

areas, "BOB, will funding be cut off next week for any of the vital activities?" I am confident that this Congress will not permit that to happen.

I am assured that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is taken care of financially, at least for the immediate future, but we must also remember the other flood recovery programs, the Small Business Administration's disaster recovery loans, the Economic Development Administration, which has been so active in economic recovery in the Midwest and many of our other devastated areas, the HUD, Housing and Urban Development programs, and so the many other programs, too. We must make sure and vow, Mr. Speaker, that no amount of partisan politics will stop these vital programs from going forward and that there will be no interruption in flood recovery.

Mr. Speaker, if I can report some positive things. Our death rate was nowhere near as high as 1985, even through the 1985 flood levels were reached in some communities. Some communities have been hit every bit as hard as 1985, but many, some in the Eastern Panhandle, saw far less damage. Sometimes the water did not crest at the predicted levels. In other cases flood prevention efforts such as dikes and levies have been installed. We are smarter in many of our areas now and we know to evacuate. We have a much more professional emergency services operation.

But there are also farther reaching flood implications. While many counties in the central part of our State did not see the 1985 flood levels, at the same time we had to deal with the Ohio River. Nine additional counties that were not affected, but did see record levels not seen since 1972 in Hurricane Agnes. So this time we are much more far-reaching in the flood devastation.

Mr. Speaker, one woman stood on her front porch pushing liquid mud down the steps with a broom. Behind her stood her sons and her neighbors helping her dig out. Tears ran down her face as she cried and quietly said, "I have lost my home and my job." Her home had been devastated for the second time in 10 years. Her workplace has been wiped out and her employer said he was not returning.

Mr. Speaker, she knows what she has to do. She will do the work. She is going to rebuild. She just asks that wherever this Congress and this Federal Government, her Federal Government, can help, it do so and we owe her that.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, I know that you are in-

terested, like I am, in history and the historic significance of events as they occur. I know that the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, being a former history professor, is also interested in historic significance.

I say that because we can look back on the first session, and let us take a look at some of the historic significance that has occurred in this Congress, in the first session.

Well, one of the biggest things that is going to go down in the history books is that it is the first and only Congress, the first and only Congress led by the Republican majority, that closed down the Federal Government for a 6-day period in November, and a 21-day period in December of 1995 and January of 1996. Total of 27 days. Never in the history of this country has that ever occurred. That will be in the history books.

□ 1330

What was the total cost of that to our taxpayers by the Republican majority that says they want to save money, they want to cut out waste in Government? A waste of over \$1 billion. Not a million, folks. A billion. A waste of over \$1 billion. That is the historic significance. That is to the taxpayers. Now, it is all orchestrated by the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH.

Another historic significance. It is only the third time in the history of this country, over 200 years, that this House has gone 365 days, we opened up in January 3 or 4, if I remember, of 1995, we ended up January 3 of this year. Five minutes later we opened the second session. That has only happened three times. So we worked 365 days. We worked long hours. We had more votes in this House than at any time in the near past, from the 93d to the 104th Congress. More votes. But another historic significance. We did less legislation enacted into law than any other Congress in the first session since 1933.

So we did a lot here yelling and hollering, a lot of passing bills and sending them to the Senate and the Republicans over in the Senate, led by the majority leader from Kansas say, "No, we don't want that. That's too radical. We're not going to do that. That's too extreme." And as a result, we did almost nothing.

That leads me to right now. Let us look at today. There is nobody else here. There is not another Member on the floor. We are back after 2 weeks' vacation. Where is everybody? They are not here because they are not going to do anything today.

Members, what are we going to do today? Well, we are going to do a little Corrections Day bill. We are going to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to standards for constructed water conveyances. That is really important to the country.

We are going to award a Congressional gold medal to Ruth and Billy Graham. We are going to do a bill on Saddleback Mountain-Arizona; and

then we are going to make certain technical corrections in laws relating to Native Americans. That is what we are going to do today. That is really important.

We are not going to do welfare reform. We are not going to do line-time veto. We are not going to do any of those things. We probably will not do them the rest of this year.

What are we going to do tomorrow? Well, tomorrow we may do a continuing resolution, because the Republican majority under NEWT GINGRICH now tell us that they are not going to close down the Government anymore so we have to pass one because the Government will close down after January 26 if we do not. So we will do that. Everybody agrees on that. There will be no problem with that. It will take about a half an hour at the most. I do not know what the rest of the day we are going to do or what we are going to do Friday.

They tell me we may have a new conference report on the defense authorization bill and we may do that. Then they are telling me, and I hear through the grapevine, we may quit until sometime near the end of February.

Talk about a do-nothing Congress. I do not know, I think most of us should go ahead and send all of our pay back, because most of the Members have not done anything. I say to Speaker GINGRICH, that it is time to get things done. You want a balanced budget? You can have a balanced budget. You know you can have a balanced budget. Because the Democratic coalition budget is balanced in 7 years. By 2002 it is a balanced budget scored by CBO, the Congressional Budget Office. But it does not have your big tax cut in it, it does not have that \$245 billion for the wealthy.

That is why you will not do it. You really want the tax cut for the wealthy. You really do not want a balanced budget.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. GOODLING]. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Harold Bradley, S.J., Georgetown University, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

With praise and adoration we offer this prayer, O God, in appreciation for all Your blessings to us and to all people. We are aware of our responsibilities to use Your blessings as good

stewards of Your divine purposes and to use Your gifts in ways that promote justice and equity to every person. May we work together as faithful custodians of the bounty of Your creation and reflect in our lives the beauty of all Your gifts. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MARKEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MARKEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

CONTINUE ON THE PATH TO A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we are back and we have learned a lot. No. 1, you cannot negotiate with a "say anything, do nothing" President. It is clear that he is for big government, he is for higher taxes, and he is for more spending. The President condones wasteful spending in the Government.

We have "out of town" Brown, Secretary of Commerce, who has over-extended his travel budget. We have Secretary O'Leary, who is a congenital flier. We cannot keep her in town. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. We have massive wastes of Federal spending in our bureaucracy and we must downsize it.

Mr. Speaker, we are back, we are for a balanced budget, we are on track to get there. We are going to continue to keep pressure on the administration. We are going to reform Medicaid through block grants, we are going to preserve and protect Medicare, and we are going to try to give back to American families some of what they lost in the 1990 tax increase and in the 1993 tax increase. So we are working that hard and we are going to continue on that path. I appreciate my fellow colleagues who are going to join in that effort.

THE 7-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET

(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, welcome back. I am glad to welcome our folks back to the kinder and gentler Congress after that first 1-minute.

Mr. Speaker, if you think you remember hearing congressional Republicans saying all they wanted was a CBO-scored 7-year balanced budget, your memory is not failing you. Here is what they said:

Our House budget chairman. "Frankly, we don't ask for a lot. We ask for nothing more than a commitment to do this in a 7-year period."

Our colleague from Idaho. "We have no hidden agenda. The only thing we are asking for is a 7-year balanced budget using CBO numbers."

A colleague from New York. "All we have asked the President of the United States with all his tremendous resources at his hands to do likewise, to come up with those numbers reflecting his own priorities to balance the budget in 7 years using real numbers. That is all we have asked for."

Now they want more. They want their balanced budget bill. They want to include deep cuts in Medicare needs, education needs, and the environment in order to fund a massive tax break, or no bill at all.

The President sent a 7-year balanced budget 2 weeks ago with CBO numbers. But that is not good enough because that is not what their priorities are. They want to hurt seniors and hurt education funding.

HONEST NUMBERS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS IS THE STARTING POINT

(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, once again, I listened with interest to the remarks of my friend from Texas, and what a pity it is, ladies and gentlemen, that the minority is reduced to this, to chanting a seemingly mindless mantra, with no basis in fact, with selective use of quotation.

What this new majority always said is that the starting point was looking to find numbers, honest numbers, that begin to balance this budget in 7 years. That is the starting point. That is the parameters of the debate. But it is not a fait accompli. It is not sending us a budget that has all the savings in the last year and continues the culture of tax and spend and spend and tax some more.

What the American people want, Mr. Speaker, is this: A government that achieves an honest consensus, that saves not only the seniors of this generation, but generations yet unborn; a commonsense budget and set of priorities that preserves this great noble experiment in a constitutional republic and preserves this American dream.

That is the task before all of us, conservative and liberal, Republican and Democrat.

COURT-MARTIAL OF MICHAEL NEW IS WRONG

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Michael New is a decorated soldier, he loves his country. His bravery, patriotism, and devotion to duty have never been questioned. As we meet today, Michael New is being court-martialed, court-martialed for refusing to wear the blue beret and shoulder patch of the United Nations on a peacekeeping mission.

Michael New said, "I will only wear the uniform of my country, the United States of America." Bravo, Michael New. Michael New took an oath to the Constitution of the United States, not to the charter of the United Nations, and I cannot speak for the Congress, ladies and gentlemen, but if I could, I would tell all these politically correct bureaucrats to take their one world order hands off Michael New and leave him alone.

Mr. Speaker, there is something drastically wrong when a military hero is being court-martialed because he refuses to wear a foreign uniform. Think about it and beam me up.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ON TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, here is a quote from the White House yesterday. "But he"—meaning President Clinton—"will certainly acknowledge that tax relief, as he has been fighting for as President, is something that remains very important."

Mr. Speaker, let me point out that Clinton is now in the fourth year of his Presidency. If he has been fighting for tax relief, why don't the taxpayers have it?

Is it because in his first year as President, he pushed the largest tax increase in history on the backs of the American people?

Is it because when a middle-class, family tax relief bill was laid on his desk, he vetoed it?

Or is it because he didn't even start talking about tax cuts until Republicans became the majority in Congress?

Mr. Speaker, all the above help point out that Bill Clinton is a say-anything, do-nothing liberal President. He claims to be for the people, but his actions show that his policies are higher taxes, bigger government, and more spending.

THREE STRIKES AND YOU ARE OUT

(Mr. MARKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1