

The second anecdote is even more true to his spirit, because at every homecoming Dr. Lombardi marched with the alumni band playing his trademark clarinet and wearing his Gator suspenders.

Today, Dr. Lombardi is leaving his post after a decade of dedicated service. We are fortunate, though, that he will not be going very far and that he plans to return to teaching in the University's history department. On this occasion, I wish Dr. Lombardi and Cathryne all the best and offer great thanks for all his hard work and efforts on behalf of the University of Florida.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks, the Republican leadership has taken their year of budgetary gimmicks to a new level, and I want to address that.

Not only have they declared the Census an emergency, something we have been doing through the centuries, not only have they delayed funding for critical medical research at the National Institutes of Health, they tried to create a 13th month in the year and put off payments that lower-income working families receive under the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Not only have they put on the floor an appropriation bill that has abandoned our commitment to reduce class size in our schools, a commitment which we started in the 1999 budget to eliminate immunization for 300 kids and gutted funding to hire teachers for disadvantaged students, not only have they been saying that they are the great protectors of Social Security and Social Security surpluses, while their own Congress Budget Office numbers which they have demanded the House use say the exact opposite, that all would have been bad enough, now they are telling us they are doing the responsible thing.

They have decided to hold up a penny and say, of course we can cut one penny out of every dollar we spend. One percent they say. That is just wasted money. They have abandoned apparently their idea of an \$800 billion tax cut, so-called tax cut.

Why? It did not resonate with the people of America. The reply of the leadership has been, Most people don't pay taxes. That's why people aren't supporting this tax cut.

They have got to be kidding me. Most people in America do pay taxes. Most people in America of adult age work if they are not retired. But let us keep it elementary. Let us keep it very simple. Let us get back to the penny.

We all know that on the face of this penny is the face of Abraham Lincoln,

our great role model. It appears here. As we listen to the rhetoric of the leadership, I would like this House to consider some other faces that are reflected here in this penny, the faces of those who represent the real story of about what this penny means.

Consider the face of Bob Corsa from Clifton, New Jersey. Bob is one of our Nation's veterans. Cutting that penny means that he and his fellow veterans will lose nearly \$200 million in funding for desperately needed medical care. This little penny I hold in my hands that their side has held up night after night, I am holding it up tonight. These are America's heroes. Yet, the Republican leadership calls their medical care wasteful spending. What is one penny? What is one percent?

How about the face of the young 3-year-old in the town I grew up in and still live in, Paterson, New Jersey, who may be one of 5,000 children denied an opportunity to attend Head Start programs. He or she would be so denied because this penny actually means 39 million less dollars for Head Start in their proposal. The other side calls these investments in our future wasteful spending.

We should also remember the face of that college student who will not have the opportunity to receive work study assistance or the family who will be forced to live another decade near a toxic waste site because funding for the cleanup of that site has been slashed.

The other side is saying to those citizens, it is just a penny. It is just wasteful spending we are cutting. Their argument is the easy way out. It is an across-the-board cut that fails those we were sent here to advocate for, the voiceless. And we continue this process.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CANNOT BE AUDITED

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, today the Department of Education cannot produce the required paperwork to allow their financial books to be audited by the General Accounting Office, the GAO. It is the only department that has not been audited for fiscal year 1998.

The Federal Department of Education is responsible for distributing \$120 billion a year in education spending. Unfortunately, it does not know where all that money is going. It is unacceptable that the Department of Education cannot account for how billions of dollars intended for institutes are being spent.

Yet, rather than looking at these issues, the Department has claimed that, as a result of a less than 1 percent reduction in their budget, they will

have to cut funding for education programs because they say there is no waste in their agency.

I am convinced that we can find savings and solutions in the Department of Education and make sure that taxpayer dollars are used as they were intended, to help kids learn, not on bureaucratic mix-up or faulty computer systems. But until the Department of Education is willing to work to find out how they spend all our money, we cannot be sure how much waste is occurring or how much we can more effectively spend taxpayer dollars.

How does anyone explain how a Federal department is unauditible? The only worst case I have ever heard about than this one is in 1995, 1996 the IRS could not account for about \$4 billion. They just could not account for it. They just lost it or misplaced it, I guess.

The Republican Congress wants to take a different approach to education, flexibility in return for strong accountability, the opportunity for parents, teachers, and schools to spend money the way they choose in return for proving that students are learning.

We have asked the GAO to look at some of the Department's accounting practices to make sure that every dollar that should be going to the classroom students is actually getting there to the local districts and classrooms.

I hope that the President and Secretary Riley will work with us to make sure that every Federal education dollar is spent wisely and is used to help children learn, not spent on red tape or bureaucratic mistakes.

The first step in making sure that the Department of Education's books are auditable is that we know where the money is going. I hope Secretary Riley will do everything he can to make sure this happens as soon as possible.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Republicans must take all of us for fools, standing on a soap box trying to convince the American public that they are the saviors of Social Security, when in fact they are like the thief who does not believe he has committed a crime until he gets caught. Then he goes, oh, I committed a crime.

Instead of supporting Social Security, the Republican leadership has a long track record of hostility toward that good program.

In fact, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader, has maligned Social Security as a rotten trick and as a bad retirement for American people. Republicans have tried to eliminate Social Security.