

cornered my colleagues and begged them to show me the secret plan. But it soon became clear: There is no plan behind the balanced budget amendment.

"How can we say what we will do, if we cannot say how we will do it?" The means are at least as important as the ends. Unless the end is simply the next reelection campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot support an amendment that presents a bottom line without a plan to get us there. When faced with a constitutional requirement, how will the Congress feel about ensuring the construction of the vital international sewage treatment plant being built on the United States-Mexico border in my district? Or protecting seniors from drastic cuts in Social Security? Or retaining San Diego's status as a navy mega-port? Or funding vital infrastructure to handle United States-Mexico commerce? Or keeping our promise to our area's veterans?

We all want a balanced budget. But that budget should not destroy our economy or attack our children, our senior citizens, our veterans.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF LAND TRANSFERS AFTER BASE CLOSURES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, one of the many proposals floating around these days is the idea of eliminating the so-called nontraditional defense spending, which includes items such as the environmental cleanup of military bases. This is not only bad policy, but it is irresponsible. It will create not an unfunded mandate as much as an "unfunded liability."

As DOD closes numerous bases throughout the Nation, one of the biggest challenges that they face is how to transfer land to the local communities in the same condition in which they received it. However, environmental conditions on many of these facilities are abominable, and it will get worse if we put off cleanup for some unspecified date in the future. What is needed is more not less attention to the environmental concerns on these bases.

Gutting the funds for these programs sends the wrong message to our local communities. If this happens, local governments will be forced to pick up the tab for fixing a disaster that they had no part in creating in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to run away from our obligations. Instead, the Department of Defense should live up to their responsibility to clean up after themselves. By maintaining funding for "nontraditional" defense spending, this Congress can stand by our commitment to make our government more accountable to the

people it serves, and that is the right thing to do in my book.

Earlier we have heard a discussion about trying to point to issues. Well, there are issues and there are issues.

But the seriousness of these issues cannot be addressed as long as the leadership of the institution is under a cloud—and it is the responsibility of the majority to clean it up and a legitimate right of the minority to point it out.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May the spirit of thanksgiving, O gracious God, be ever in our hearts and may the significance of gratitude be written in our souls. Of all the attributes and virtues to which we aspire, of all the merits and worthiness to which we yearn, may the appreciation of thanksgiving and gratitude be in our thoughts at the beginning of the day and in our words at eventide.

For these and all Your gifts to us, O God, we offer this prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. VOLKMER. 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. 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 278, nays 135, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 30]

YEAS—278

Allard	Franks (NJ)	Miller (FL)
Andrews	Frelinghuysen	Minge
Archer	Frisa	Mink
Armey	Frost	Molinari
Bachus	Funderburk	Mollohan
Baker (CA)	Gallegly	Montgomery
Baker (LA)	Ganske	Moorhead
Ballenger	Gekas	Moran
Barr	Geren	Morella
Barrett (NE)	Gibbons	Murtha
Barrett (WI)	Gilchrest	Myers
Bartlett	Gillmor	Myrick
Barton	Gilman	Nethercutt
Bass	Gonzalez	Neumann
Bateman	Goodlatte	Ney
Beilenson	Goodling	Norwood
Bentsen	Gordon	Nussle
Bereuter	Goss	Orton
Berman	Greenwood	Oxley
Bevill	Gunderson	Packard
Bilbray	Gutknecht	Parker
Bilirakis	Hall (TX)	Porter
Bliley	Hamilton	Portman
Blute	Hancock	Pryce
Boehner	Hansen	Quillen
Bonilla	Hastert	Quinn
Bono	Hastings (WA)	Radanovich
Boucher	Hayes	Ramstad
Brewster	Hayworth	Regula
Brownback	Heineman	Roberts
Bryant (TN)	Herger	Rogers
Bunn	Hilleary	Rohrabacher
Bunning	Hobson	Ros-Lehtinen
Burton	Hoekstra	Roth
Buyer	Hoke	Roukema
Callahan	Holden	Royce
Calvert	Horn	Salmon
Camp	Hostettler	Sanford
Canady	Houghton	Sawyer
Cardin	Hoyer	Saxton
Castle	Hutchinson	Scarborough
Chabot	Hyde	Schaefer
Chambliss	Inglis	Schiff
Chenoweth	Istook	Scott
Christensen	Johnson (CT)	Seastrand
Chrysler	Johnson, Sam	Sensenbrenner
Clement	Johnston	Shadegg
Clinger	Jones	Shaw
Coble	Kaptur	Shays
Coburn	Kasich	Shuster
Collins (GA)	Kelly	Sisisky
Combest	Kennelly	Skeen
Condit	Kildee	Skelton
Cooley	Kim	Smith (MI)
Coyne	King	Smith (NJ)
Crapo	Kingston	Smith (TX)
Cremeans	Klecza	Smith (WA)
Cubin	Klug	Solomon
Cunningham	Knollenberg	Souder
Danner	Kolbe	Spence
Davis	LaHood	Spratt
Deal	Largent	Stearns
DeLay	Latham	Stenholm
Diaz-Balart	LaTourette	Stockman
Dickey	Laughlin	Stokes
Dingell	Lazio	Studds
Dixon	Leach	Stump
Dooley	Lewis (CA)	Talent
Doolittle	Lewis (KY)	Tanner
Dornan	Lightfoot	Tate
Dreier	Linder	Tauzin
Duncan	Livingston	Thomas
Dunn	LoBiondo	Thornberry
Edwards	Lofgren	Thornton
Ehlers	Longley	Thurman
Ehrlich	Lucas	Tiahrt
Emerson	Luther	Torricelli
English	Manzullo	Tucker
Ensign	Martini	Upton
Everett	McCollum	Vucanovich
Ewing	McCrery	Waldholtz
Fawell	McDade	Walker
Fields (TX)	McHale	Walsh
Flake	McHugh	Wamp
Flanagan	McInnis	Watts (OK)
Foley	McIntosh	Weldon (FL)
Forbes	McKeon	Weldon (PA)
Ford	McNulty	Weller
Fowler	Metcalf	White
Fox	Meyers	Whitfield
Franks (CT)	Mica	

Wicker
WilliamsWise
Young (FL)Zeliff
Zimmer

NAYS—135

Abercrombie	Hastings (FL)	Peterson (MN)
Ackerman	Hefley	Petri
Baesler	Hefner	Pickett
Baldacci	Hilliard	Pombo
Barcia	Hinchev	Pomeroy
Becerra	Hunter	Poshard
Boehlert	Jackson-Lee	Rahall
Bonior	Jacobs	Rangel
Borski	Jefferson	Reed
Browder	Johnson (SD)	Reynolds
Brown (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Richardson
Brown (FL)	Kanjorski	Rivers
Brown (OH)	Klink	Roemer
Bryant (TX)	LaFalce	Rose
Clay	Lantos	Roybal-Allard
Clayton	Levin	Rush
Clyburn	Lewis (GA)	Sabo
Coleman	Lincoln	Sanders
Collins (IL)	Lipinski	Schroeder
Collins (MI)	Lowe	Schumer
Costello	Maloney	Serrano
Cramer	Manton	Skaggs
Crane	Martinez	Slaughter
DeFazio	Mascara	Stark
DeLauro	Matsui	Stupak
Dellums	McCarthy	Taylor (MS)
Deutsch	McDermott	Taylor (NC)
Dicks	McKinney	Tejeda
Doggett	Meek	Thompson
Doyle	Menendez	Torres
Durbin	Miller (CA)	Towns
Eshoo	Mineta	Traficant
Evans	Nadler	Velazquez
Farr	Neal	Vento
Fazio	Oberstar	Visclosky
Filner	Obey	Volkmer
Foglietta	Olver	Ward
Frank (MA)	Ortiz	Waters
Furse	Owens	Watt (NC)
Gejdenson	Pallone	Wolf
Gephardt	Pastor	Woolsey
Green	Payne (NJ)	Wyden
Gutierrez	Payne (VA)	Wynn
Hall (OH)	Pelosi	Yates
Harman	Peterson (FL)	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop	Fattah	Mfume
Burr	Fields (LA)	Moakley
Chapman	Graham	Paxon
Conyers	Kennedy (MA)	Riggs
Cox	Kennedy (RI)	Torkildsen
de la Garza	Markey	Waxman
Engel	Meehan	Wilson

□ 1117

Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mrs. SCHROEDER, Mr. FOGLIETTA, and Mr. REED changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Will the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. NEAL] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

READING THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states that on

the first day of Congress the Republican House will force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else, cut one third of the committee staffs, cut the congressional budget, and we have done that and many more changes on our opening day.

In the next 80 days, Mr. Speaker, we will vote on the following 10 items: a balanced budget amendment and line-item veto, a new crime bill to stop violent criminals, welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence, family reinforcement to crack down on dead-beat dads and to protect our children, tax cuts for families to lift government's burden from middle income Americans, national security restoration to protect our freedoms, Senior Citizens Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without penalty, government regulation and unfunded mandate reforms, commonsense legal reforms to end frivolous lawsuits, and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature once again.

My colleagues, this is our Contract With America.

□ 1125

VOTE ON PERMITTING COMMITTEES TO MEET DURING 5-MINUTE RULE SEEN AS WRONG AND UNDEMOCRATIC

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to a motion that was forced through this House last night by the Republican majority. While this may seem like nothing more than a trivial, administrative matter, it speaks to the very heart of our purpose here as Representatives of the people in this country.

Last night the Republican majority pushed through a motion that said the committees of this House can meet to consider urgent legislation even while there is urgent legislation on the floor of the House.

In other words, Members of Congress have to be in two places at one time, and if that means we have to miss crucial votes, if that means that on some of those dangerous and potentially devastating proposals, the voices of our districts will be missing in action, then that is just too bad.

When we tried to object to a motion which is impractical, illogical, and just unfair, we were gagged. We were told that we only had 3 minutes to speak, and we were defeated by one of our closed, no-discussion, no-debate votes that have come to define the Republican Congress.

This is not just a partisan issue. I think Republican members should be as concerned and outraged as Democrats. What do we tell our constituents? That we wanted to fight to protect Social Security or Medicare but we missed the vote because we were

running from one room to another, that we wanted to preserve clean air and clean water, but there was a scheduling conflict and we were missing in action?

I know the Republicans want this to be the Hundred Days That Shook the World, but we have an obligation to stand up for those who may be shaken.

This motion last night was wrong, it was undemocratic, and I call upon all of my colleagues to resist it and denounce it for what it is, a gag rule on the people of this House.

THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we are here doing the people's business on a regular basis, and what we have just heard is a great hypocrisy coming from the other side of the aisle. The fact that I, in the 103d Congress, which is the only Congress I have had the privilege of being a party to—

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request that the gentleman's words be taken down.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The gentleman will please be seated.

□ 1128

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, do not the rules of the House forbid Members from impugning the motives of other Members?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is a point of order that the words be taken down. The gentleman will suspend. The Chair will not anticipate his ruling by a parliamentary inquiry. With due respect to this Chamber, the Chair is a new Member of the House at taking this chair, and ask for your indulgence and cooperation. This is a very serious situation, of which the chair will ask the Clerk to report the words.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw my previous words.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I will not object, providing there is an apology to the previous speaker.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to remove the words that I spoke before.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, if the gentleman apologizes for his words, which were directed at the previous speaker, I will not object.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I did not refer to anyone with my words, and, I will repeat, that I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw my words.