

machine, or they may need a new car, but at the end of the month, when you do not have the money, you do not get to buy these things. What the middle class said to the U.S. Congress on November 8 is "We want you to start living under the same constraints that we do. We want you to learn how to say no. We want you to tighten your belt and we want you to balance the budget."

Under the current course that we are on, the President's budget, as estimated by his own budget folks, will add to the national debt \$1 trillion over the next 5 years. That is not what the middle-class public wants. They want a balanced budget amendment, and I will say to the President's newly appointed Democrat Committee Chairman, "If you don't want the balanced budget amendment, where are you going to cut?" I have heard from so many Members of the other party who say, "Show us your cards. What are you trying to hide?" as if it is the sole responsibility of one party.

□ 1340

We got into this debt situation not because of Democrat irresponsibility, but because of Democrat and Republican irresponsibility. This is a bipartisan debt. It is a bipartisan problem. And I resent members of the minority party saying "what are you going to do?" Yes, there are some proposals out there. What are your plans? So far all I have heard is attacks, personal and malicious attacks on Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. All I have heard are talks about the Committee on Ethics that haven't been formed because their party has not appointed anyone, and all I have heard is their new frequent flier fetish, as if mainstream America at civic clubs raises their hands, and right after asking about the national debt, they say "And what are you going to do about the frequent flier problem in America?" Well, that is real big farsighted legislation.

But I certainly hope that before this debate goes any further, that the Democrat Party will come up with substantive ideas to contribute to the debate, to say "Hey, here are some ideas that might balance the budget, and, you know, I might not be for a balanced budget amendment, but I think we can get there this way," instead of just being against it.

You know, just because a party is not in the majority does not mean they do not have any responsibility to come up with ideas. The best thought, the best concept in America, is when both parties get together and work for the better of the country, rather than just the petty politics as usual.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we approach the balanced budget amendment coming up in a very few weeks, I hope that all members of both parties will come forward and say "Here are my ideas." If I am against the balanced budget amendment, I have an alternative. Rather than just swinging away at NEWT GING-

RICH and the book deal, rather than just attacking frequent flier points, and rather than just getting mad at the Committee on Ethics, which their side hasn't appointed yet, let us hear some substance, because that is what we are elected to do, Mr. Speaker. The middle class of America wants a balanced budget. The middle class of America wants less spending. The middle class of America wants a smaller government. And I hope that members of the Democrat Party will join us in that effort.

MATTERS TO BE DEBATED ON HOUSE FLOOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the gentleman that just spoke has left, because I for one am a strong supporter of a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget and have always done that. I have voted on it repeatedly. I have signed discharge petitions. There are any number of members of the Democratic Party who feel just as strongly as many of the people on the other side about a balanced budget amendment. We just disagree maybe on some of the details.

Mr. KINGSTON. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VOLKMER. Yes, I will yield. Even though your people would not yield earlier on 1-minute, I will be glad to yield.

Mr. KINGSTON. I always yield on special orders because I feel it is a good time to have a little debate, and through the debate some camaraderie. I just wanted you to know I am back if you had any questions or anything that I could add to. If I heard you correctly, you said you are for the balanced budget amendment.

Mr. VOLKMER. I always have been, as the gentleman from New York can tell you.

Mr. KINGSTON. I am pleased to hear that. Can you tell me how many folks on your side of the aisle might be voting in support of it?

Mr. VOLKMER. Quite a few, but they are going to vote for the Stenholm provision, the Stenholm balanced budget amendment, and that is the one that we support.

Mr. KINGSTON. Well, to my friend, I would say that if we can get their vote on the Stenholm amendment, that is a good positive step. I, as you know, am not part of the party leadership over here. Although I do support the Republican version with the three-fifths majority vote provision, I still think that the Stenholm amendment, which I supported last year on the floor, is a good step, and I am glad to hear it.

Mr. VOLKMER. The gentleman has been here long enough. All you have to do is go back in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. You can go all the way back to 1982 and see where HAROLD VOLKMER has voted consistently. And, like I said, I even signed a discharge petition when it was necessary to bring one out. I support a line item veto, too, maybe a little different than what you do, but I support the concept.

I also support mandates, that do something about them. I disagree, and I have an amendment that I hope to offer when we bring the bill up Friday, because I think there is a big loophole in that bill, you can drive a truck through, in that mandate bill. So there may be some disagreements on the details.

But what bothers me the most, and we could talk about these, and we have talked about a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget here since 1982. And I have been here 18 years, I am starting on my 19th year, and I have never come here with the idea that HAROLD VOLKMER would ever become rich because he is a Member of Congress. And I think it is improper for any Member to get outside income, to become rich because of his position in this House. We are here to serve the people, not to fill our own coffers and fill our own pockets, and to use our influence in order to do so. And I think Members who do that should have what they are doing all debated on this floor.

What bothers me is that we do not see the other side willing to debate that. We don't see an ethics bill. We think it is all right. We have it in our rules right now. You can take all the vacation trips with lobbyists and have them pay your full way and then you can vote for them on the floor of the House, everything they want on amendment or on a bill. And the other side, the Republican Party says that is the way it should be up here.

We now have a Speaker that had signed a contract for \$4.5 million to write a book. Boy, that is really pretty good. I don't think too many people have been able to do that. Now he says he will give that up and take the royalties instead.

Well, as the gentlewoman from Florida attempted to say here today on the floor, it really depends now on the publisher and how many books they sell, how much money he could make. He could make \$10 million if enough of his wealthy friends decide to buy a whole bunch of books. They could each buy 1 million books. He could make \$10 million off of it. And I don't think any Member of this body, any Member, should be able to do that. I think that is unconscionable. I think that this matter, the book deal, should be debated on this floor.

I welcome the majority party to come forward. I welcome the Speaker himself to come forward and stand in this well and debate his book deal. I think it should be debated.