

So we need the budget first, and I want to say to the American people tonight and whoever else is listening in their offices or wherever, common sense says show the budget. Like the little lady said on advertising some years ago, "Show me the beef." Show us the budget so we can see where we are at and so we can go forward with good sense and make the progress we need to make.

We all would like to have tax relief. I want tax relief. The money we have here is not our money. It is the people's money. We all know that. If we have more than we need, then we ought to send it back. But we ought to deal with the realities of where we are at and not jeopardize Social Security and Medicare and defense and agriculture, and a number of things that are very, very high priorities to us. We ought to think of it and be sure that we have the budget first.

So here we are tonight, Mr. Speaker, at this point, a few hours away from taking it up, and I would hope we would give some consideration to what we have talked about.

□ 2045

THE FLORIDA VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CANTOR). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) for their discussion tonight over the fight to get the right to vote. I want to take that a step forward to discuss the fight to make sure every vote counts.

Before I begin, I want to talk a bit about the coup d'etat. I know those are strong words, Mr. Speaker, but that is what happened in Florida, on November 7, because, without a doubt, more people, not just in the United States, went to the polls and voted for Al Gore, more people in the State of Florida went to the polls and voted for Al Gore. In fact, I represent Duval County, the Third Congressional District of Florida, where 27,000 votes were thrown out, 16,000 of them African Americans, 22,000 overvotes, 6,000 undervotes, that have never been counted.

I was particularly disturbed last week when the Miami Herald, and I have got to give credit, if you read the article, they did not say that Al Gore lost Florida, but the media went in and talked about the election and indicated that in four counties, four counties, if the recount was done, that Bush would have won. But I knew for a fact they were not talking about Duval, because we just started counting the votes, the undervotes in Duval Monday. We have been in court. And so we are still counting the undervotes in Florida,

over 100,000 votes that were not counted, not one time.

Let me discuss what an undervote is. An undervote is like if you come from Duval County and you have those old machines and the machines spit the vote out so they were not counted. I asked the leadership of this House, when were we going to have a hearing on the illegal activities that occurred in Florida, the illegal activities that occurred on November 7. The response was that next week we are going to have a hearing on profiling, racial profiling.

Now, I really think that is very important, but that has nothing to do with the election in Florida and what happened in Duval County and in Seminole County, where people went in to the supervisor of elections and filled out forms, and in Martin County, where they went in to the supervisor of elections and took forms out and where the Secretary of State in the State of Florida took \$4 million of taxpayers' money, subcontracted to a firm in Texas to identify felons, and many that were identified and kicked off of the roll had never been arrested.

Yes, there were a lot of criminal activities that occurred in Florida on November 7. I cannot move forward because we are debating tomorrow a tax cut as if someone had a mandate on November 7. That is what is disturbing to me. The issue that we discussed today, turning back the clock for American workers, we would not be discussing those items if we did not have that coup to take place in Florida.

Mr. Speaker, my people in Florida want to know, when in Congress are we going to have a hearing on the illegal activities that took place in Florida during the election and after the election?

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. We are not in the majority, so we cannot set the time and place of the hearing. It is my hope that we will have a hearing, that the leadership of the Congress, the leadership of this House will hold hearings on what happened in Florida. The right to vote, and the right to have your vote counted, is the heart and soul of our democratic process.

We just had a discussion a few moments ago about how people suffered, people struggled, people that I knew died for the right to vote. I will never forget in June of 1964, three young men, Andy Goodman, Michael Schwerner, white, Jewish from New York; and James Chaney, black, from Mississippi, were arrested, jailed by the sheriff, then taken over to the Klan where they were beaten, shot and killed because they were there to help people register to vote. Then Jimmy Lee Jackson in Alabama and others.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. This is round one, Mr. Speaker. We will continue this discussion.

C-SPAN, ERGONOMICS, THE PRESIDENT'S TAX CUT AND PATIENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, this morning started out with a breakfast that I and other Members and past Members of Congress had with Brian Lamb, who is the head of C-SPAN, the chief executive officer of C-SPAN. I must give a lot of credit to C-SPAN, because it is bringing democracy into millions and millions of homes every day and has opened up the political process more than ever before. Sometimes I will give a special order and I will invariably hear from home from some of my constituents and very, very frequently I will hear from my colleagues here in Congress on a comment on what I spoke about. I know that other Members who take part in special orders find the same thing. A major reason for that is because of the coverage by C-SPAN, a real service. Mr. Lamb is a gentleman and I think a patriot for selflessly giving up of his time and tremendous work and energy to provide a service for citizens around the country and a service that also helps us do our business here. Because there will be innumerable nights when I will be working in my office and there will be coverage here on the floor or during the daytime when we are all tied up in committee meetings and other things, and we get to follow what is going on on the floor via the coverage from C-SPAN.

I think tonight is a good example of the type of diverse comments that are covered, especially after regular order and during what is called special orders, about the only time that Congressmen and Congresswomen have to speak at any length of time is during this time.

Mr. Speaker, we have 435 Members of the House. We can fill every seat in this room. And because there are so many of us, the rules of the House make it so that when we debate an important issue, there is a limited amount of time. We do not have the luxury of only having 100 members like they do in the Senate where the Senators can speak for extended periods of time and develop completely ideas. And so what frequently happens is that during a debate on an issue like today when we spoke about workplace regulations on ergonomics, we will have a set period of time for debate, it will be divided between both sides, the Republicans and the Democrats, and then, because so many Members want to speak on an issue, like will happen tomorrow when we debate the tax cut, there is