

Mr. Speaker, the American people know full well that actions speak louder than words. Once again I reach out, Mr. Speaker, to our friends on the other side, ask them to join together and to help us govern, not to electioneer, not to have politics as usual but to get about the business of governing this great Nation.

REDUCED FUNDING FOR EDUCATION TO HAVE SEVERE IMPACT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out again that the cuts in education that are happening right now because of the reduced funding levels in these continuing resolutions that the Republican leadership continues to put forward in this House are having a severe impact on education in secondary schools, primary schools, as well as higher education around the country. We are talking, in this continuing resolution that passed last week, if it were to continue for the rest of this year, about a \$3 billion cut in education programs.

What that means is higher property taxes in those school districts which decide to continue those programs, or simply the elimination of valuable educational programs that students take advantage of. Already I am hearing from my school boards and from educators in my district in New Jersey who are saying that if the level of cuts continue the rest of this year as they have since the beginning of October, the beginning of this fiscal year, the consequences are dire for education programs on every level. It is sad because, once again, I feel that education should be a priority of this Congress and should not be cut back.

TRAVELS OF THE ENERGY SECRETARY

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, Secretary O'Leary continues to call the shots at the Energy Department. Oh, no, she can't be fired despite the flagrant abuse of her privilege, not right, but privilege of travel.

The taxpayers, in my opinion, have been ripped off because of her excessive travel. Ms. O'Leary flies first class or she charters her own private plane and is accompanied by her ubiquitous entourage.

The time has come for President Clinton to show this woman the gate that leads to the road out of town. Even then she will likely demand a first-class ticket or a private charter and her entourage of 5 to 25 aides to preclude any heavy lifting on her part.

Oh, no, she's special, she can't be fired. Yet she will continue to enjoy

the luxury of worldwide travel at the expense of the American taxpayers as well as her own employees.

Inexcusable, Mr. Speaker. Inexcusable.

THIRD GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IN OFFING

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, this morning's Washington Post had an article quoting the Senate minority leader as saying that we are 5 days from a third Government shutdown and the situation is every bit as precarious as it was several months ago.

What it did not go on to say was why we are close to a Government shutdown: Because the President wants to spend more money on his favorite projects. He wanted \$8 billion. The House passed a bill providing \$3.3 billion, but that did not include the \$7 million more to foreign countries to teach students to measure rainfall; \$10 million more for the controversial art projects funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

There may be another Government shutdown, Mr. Speaker, but it will be entirely on the President's shoulders because he cannot get rid of his appetite for more spending projects.

COMPETING VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, this coming November the American people will have a choice between two competing views of Government. One view holds that Government must be restrained and that we must be fiscally responsible.

The other view holds a kind of utopian vision of Government. This utopian view holds that Washington spending and Washington taxes and Washington regulations are the key to a successful America.

For instance President Clinton has requested that Congress appropriate \$8 billion more in social spending and corporate welfare. The President who gave us the largest tax increase in American history now wants \$8 billion for essentially a reelection pork package.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of the lavishness of the Clinton administration. They are sick and tired of seeing their tax dollars going to fund liberal programs with these dollars. We must reject this request and put a stop to the arrogant tax-and-spend policies of the Clinton administration.

THREE STRIKES AND GOP IS OUT

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, already twice the Government has been shut down, once in the fall, once in December, and now we are skidding up towards a third point where the Government could be shut down yet again.

The conditions that the Republicans are imposing, we must cut the EPA by 20 percent, we must cut the Department of interior by 10 percent, we must gut environmental laws or else they will not allow the Government to operate.

GOP used to stand for Grand Old Party. Now GOP stands for gang of polluters who will shut down the Government unless we gut environmental laws in this country. They say the definition of insanity is someone that keeps doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result.

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The Republicans think they can shut down the Federal Government for a third time and that the people of this country will not be upset. They will be. This time they are going to say, "Three strikes and you're out."

COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY OVERSTEPPING HIS AUTHORITY AND CIRCUMVENTING STATE LAWS

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention the unlawful actions of an unelected official—an official who has taken it upon himself to dictate the laws governing the Nation's financial institutions, and proceeding so with no regard to State law or States' rights.

The Comptroller of the Currency, is overstepping his authority and circumventing State laws.

This overstepping of authority has become abundantly clear in my State of Oklahoma where the OCC has approved a national bank branch in a location that would be illegal under Oklahoma State law.

Laws governing intrastate branching have always been an authority granted exclusively to the States. The OCC must not be allowed to pick and choose which State laws national banks have to comply with.

They have become a rogue Federal agency and Congress must exercise its oversight authority. If we are to have a vibrant and healthy State banking system, we need to preserve State law.

I thank my colleague, Chairman LEACH of the House Banking Committee, for his recent comments on this issue. I appreciate his leadership and support for a dynamic and healthy dual banking system.

It is time that Congress take action to reign the Comptroller of the Currency and my hope that the banking Committee will hold hearings on the OCC's recent disregard for States rights and the dual banking system.