

The thing is, get your work done, present these policy questions honestly, do not try to cement these provisions and advantages in place to cut Medicare, and to cut education, and the other programs that are so important to American families.

The Gingrich Republican theme change is not going to work. The American people understand what is at the base of the goals no matter how you hide them and note the whining by the Speaker, because he was not treated right on Air Force One. The poll numbers speak for themselves, the American people are not with the Gingrich Republicans. You do not have the economics or the public opinion on your side. So let us pass a truly clean resolution and get on with the real work of this Congress and pass a just budget.

ELIMINATE THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk about essential and nonessential Federal employees. Many of my constituents are asking why the Federal Government hires employees who are not essential in the first place. I did not.

The Department of Commerce recently sent two-thirds of its employees home because they were deemed nonessential. My bill to dismantle the Commerce Department only eliminated one-third. I guess I did not go far enough, but that is because I am conservative and not extreme.

A recent survey by the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce in my home State of Michigan indicated 89 percent of the business leaders there support the dismantling of the department. Business Week magazine agreed by a 2-to-1 margin. When the Clinton administration, former Commerce Secretaries, Michigan business leaders, and the Nation's senior business executives all agree that most of the Department of Commerce is nonessential, then it is time to put the Department of Commerce out of business.

MEMBERS SHOULD NOT BE DENIGRATED

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I count myself among the majority in the House who agree that none of us should denigrate any Member of this House, and I personally think that includes showing charts that denigrate Members of this House.

I thought it was therefore ironic when Speaker GINGRICH complained about his seat on Air Force One. We all understand, I believe, that the hallmark of his membership in this House

has been verbal abuse, and the denigration of this President and Democratic-elected officials. NEWT GINGRICH has used these words about President Clinton, a previous Speaker of this House, or other Democrats: Sick, nuts, traders, corrupt, thugs. We all remember how he referred to the First Lady of the land. Frankly, NEWT GINGRICH is lucky to even get invited to ride on Air Force One.

GIFT BAN AND LOBBY DISCLOSURE

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on another note, today we will be taking up Gift Ban and Lobby Disclosure, two bills that were passed by the Senate a number of months ago. My plea to this Chamber is that on a bipartisan basis we can pass both bills. I salute the Democrats for pushing these issues before the Chamber, and my Republican colleagues who want to move forward.

I encourage them to vote against the Burton amendment, which, in my view, is a gutting amendment, and will keep things basically the way they are. I encourage them to support the Senate proposal or even better, a total ban, as the Speaker has proposed. On lobby disclosure, we need no amendment to that bill; we can send it on to the President. I understand a number of my colleagues on the Democratic side want to send it to the President. I encourage a number on my side to oppose any amendment and finally get lobbyists to register.

STATUS REPORT NEEDED FROM COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Today, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON] and I will introduce a privileged resolution calling for a report from the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct concerning the standing complaints against Speaker GINGRICH in that committee. Those complaints have been languishing in that committee for over 14 months. We have no intention to prejudice the outcome of the investigation, nor do we set a timetable for action. We only ask for a status report.

Mr. Speaker, it has been rumored that the majority leader will move to table this resolution today. We hope that we have a good debate on this issue and a vote on this resolution. I remind the Members of this House, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is our committee. It does not belong to the Speaker. They owe it to us to have a report as to the findings of their work.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2126, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 271 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 271

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2126) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina). The gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 271 is a straightforward resolution. The proposed rule merely waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. This resolution was reported out of the Committee on Rules by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, members of this House often stand on the floor and debate whether various programs should be conducted by Federal, State, or even local government. However, Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing that the State governments cannot do, or one thing the local governments cannot do, that is to provide for the national defense, the national security, and the intelligence requirements of the United States of America. The Congress and the President, as Commander in Chief, alone have this obligation. I urge my colleagues to support this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule. As every Member is fully aware, this is the second conference agreement on the Department of Defense appropriation. And, while not every Member will agree with every provision in this conference report, the conferees have attempted to address at least one of the major objections to the original report, that being the question of abortion.

Mr. Speaker, we are all well aware that the original conference report was defeated because of opposition from those Members who felt funding levels were too high, as well as those Members who opposed the provisions relating to the abortion. The conferees have