

I want to go into these quotes more later because I personally think this is Wag the Dog.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.

DEMOCRATS NEED TO GROW UP AND HELP REPUBLICANS SOLVE NATION'S PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say it is wonderful to be here today, but I like most of you on both sides of the aisle would much rather be home attending church with my family, but we cannot be there because we have got work to do. I am not going to stand here and say that this Congress has accomplished everything that I wanted it to accomplish. In fact there are a lot of things that it could have and should have done that it did not. But as far as the rhetoric is concerned, when I listened to some of the folks, especially those on the other side of the aisle flailing their arms around and squealing in high decibels much like Barney Fife on the Andy Griffith Show, I now know why people are disenfranchised, why they decide they do not want to go to the polls. They are sick and tired of these people back in Washington, D.C. acting like a bunch of juveniles. For the last 4 years since I have been in Congress, I think of all of the things that the Democrats have said about the Republicans. Number one, that the Republicans want to starve the children. Remember back with the school lunch program, that we just want to decimate all the programs for the kids because we do not love kids. We must be child haters. That we wanted to pollute the environment. Somehow that we who are Republicans have some different kind of biological system that is impervious to the pollutants and carcinogens in the atmosphere and in the water, that we somehow would like to pollute the water, that we get glee out of making people suffer, that we want people who are being covered by health care to die, to be sick, to be thrown out of the hospitals, that we do not want to educate the children. If you believe all of these things that the Democrats are saying, then you must believe that we are the worst kind of human beings, somewhat a combination of Jeffrey Dahmer and Charles Manson. You guys need to give it a rest. You get on the verge of being ridiculous. Nobody believes that there are people like that in this country that want to come back to Washington, D.C. and cause mayhem on the Amer-

ican public. It just sounds silly and you need to stop it. I came here as an American first, not as a Republican, as an American, to come here and get the job of the people done. I have four kids in the public schools. I am proud of the job that my public schools do for my children. But I juxtapose that with what I see the results of the American education system producing. Forty percent of our children are dropping out of school across America. Then I look at the TIMS report, and I see that we end up 20th in the math and sciences, scoring 20th, and we are beaten by war-torn Slovenia. Why is that? If you believe what the Democrats are saying, they want to just go ahead and give you more of what we have been getting. Keep dumping money into this bureaucracy back in Washington, D.C. Keep giving you more of what you are getting. Forty percent dropout rate, 20th on the international test scores in math and sciences. Enough is enough. What we are doing is not working. Let us give parents a little bit more say. Let us give the local school boards and the local teachers a little bit more say in how to handle the classrooms. I think it is a crime that teachers have to go to school worried for their lives. I think it is a crime that we have so tied their hands in the American political system that they cannot discipline children, that when children try to poison them or children try to hurt them, that they cannot really do anything for fear of lawsuit. We have a lot of work to do. I think it is a crime that a teacher can be a terrible teacher, can produce the most substandard of results and not be fired, that a teacher can be grossly incompetent and because of tenure, they are protected. I think there are a lot of things that are wrong with our system. I do agree, I think that we need to dedicate more resources when it comes to education. Again I am going to restate, I have four children in the public school system, two of them in high school, one in junior high and one in elementary school. I believe that we need to give our teachers more. But I want to give them 100 percent. I do not want to filter it through Washington, D.C. and send through a pittance of it back to the teachers and back to the classroom to help my children. We want to sit down at the table. We want to fix these problems. If the President were here in Washington, D.C. instead of off campaigning and raising money from special interest groups, if he were here, we could solve these problems. We would like to do that. Because there is so much at stake, so much more at stake than these elections that are going to happen in the next 3½ weeks. But you would think that Armageddon is about to happen, that we Republicans are back here like Simon Legree trying to figure out how to poison the water, how to fail the children, how to poison the senior citizens, kick them out of the hospitals, feed them dog food. Come on guys, you need to stop it,

grow up and let us go on and solve the problems of the American people.

CHANGE IN ORDER OF TAKING SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentlewoman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN CONGRESS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to be here on a Sunday afternoon after watching the talking heads on television this morning. I listened to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma who cannot understand the gentleman from Connecticut's outrage at what has happened in the medical system. I am a physician and you are a physician. I have spent time on telephones calling Omaha, Nebraska trying to get additional time for my patients in hospitals. I understand. It does take a persistent doctor. But it should not be necessary for you and I and all our colleagues in the medical profession to spend their time arguing with some bureaucrat who has never seen the patient making a decision about how long you can keep a patient in the hospital. I think the American people understand that. They understand that doctors have somebody between them and the patient. It is always an insurance company person. The failure of this Congress, even if you want to take your bill, your patient protection bill, you could not get it through the Senate. You guys did not come around here enough. The majority party cannot work with the majority party in the Senate to get something done. It is an absolute failure. There is an article here in the newspaper today. It is an analysis, it is on the editorial page of the New York Times. I will enter it in the RECORD. It is by Mr. Herbert. It is called the GOP Cover Story. He talks about the impeachment the other day. He says,

It was, frankly, chilling. To watch Newt Gingrich presiding over the possible impeachment of a Democratic President, even one as spectacularly vulnerable as Bill Clinton, is insane.

He said,

This is the same Newt Gingrich who several years ago told a group of young Republicans: "I think one of the great problems we have in the Republican Party is that we don't encourage you to be nasty. We encourage you to be neat, obedient, loyal, faithful

and all those Boy Scout words, which would be great around the campfire but lousy in politics."

And then he says,

The Republican Party, refashioned by Mr. Gingrich and his right-wing cronies, no longer has that problem. Since winning control of Congress in 1994, it has consistently pursued a mean-spirited extremist agenda and is now determined to turn the self-inflicted wounds of the President into an even larger majority.

Now, he says and this is what the American people should be thinking about:

Try to imagine the implications of a bigger, more powerful, more aggressive, more right-wing regime of Republicans in Congress. This is a party that is not content with trying to roll back abortion rights. It is fighting on several fronts against contraception. Just last week the Republican leadership in the House, under pressure from the right, killed a measure that would have required Federal health plans that cover prescription drugs to cover the cost of contraceptives. No one seemed to think it was crazy to have abortion foes opposing a measure that would reduce the need for abortions. They could not grasp that.

He goes on to talk about the party that fought a meat inspection system designed to protect the people from the deadly E. coli. Members from my State, where we had children die, lingering deaths of E. coli infection voted against increasing meat inspections. I know we do not want big government. But there are some things the government should do. It should inspect the meat. Children should not die in fast food restaurants or in children's hospitals after a month of hospitalization of something contracted in a fast food restaurant. There is no question.

He also says,

Of course, you can't expect much from the Republicans because their whip denounced the Environmental Protection Agency as the Gestapo of the government.

The Gestapo of the government. This is the kind of talk we get.

He goes on to talk about the leadership's ethics and talks about a whole bunch of things, including one of the leadership who comes out on the floor and delivers tobacco checks on the floor to Members of Congress. I mean, this is right here on the floor. We talk about why we need campaign finance reform. We got Members and the leadership of the majority party walking around handing out checks right here on the floor, while we are fighting about whether we should do something about tobacco. There is lots more but the people ought to be worried about what is going on in this Congress.

G.O.P. COVER STORY

Throughout Thursday's impeachment debate in the House you could hear the uncharacteristically low-keyed voice of the G.O.P.'s chief inquisitor.

"The gentleman from Missouri is recognized for three minutes," Newt Gingrich would say. Or he would rap his Speaker's gavel for quiet and ask, oh so formally and respectfully, "Does the gentleman move the previous question?"

Every now and then he would smile hideously, reminding us that hypocrisy is as

abundant in Washington as fertilizer on the farm.

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This is a party that tried to eliminate Federal nutrition standards for school meals and fought hard against a meat inspection system designed to protect the public from the deadly E. coli bacteria.

It's a party that attacked Medicare and Medicaid and went out of its way to trash the environment. Clean air? Clean water? Forget about it. Representative Tom DeLay of Texas, the majority whip and a sharp critic of Mr. Clinton, denounced the Environmental Protection Agency as the "Gestapo of the Government."

You want ethics? Pull the clips on Mr. Gingrich and learn how not to behave. Or check out John Boehner of Ohio, chairman of the House Republican Conference. I wrote a column in 1996 describing how he took money from tobacco lobbyists and handed it out to certain of his colleagues on the floor of the House, while the House was in session.

These are men who couldn't find the high road if they approached it by parachute.

There is no doubt that Bill Clinton brought his problems on himself. He destroyed his own Presidency. But there are consequences to be paid if the Republicans are allowed to feast too ravenously on the political spoils.

Democrats have already lost the opportunity to control the campaign season with discussions of such issues as the rights of patients in the era of managed care, the need to move boldly to rebuild the public school system, the concerns of working Americans in a chaotic economic environment and the outlook for Social Security.

Having been handed the gift of Monica Lewinsky, the Republicans are running with her. She conceals their real agenda. If they can parlay the Monica madness into substantially increased majorities in the House and Senate, they can renew their conservative assault on government and their submersion of the interests of ordinary working Americans and the poor.

Keep in mind that this is a party that crafted extraordinary tax breaks for billionaires while claiming the sky would fall if the minimum wage was raised to \$5.25 an hour.

Bill Clinton and the Democrats fended off the most extreme aspects of the so-called Re-

publican revolution of the mid-90s'. Now Mr. Clinton has given the right-wingers the opportunity to take care of their unfinished business. Only the voters stand in the way.

COMMENTS FROM A CONSTITUENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I would just say, I put in 70, 80 hours a week and nobody has ever accused me of killing children because Republicans are withholding money from the FDA for E. coli. It is a shameful remark for the last speaker to say that. We gave the power to Secretary Glickman to use whatever resources are necessary to the Department of Agriculture to fight E. coli. To be accused of killing children. No wonder a constituent of mine Beatrice Mock wrote a letter to me, I picked it up this morning. She said:

Dear Congressman, after listening to the pros and cons of the last few weeks, I decided to call your office and voice my objection to what is happening in Washington. Somehow this quotation came to mind and seems to sum up much of what should be said. If as it seems our Congressmen, Senators and President are only interested in the power their offices gives them and not what is best for the country, only in getting reelected time after time, then we are doomed.

She went through and stated that the numerous members of her family that have fought in every war except World War I started with the Spanish-American war. She said, "So you see, I have a vested interest in seeing our leaders held accountable for their actions." She enclosed a quotation from, I think a State Senator, William Boroh, found in an old Bible that belonged to her family. Here is the quotation:

The salvation of our Republic depends on the people, the strength of might and clarity of purpose of the average voter. Democracies tend to make moral cowards of public men. Unless people rise to the task and demand high ideals and truly American standards, then there is no hope from State legislators, from spineless Congresses or listening to officials.

She concluded,

This quotation should be spoken again and again. Much of your tasks are or may be unpleasant. However, your constituents are expecting you to find your voice and to speak your conscience.

Mr. Speaker, that letter says it all. Values and character do not depend on polls. Let me quote something. Harry Truman once commented on the importance of polls to leadership, with the following insight.

□ 1545

I wonder how far Moses would have gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt. What would Jesus Christ have preached if he had taken a poll in Israel? Where would the Reformation have gone if Martin Luther had taken a poll? It is not the polls or the public opinion of the moment that counts. It is right and wrong, and leadership, men with fortitude, honesty and a belief in right that makes epics in the history of the world.