

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, the question that everybody is trying to wrestle with is why are we still here?

Let me, first of all, say everyone is entitled to their own opinion. They are not entitled to their own facts. Let me just offer my opinion as to why we are still here. It really does come down to some fairly simple questions, and the first one is how much is enough? Now, the Committee on the Budget worked out with the Senate earlier this year a budget agreement that said we could legitimately meet the needs of the Federal Government for about \$1.9 trillion. The President of the United States wants more, and no matter how much more we give him he keeps moving the bar. Even today we do not know how much the President really wants to spend, but it is not just about spending. The President thought that in our eagerness to get home and campaign that we would roll, we would roll over and he would get what he wanted on ergonomics, on blanket amnesty for illegal aliens.

Know what? He was wrong. I am so proud of the House of Representatives and our leadership because we said no. We are not going to give in to even more spending. We are not going to give in to blanket amnesty for illegal aliens, and we are not going to give in to a bad ergonomics policy that hurts small business.

FORKED TONGUE TALK

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not going to speak tonight but I cannot believe what I am hearing, this forked tongue talk. First we have the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) saying we are going to come down here tomorrow and we are going to pass a bill and we have enough people to do that. And then he gets up and says nothing can happen in Washington because the President is moving around the country. Thank God the President is moving around the country. Thank God over 100 Members of Congress are not here tonight.

Know where they are? They are out where the American people want Members of Congress to be on the eve of an election. They want to be face-to-face with the people they are going to vote with.

□ 1907

Thank God the President is moving around the country. This is a sham what is going on here. This is an attempt to try to keep some endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard word on the Republican side of the aisle that some of their Members are saying it is a lot safer for them to be here because

they are running such tough races, and if they have to get out there and respond to the challenger's opposition, they could not make it, they are not going to get elected. What a sham.

The Republicans control this place, all the rules, all the committees, all the decisions, all the votes. The Republicans have the majority. They can get in here and out of here as fast as they want to. So just because the President is traveling around the country; as commander in chief he can travel all over the world and do American business. Thank God he is not in Washington, and we should not be in Washington, either.

EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is extraordinary tonight to listen to this, because there are 73 Democrats missing. The Democrat leader is missing. It is a little hard to negotiate when they are not in town. Our leadership is here and we are here.

But more importantly for the American people to understand, for 30 years around this place, whenever they wanted to spend more money than they had, the Democrats would just take the money out of the Social Security fund and leave an IOU behind.

We changed that in this Congress. We changed that. We created the lockbox that safeguards Social Security and Medicare. We also put money into paying down debt. There has been \$350 billion paid down in the last 3 years. We hope to pay down another \$240 billion in this budget alone. That is why we are standing here ready to fight, because we want to pay down debt, not just grow the government. We want to do meaningful tax relief, not just add to the burden of working Americans.

Tomorrow, we are going to do something extraordinary for the State of Florida and for the United States, and that is approve the Everglades legislation.

READY TO WORK

(Mrs. THURMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, they have mentioned that there are so many people gone. I just want my constituents to know that I am still here. This is KAREN THURMAN from Florida, and I am ready right now to pass the Everglades bill. We were told last night before we left here that we would, in fact, have the Everglades bill on the floor tonight. I do not know why we have to wait until tomorrow to get this up. It

could have been done; it would have been passed. It sounds to me like everybody stayed here because we think it is an important bill to get done. It is a national thing, and we want it done. But I do not know why we are waiting until tomorrow morning and not getting it done tonight.

So to my constituents, I want them to know, I am here, I am ready to work, and I am ready to save the Everglades.

STOP THE FINGERPOINTING

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I hope we can put an end to the fingerpointing. It is time for us to close down this part of the session of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I want all of those that have been doing the fingerpointing, I want to ask, were there any meetings to work out the differences yesterday? Were there any meetings today? Have there been any meetings between the leadership of the House and the White House since 1:20 last Sunday night? Can anyone from the other side of the aisle tell me of a single invitation to meet and truly negotiate over the remaining items that the administration or Democrats from Congress refused to attend? If they can, take another 1 minute and say so. If not, let us quit the fingerpointing and realize we have to come back after the election and finish the work of this Congress. This is not doing any good, what we have heard tonight, not one bit of good. We are not doing anything. It is ridiculous. We could have voted on the Everglades yesterday. We could vote on it tonight. We do not have to come back tomorrow, but we will be here tomorrow.

□ 1915

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING ROXCY O'NEAL BOLTON, SOUTH FLORIDA'S PIONEER FEMINIST

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

Ms. ROSLEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tonight I would like to honor Roxcy O'Neal Bolton, a pioneer feminist in my congressional district who has and continues to champion the rights of women by widening the gate to equality.

Born in Mississippi in 1926, Roxcy Bolton has always been a trailblazer. She is a persistent advocate who continues to serve as a powerful voice for women whose needs and pleas had not been heard.

Through her actions, Roxcy has always demonstrated her courage and her deep convictions. She showcased the problems facing women of her time, and continues to encourage women to take action and to extend the fight for equal rights.

In South Florida, Roxcy's fight for equality helped to facilitate change. In the workplace, Roxcy demanded equal respect, equal opportunity, and equal pay for men and women.

For example, in dining clubs, as was the custom of the time, working men had a special dining area. During business day lunch hours men were seated and served quickly, while women, working women with short lunch hours, had to wait in line, looking at empty seats in the men's section.

By writing letters, meeting with restaurant owners, and organizing women, Roxcy Bolton changed this policy, and soon the "men only" policy in South Florida became obsolete.

Roxcy was also a fighter on behalf of abused women. In 1972 she founded Women in Distress, the first women's rescue shelter in Florida to provide emergency housing, rescue services, and care to women who found themselves in situations of personal crisis.

During that time, no one talked about rape, much less did anything about alleviating the horrendous trauma that the victim undergoes. Brave crime victims who actually reported their rapes were often treated callously.

Roxcy, however, was not afraid to speak on behalf of these unfortunate women, and did so publicly, with a march against rape down Flagler street in downtown Miami. Approximately 100 women gathered to march with Roxcy to make the community take notice of their concerns, of their anguish, of their need. It was the first time that South Florida women had taken to the streets, and Roxcy knew that if women banded together, we were going to make a difference.

Shortly thereafter, Roxcy approached every local official and persuaded them that something had to be done about treating rape as the violent crime that it is. In 1972, her efforts resulted in the first rape treatment center in the country, located in my regional congressional district at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. In 1993, this rape treatment center was correctly named after Roxcy Bolton.

Roxcy also organized Florida's first crime watch meeting to help curb crime against women. She has served on many boards and commissions, working for women's rights, and has been the recipient of numerous civic

awards related to her work with women's rights. In 1992, she helped form the Women's Park, the first park in the United States dedicated to all women who have made contributions to our community.

To this day, Roxcy continues to be a champion for humankind. We cannot keep her down. She continues to persevere and to recognize women's role in history. She continues to fight for women's rights, human rights, social welfare issues, and to put an end to the sexual discrimination in employment and in education.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Roxcy O'Neal Bolton in my congressional district, and I wish her many more successful years in the ongoing struggle for women's issues. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this Florida heroine for her remarkable dedication to women, and for making South Florida a better place in which to live.

We are a richer community for having hard-charging feminists like Roxcy O'Neal Bolton in our midst.

GOVERNOR GEORGE W. BUSH'S FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT HIS TAX PLAN

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we should not pretend that we are working here toward a final solution. We all know we are coming back after the election. The people who know this best are the Republican Senate leadership. They have all gone home, so why are we pretending we are going to cut a deal without the Senate leadership?

This country needs an election so that the people can tell us that we need more Federal investment in education, that we need a prescription drug benefit that is part of Medicare, and that we need an increase in the minimum wage.

I trust next Tuesday that message will be heard here in Washington loud and clear.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that could prevent us from hearing that message is a misconstruction of the Governor of Texas' tax plan, because there are two false statements that have been made by the Governor about his own plan. I trust that he has not made these statements deliberately, but simply because he has not read and studied his own tax plan, and that these are innocent, though major, mistakes.

The first is that the Governor of Texas tells us that under his plan, every American who pays taxes will get tax relief. He has said this over a dozen times, and it is false a dozen times. In fact, under his tax plan, 15 million American families who pay Federal taxes will get not one penny of tax relief.

Of course, over \$700 billion of tax relief over 10 years will go to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, but not one penny will go to 15 million American families who work every day, who pay taxes to the Federal government in the form of FICA taxes taken from their wages, and who work at the lowest-paying jobs in our society.

The second false statement made by the Governor in both the second and third debates was that his plan provided only \$223 billion over 10 years of tax relief to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans. He was off. It is really closer to \$700 billion of tax relief, because in stating the degree of tax relief that he provides to the wealthiest 1 percent, he simply forgot that his plan involves the repeal of the estate tax, which will eventually cost this country \$50 billion a year, or \$500 billion over the 10 years that is our traditional measure of the effect of tax proposals.

That is why it is true that the Governor's tax plan will provide more to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans than he proposes to provide to strengthen our military, improve our education, improve Medicare, and provide for our health care system, or improve our health care system, combined.

Mr. Speaker, I now want to address the need for school construction, which is also a tax issue, because the tradition in this country is that the Federal government provides help for those school districts that have old schools that have need for new schools because of growth, or that need schools with smaller classrooms to provide for smaller class sizes, and therefore need more classrooms.

The tradition is that we do that through the Tax Code by allowing school districts to issue tax-exempt bonds. We on the Democratic side have urged that \$25 billion of urgently-needed capital be provided to these school districts, not in the form of tax-exempt bonds but in the form of tax credit bonds, which will be even better for the school districts because they will not have to pay even reduced interest, they will pay no interest at all. The Federal Government will pick up the tab.

In fact, though, the tax bill that left this House provided only half of the \$25 billion of tax credit bonds that these school districts need. But that tax bill did address another problem. That problem appears to be that the sub-specialist tax lawyers who specialize in tax-exempt bonds feel their job is too boring. I could not agree with them more.

I myself am a tax nerd of long standing, but even I, after many years of reading the tax regulations, had but one solace, and that is, at least my job was not as boring as those of my brethren who subspecialized in tax-exempt school bonds.