

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.