signature in this ad, and they talked about how they could work together on this problem. I thought to myself, "Why would the Speaker invite them, but he does not invite people from my district?" In fact, the senior citizens of this country did not even get 1 day of hearings on the Medicare changes that are proposed.

Mr. Speaker, how did they get that much access? Bingo: money. For example, CSX Corp.—one of the organizers, chief organizers of this advertising effort, and part of the group calling itself the Business Round Table—contributed nearly \$100,000—to the Republican

Party in the first 6 months of this year alone. Another signatory, Prudential, contributed over \$90,000; AT&T over \$150,000; Chevron contributed over \$125,000. Listen to these numbers. This is not a new few pennies, this is not a hundred dollars, these are not a thousand dollars, these are hundreds of thousands of dollars by these very same interests.

You might ask yourself, what did these corporations get in this access with the Speaker for all of their money? How about this: The Gingrich budget includes a \$64 billion set of tax breaks for wealthy individuals like these very same CEO's, many of whom make up to \$12 million a year. They include a \$36 billion capital gains tax cut which they will all benefit from, a \$16 billion cut in the corporate alternative minimum tax, \$12 billion in other tax cuts, such as estate tax exemptions, which of course they personally are all interested in.

It used to be in 1945, not so many years ago, that corporations paid about a third of the taxes that flowed into the Government of the United States. Today they pay about 10 percent. So we hear them crying these crocodile tears when their profits and Wall Street, the profits are going through the roof, and Wall Street has never been happier. At the same time as we see this, we see the Gingrich budget allowing these very same companies to withdraw over \$20 billion of our workers' money from their pension funds to use it any way they well please.

Mr. Speaker, we see pharmaceutical companies like Abbott Laboratories, American Home Products, by the way, they are listed in this very same ad, Baxter International, Johnson & Johnson enjoy multimillion dollar tax breaks through the 936 program, a subsidy that is included in the Gingrich budget; energy corporations like Amoco, Exxon, Chevron, benefit from provisions in the Gingrich budget that allow them to extract oil and gas from the Gulf of Mexico without paying any royalty to the public coffers for that privilege, making their profits at the expense of the United States of America and its people; companies like AT&T, Exxon, Ford Motor, and GTE have enjoyed millions of dollars of foreign sales assistance through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation [OPIC], and those benefits are retained in the Gingrich budget.

What is interesting is these very same companies that want all these benefits and are paying all this money for access here in Washington have not created a single job in this country for the last decade and a half. For the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, I submit some of these names, like IBM, that has laid off over 23,000 workers in this country just over the last few years.

I would like to say to Mr. Fisher, their CEO, what a merry Christmas you have given to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following:

WITHOUT A BALANCED BUDGET, THE PARTY'S OVER—NO MATTER WHICH PARTY YOU'RE IN

A bipartisan appeal from business leaders to the President of the United States Bill Clinton, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, House Majority Leader Dick Armye, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, and all Members of Congress:

There are moments in history when a single choice can mean the difference between vastly differing futures—one bright, the other dark. We believe that you, the political leaders of this country, are now confronting such a choice in your deliberations over a plan to balance the federal budget.

We are convinced that the health of our economy rests on your ability to avoid political gridlock and give the American people what leaders of both parties say they favor and, indeed, have agreed to—a credible plan to balance the budget. By "credible" we mean that such a plan should:

Use realistic projections that assume the fiscal and economic scenario developed by the Congressional Budget Office and reviewed by objective third parties;

Take no longer than seven years as the maximum time period by which a balanced budget would be achieved;

Ensure that the process of deficit reduction is achieved in roughly equal steps throughout these seven years, rather than "backloading" the politically difficult decisions into the next century; and

Have everything on the table, including long-term entitlement programs as well as the size and shape of any tax cuts.

Included among us are Democrats and Republicans, Liberals and Conservatives. What unites us in this appeal is our common concern for America's future.

All of us are leaders of institutions keenly sensitive to interest rates and the short- and long-term outlook for the U.S. economy. We believe that the recent decline in long-term interest rates and much of the boom in the stock market is directly predicated on the financial markets' expectation that a successful bipartisan budget-balancing compromise will be reached quickly, and that a credible long-term plan will be put in place in short order.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan recently observed: "If there is a shattering of expectations that leads to the conclusion that there is indeed an inability to ultimately redress the corrosive forces of deficit, I think the reaction would be quite negative—that is, a sharp increase in long-term interest rates . . . I think we would find that with mortgage rates higher and other related rates moving up, interest-sensitive areas of the economy would begin to run into trouble."

As you continue your negotiations, we ask you to reflect on the full consequences of success or failure. However Americans ultimately resolve our honest and principled disagreements over the size and scope of government, America must begin to live within it means.

The time for good economics as well as good politics is NOW.

America is waiting.

Respectfully yours,

Paul Allaire, Chairman and CEO, Xerox Corp.; Richard H. Jenrette, Chairman and CEO, The Equitable Companies, Inc.; Jon Corzine, Chairman and Senior Partner, Goldman, Sachs & Co.; Peter G. Peterson, Chairman, The Blackstone Group, President, The Concord Coalition; M.R. Greenberg, Chairman and CEO, American International Group, Inc.; John Snow, Chairman and CEO, CSX Corp., Chairman, The Business Roundtable.