

We are going to prove our commitment to reducing the size and scope of Government by working for the passage of a balanced budget amendment. Every American family knows the importance of living within its means. Congress needs to learn that same discipline, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the passage of the balanced budget amendment.

LEAVE SOME FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I have some problems with the policy that allows Taco Bell to make great profits in America, but requires the taxpayers of America to make a loan to Mexico for Ma Bell to have a shop down there.

Something is wrong here, folks. We have already propped the peso up with \$6 billion with NAFTA. We have lost 40,000 jobs already with NAFTA. Now Mexico wants \$40 billion in loan guarantees so they can become well.

The \$40 billion will not make Mexico well. It will make them more dependent and limping back to Uncle Sam. And I want to advise Members, while you keep worrying about the Mexican economy, you have got people unemployed and you have problems in our own country.

By the way, what do we get for this \$40 billion? Two baseball players to be named later? I think it is time to get on a business program here, folks, stone cold business. And we are losing our pants. Think about that before we go shipping more money now to Mexico. Between Russia, Mexico, and everybody else, it is a wonder there is any program left in America.

VOTE "YES" ON BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT AND LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Washington I made a commitment to the people of Wisconsin. They expect me to do everything I can to reduce the size and the cost of Government, and I intend to follow through. That is why I support the balanced budget amendment and the line-item veto.

The balanced budget amendment will change Washington. No longer will we be able to fund programs with our children's money. No longer will we be able to spend taxpayer funds without asking if we have the money to do so. The line-item veto allows for the elimination of wasteful Government spending.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to change the way we do things here in Washington.

The balanced budget amendment and the line-item veto build a new structure for this Congress to live within. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on both of these important initiatives.

THE SPEAKER'S BOOK DEAL

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

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker's unbelievably good book deal, after all these secret meetings and behind the scenes deal-making, which each day brings to light new and more startling revelations, I am still not satisfied with the answers I am getting about this very large and lucrative deal our Speaker has negotiated for himself.

Now more than ever before the perception of impropriety, not to mention the potential conflict of interest, still exists and cannot be ignored.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I demand the gentlewoman's words be taken down.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WALKER. Point of order, Mr. Speaker. She should not approach the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order is well taken.

Members should not approach the Speaker during the Clerk's report and the Chair's ruling.

□ 1120

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The Clerk will read the gentlewoman's words.

The Clerk read as follows:

News accounts tell us that while the Speaker may have given up the \$4.5 million advance, he stands to gain that amount and much more. That is a whole lot of dust where I come from. If anything now, how much the Speaker earns has grown much more dependent on how hard his publishing house hawks his book.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is the Speaker's opinion that innuendo and critical references to the Speaker's personal conduct are not in order.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. I have a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. VOLKMER. Is the Speaker now saying it is the ruling of the Chair that any statements as to activity, whether it is illegal or not, by the Speaker of the House in his private actions cannot be brought to the floor of this House? Is that the Chair's ruling? It appears that it is.

Mr. LINDER. Point of order.

Mr. VOLKMER. I appeal the ruling of the Chair. I want to know what the ruling of the Chair is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In answer to the gentleman's question, first, it has been the Chair's ruling, and the precedents of the House support this, a

proper level of respect is due to the Speaker.

Does the gentleman appeal the Chair's ruling?

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. LINDER

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. LINDER moves to lay the Volkmer motion on the table.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, would the Clerk repeat the motion?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is to lay on the table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] to lay on the table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 169, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 17]

YEAS—214

Allard	Cremeans	Hoke
Archer	Cubin	Horn
Armey	Cunningham	Hostettler
Bachus (AL)	Davis	Houghton
Baker (CA)	DeLay	Hunter
Baker (LA)	Diaz-Balart	Hutchinson
Ballenger	Dickey	Inglis
Barr	Doolittle	Istook
Barrett (NE)	Dornan	Johnson (CT)
Bartlett	Dreier	Johnson, Sam
Barton	Duncan	Jones
Bass	Dunn	Kasich
Bateman	Ehlers	Kelly
Bereuter	Emerson	Kim
Bilbray	English	King
Bilirakis	Ensign	Kingston
Bliley	Everett	Klug
Blute	Ewing	Knollenberg
Boehlert	Fawell	Kolbe
Boehner	Fields (TX)	LaHood
Bonilla	Foley	Largent
Bono	Forbes	Latham
Brownback	Fowler	LaTourette
Bryant (TN)	Fox	Lazio
Bunn	Franks (CT)	Leach
Bunning	Franks (NJ)	Lewis (CA)
Burr	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)
Burton	Funderburk	Lightfoot
Buyer	Gallegly	Linder
Callahan	Ganske	Livingston
Calvert	Gilchrest	LoBiondo
Camp	Gilman	Longley
Canady	Goodling	Lucas
Castle	Goss	Manzullo
Chabot	Graham	Martini
Chambliss	Greenwood	McCollum
Chenoweth	Gunderson	McCrery
Christensen	Hancock	McDade
Chrysler	Hansen	McInnis
Clinger	Hastert	McIntosh
Coble	Hastings (WA)	McKeon
Coburn	Hayworth	Metcalf
Collins (GA)	Hefley	Meyers
Combest	Heineman	Mica
Cooley	Herger	Miller (FL)
Cox	Hilleary	Molinari
Crane	Hobson	Moorhead
Crapo	Hoekstra	Morella

Myers Roukema Taylor (NC)
 Myrick Royce Thomas
 Nethercutt Sanford Thornberry
 Neumann Saxton Tiahrt
 Ney Scarborough Torkildsen
 Norwood Schaefer Upton
 Nussle Schiff Vucanovich
 Oxley Sensenbrenner Waldholtz
 Packard Shadegg Walker
 Paxon Shaw Walsh
 Petri Shays Wamp
 Pombo Shuster Watts (OK)
 Porter Skeen Weldon (FL)
 Portman Smith (MI) Weldon (PA)
 Pryce Smith (NJ) Weller
 Quinn Smith (WA) White
 Radanovich Solomon Whitfield
 Ramstad Souder Wicker
 Regula Spence Wolf
 Riggs Stearns Young (AK)
 Roberts Stockman Zeliff
 Rogers Stump Zimmer
 Rohrabacher Talent
 Roth Tate

NAYS—169

Abercrombie Green Owens
 Baesler Hall (OH) Pallone
 Baldacci Hall (TX) Parker
 Barcia Hamilton Pastor
 Barrett (WI) Harman Payne (NJ)
 Beilenson Hastings (FL) Payne (VA)
 Bentsen Hefner Peterson (FL)
 Bishop Hilliard Peterson (MN)
 Bonior Hinchey Pickett
 Borski Holden Pomeroy
 Brewster Hoyer Poshard
 Browder Jackson-Lee Rahall
 Brown (CA) Jacobs Rangel
 Brown (FL) Jefferson Reed
 Brown (OH) Johnson (SD) Richardson
 Bryant (TX) Johnson, E. B. Rivers
 Cardin Johnston Roemer
 Clay Kanjorski Roybal-Allard
 Clayton Kaptur Rush
 Clement Kennelly Sabo
 Clyburn Kildee Sawyer
 Coleman Kleczka Schroeder
 Collins (IL) Klink Schumer
 Condit LaFalce Scott
 Conyers Lantos Serrano
 Costello Laughlin Skaggs
 Coyne Levin Skelton
 Cramer Lofgren Spratt
 Danner Luther Stark
 Deal Maloney Stenholm
 DeFazio Manton Stokes
 DeLauro Markey Studds
 Dellums Martinez Stupak
 Dicks Mascara Tauzin
 Dingell Matsui Taylor (MS)
 Doggett McCarthy Tejeda
 Dooley McDermott Thompson
 Doyle McHale Thornton
 Durbin McKinney Thurman
 Edwards Meehan Torricelli
 Engel Meek Towns
 Eshoo Menendez Traficant
 Farr Mfume Tucker
 Fattah Miller (CA) Velázquez
 Fazio Mineta Vento
 Fields (LA) Minge Visclosky
 Filner Mink Volkmer
 Ford Moakley Ward
 Frank (MA) Montgomery Waters
 Frost Moran Watt (NC)
 Furse Nadler Waxman
 Gejdenson Neal Williams
 Gephardt Oberstar Wise
 Geren Obey Woolsey
 Gibbons Olver Wyden
 Gonzalez Ortiz
 Gordon Orton

NOT VOTING—52

Ackerman Flanagan Lincoln
 Andrews Foglietta Lipinski
 Becerra Frisa Lowey
 Berman Gekas McHugh
 Beville Gillmor McNulty
 Boucher Gingrich Mollohan
 Chapman Goodlatte Murtha
 Collins (MI) Gutierrez Pelosi
 de la Garza Gutknecht Quillen
 Deutsch Hayes Reynolds
 Dixon Hyde Ros-Lehtinen
 Ehrlich Kennedy (MA) Rose
 Evans Kennedy (RI) Salmon
 Flake Lewis (GA) Sanders

Seastrand Tanner Yates
 Sisisky Torres Young (FL)
 Slaughter Wilson
 Smith (TX) Wynn

□ 1137

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. SMITH of Michigan and Mr. SOUDER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Without objection, the words will be stricken from the RECORD.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I object. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California will state his point of order.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, is it my understanding that the reason these words were taken down was because this was not a reference to the Speaker in terms of the Speaker's position or the policies of the Speaker as an officer, or of this institution, but that in fact it was a reference which clearly was outside the rules; is that correct?

Mr. DINGELL. I object. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to striking the words?

The question is: Shall the words be stricken from the RECORD?

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 178, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No. 18]

YEAS—217

Allard Buyer Dornan
 Archer Callahan Dreier
 Arney Calvert Duncan
 Bachus Camp Dunn
 Baker (CA) Canady Ehlers
 Baker (LA) Castle Ehrlich
 Ballenger Chabot Emerson
 Barr Chambliss English
 Barrett (NE) Chenoweth Ensign
 Bartlett Christensen Everett
 Barton Chrysler Ewing
 Bass Clinger Fawell
 Bateman Fields (TX)
 Bereuter Coburn Flanagan
 Bilbray Collins (GA) Foley
 Bilirakis Combust Forbes
 Bliley Cooley Fowler
 Blute Cox Fox
 Boehlert Crane Franks (NJ)
 Boehner Crapo Franks (CT)
 Bonilla Cremeans Frelinghuysen
 Bono Cubin Frisa
 Brownback Cunningham Funderburk
 Bryant (TN) Davis Gallegly
 Bunn DeLay Ganske
 Bunning Diaz-Balart Gilchrist
 Burr Dickey Gillmor
 Burton Doolittle Gilman

Goodlatte Lightfoot Royce
 Goodling Linder Sanford
 Goss Livingston Saxton
 Graham LoBiondo Scarborough
 Greenwood Longley Schaefer
 Gunderson Lucas Schiff
 Hancock Manzullo Sensenbrenner
 Hansen Martini Shadegg
 Hastert McCollum Shaw
 Hastings (WA) McCrery Shays
 Hayworth McDade Shuster
 Hefley McInnis Skeen
 Heineman McIntosh Smith (NJ)
 Herger McKeon Smith (WA)
 Hilleary Meyers Smith (MI)
 Hobson Mica Solomon
 Hoekstra Miller (FL) Souder
 Hoke Molinari Spence
 Horn Moorhead Stearns
 Hostettler Morella Stockman
 Houghton Myers Stump
 Hunter Myrick Talent
 Hutchinson Nethercutt Tate
 Inglis Neumann Taylor (NC)
 Istook Ney Thornberry
 Johnson (CT) Norwood Tiahrt
 Johnson, Sam Oxley Torkildsen
 Jones Packard Upton
 Kasich Paxon Vucanovich
 Kelly Petri Waldholtz
 Kim Pombo Walker
 King Porter Walsh
 Kingston Portman Wamp
 Klug Pryce Watts (OK)
 Knollenberg Quinn Weldon (PA)
 Kolbe Radanovich Weldon (FL)
 LaHood Ramstad Weller
 Largent Regula White
 Latham Riggs Whitfield
 LaTourette Roberts Wicker
 Lazio Rogers Wolf
 Leach Rohrabacher Young (AK)
 Lewis (CA) Roth Zeliff
 Lewis (KY) Roukema Zimmer

NAYS—178

Abercrombie Frost Mineta
 Baesler Furse Minge
 Baldacci Gejdenson Mink
 Barcia Gephardt Moakley
 Barrett (WI) Gibbons Mollohan
 Beilenson Gonzalez Montgomery
 Bentsen Moran
 Bevill Green Nadler
 Bishop Hall (TX) Neal (MA)
 Bonior Hall (OH) Oberstar
 Borski Hamilton Obey
 Boucher Harman Olver
 Brewster Hastings (FL) Ortiz
 Browder Hefner Orton
 Brown (FL) Hilliard Owens
 Brown (CA) Hinchey Pallone
 Brown (OH) Holden Parker
 Bryant (TX) Hoyer Pastor
 Cardin Jackson-Lee Payne (NJ)
 Clay Jacobs Payne (VA)
 Clayton Jefferson Peterson (MN)
 Clement Johnson (SD) Peterson (FL)
 Clyburn Johnson, E. B. Pickett
 Coleman Johnston Pomeroy
 Collins (IL) Kanjorski Poshard
 Condit Kaptur Rahall
 Conyers Kennelly Rangel
 Costello Costello Reed
 Coyne Kleczka Richardson
 Cramer Cramer Klink Rivers
 Danner Danner LaFalce Roemer
 Deal Deal Lantos Roybal-Allard
 DeFazio DeFazio Laughlin Rush
 DeLauro DeLauro Levin Sabo
 Dellums Dellums Lipinski Sanders
 Dicks Dicks Lofgren Sawyer
 Dingell Dingell Lowey Schroeder
 Doggett Doggett Luther Schumer
 Dooley Dooley Maloney Scott
 Doyle Doyle Manton Serrano
 Durbin Durbin Markey Sisisky
 Edwards Edwards Martinez Skaggs
 Engel Engel Mascara Skelton
 Eshoo Eshoo Matsui Spratt
 Evans Evans McCarthy Stark
 Farr Farr McDermott Stenholm
 Fattah Fattah McHale Stokes
 Fazio Fazio McKinney Studds
 Fields (LA) Fields (LA) Meehan Stupak
 Filner Filner Meek Tanner
 Ford Ford Menendez Tauzin
 Gonzalez Gonzalez Mfume Taylor (MS)
 Gordon Gordon Miller (CA) Tejada

Thompson	Velázquez	Waxman
Thornton	Vento	Williams
Thurman	Visclosky	Wise
Torricelli	Volkmer	Woolsey
Towns	Ward	Wyden
Trafficant	Waters	
Tucker	Watt (NC)	

NOT VOTING—40

Ackerman	Gutknecht	Reynolds
Andrews (NJ)	Hayes	Ros-Lehtinen
Becerra	Hyde	Rose
Berman	Kennedy (MA)	Salmon
Chapman	Kennedy (RI)	Seastrand
Collins (MI)	Lewis (GA)	Slaughter
de la Garza	Lincoln	Smith (TX)
Deutsch	McHugh	Torres
Dixon	McNulty	Wilson
Flake	Metcalfe	Wynn
Gekas	Murtha	Yates
Geren	Nussle	Young (FL)
Gingrich	Pelosi	
Gutierrez	Quillen	

□ 1157

So the motion to strike the words was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESPONSE OF MEMBER FOLLOWING THE VOTE

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, may I be recognized?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] may proceed in order.

(There was no objection.)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have reviewed my statement carefully. I do not see anything in my statement that should be so objectionable and obnoxious. I have been elected to this House to speak the truth. There is nothing in the rules that says "CARRIE MEEK can't speak the truth," and that is what I have done.

And, Mr. Speaker, I respect my Republican colleagues who have spoken the truth as they saw it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] has expired.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, my parliamentary inquiry is based upon the Speaker's recent ruling and the action by this Chair and by this body. The question I have may involve several Members about to speak.

Is the Speaker entitled to a higher level of avoidance than other Members? That seems to be the issue raised in the Speaker's response on this.

Mr. DELAY. Regular order, Mr. speaker.

Mr. WISE. Does the body refrain from raising certain questions about the Speaker that it could raise about other Members in the Chamber?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are entitled to have no per-

sonal references made about them when that question is brought up.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, continuing my parliamentary inquiry, then the Speaker is not entitled to any higher standard than any other Member in regard to personal references, is that correct, or any lower standard?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has already ruled, but the Speaker as a Member and as presiding officer is entitled to the respect of all Members.

Mr. WISE. But what about the Speaker? Is the Speaker as Speaker entitled to any different level of attention or respect than any other Member in the Chamber?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker is entitled to respect.

Mr. WISE. I have a further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is seeking recognition.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, this goes directly to the issue. Can any questions be raised about the personal financial dealings by the Speaker that have been reported in the public media?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has ruled and the House has supported the Chair's ruling on the point of order from this side.

Mr. WISE. Is it the Chair's position that no questions can be raised about the Speaker's personal financial dealings?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There are proper channels in the House for questioning the conduct of Members, including the Speaker.

Mr. WISE. If there is not an ethics investigation pending—

Mr. DELAY. Regular order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. WISE. With a privileged resolution or an ethics resolution not pending, is it appropriate to question any of the financial dealings of the Speaker in the context of 1-minute speeches or other activities?

Mr. DELAY. Regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is entertaining a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WISE. I will restate it if the Chair wishes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Simply put, in debate references personally to the Speaker are not in order.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if I may be recognized, is it a parliamentary procedure in this House that when Members call for regular order, the Speaker is to rule and go to regular order, particularly in light of the fact that a Member is not stating a proper parliamentary inquiry?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman should know in deference to him that the Chair was entertaining a parliamentary inquiry that was proper, and the Chair was answering.

The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is now recognized for 1 minute.

THOUGHTS ON A NEGATIVE APPROACH

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. LINDER. Regular order, Mr. Speaker. I have been recognized in the well of the House. Do I have the floor?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, sometime just before the campaigns got in earnest, a former majority whip of this House, Tony Coelho, was brought in to help the Democrats win. He said this:

Ideas are not the issue. Candidates can't get reelected if they run on who they are and what they stand for. They have to go in and put negative ads out. The only way you can win races today is with negative advertising.

It seems to me that the minority has decided to continue the campaign and absent an ability to compete with the Speaker's ideas, they have chosen to tear down the Speaker personally. There are far more things to be done in this House than to make personal attacks. I do not recall—

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. LINDER. Do I have the floor, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I do not recall these questions being raised about a former Member of the Senate—

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman suspend, and will the gentleman from Massachusetts state his point of order?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Tentatively as to the Chair's ruling, the gentleman is impugning the motives of Members of this House. The gentleman at the microphone has just said he has imputed inappropriate motives to things that have been said, but the tenor of the Chair's ruling is that no personal references to other Members ought to be allowed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The Chair will state that the gentleman from Georgia has not made a personal reference to any one Member. The gentleman from Georgia may continue.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to further ask if any of these ethical questions were raised about the book, "Earth in the Balance," which yielded a \$100,000 advance to its author, a former Member of the other body, and \$670,000 in royalties. Where were the questions of impropriety there?

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me these questions are very selective.