

We know, of course, of the ongoing investigation, the Secretary of Commerce. We know about the investigation of the former Secretary of Agriculture. We know about the travelgate controversy or scandal, depending on your point of view, within the White House. We know that the Whitewater problem has implicated high level officials within the administration.

So it is very clear again that this is one promise where the President has defaulted. It is another failure on his part to follow through on his commitments to the American people, following on the heels of his promise to end welfare as we know it, to cut taxes for the middle class and to balance the Federal budget.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON], my fellow member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. KINGSTON. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I believe, getting back to the focus of balancing the budget, one of the things we hear over and over again is the Republicans are balancing the budget on the backs of, fill in the blank, frankly, children, elderly, national parks, the Democrat Party, any victim of the day that the Democrats can conjure up.

But I had an interesting conversation. I called home and had an interesting conversation with my 7-year-old daughter, and I try to keep my children interested in the legislation process. I always heard people say stories like this. I say I am about to throw up. I find myself telling the story and feeling this.

She said, "Daddy, What were you voting on?" I said, "Raising the debt ceiling." I try to give an accurate answer. She said, "What does that mean?" She is 7 years old.

I was thinking to myself, how do I phrase it, how do I phrase my generation is going to stick it to your generation? That is what it means. It means we cannot control ourselves so my little 7-year-old Anne and all her little schoolmates and all the schoolmates that come after her are going to pay for it, because we as a Congress have found it is more important to stay elected than it is to say no.

I do not like telling these sappy, syrupy stories, but to talk to her immediately after the vote, knowing who is going to be saddled with that debt, and yet as I tried to explain to her what debt was, I also found a lot of, I guess, you know, felt better about it when I said, "However, we are stopping this deficit spending more money than we bring in."

I tried to explain to her, "It is like you have an allowance and spending more than you are getting." She could not believe that. I lost her on that one. How could I spend more than 25 cents if you only give me 25 cents?

But, you know, the fact is that I could end the conversation with my 7-year-old optimistic about the future rather than pessimistic, that if we can balance this budget and the interest

rates come down, as Greenspan had indicated they would, and the American family can look for lower interest rates on home mortgages, on car loans, on credit cards, if we do not spend \$200 billion each year on interest.

Of course, we are going to continue to do that for a long, long time, but if we can at the end of 7 years see the light at the end of the tunnel, then it is worth working through this weekend, it is worth working through Saturday, Sunday, Monday night, and even worth working through Thanksgiving and Christmas as well, if that is what we need to do so that little boys and girls like my 7-year-old and your children can look forward to having a balanced budget one day, and that is not how they are going to look at it. But they should not be saddled with our debt.

Mr. RIGGS. Those are inspiring words. I thank the gentleman very much. That really is what motivates us on.

I know we are about to conclude. Our 1 hour has gone by very quickly.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California so she can make some concluding remarks.

Mrs. SEASTRAND. I also understand what it is about little children. Sometimes they are very honest with us, and they have an understanding in very simple terms.

Earlier we talked about dealing with billions and millions and trillions of dollars. What does that mean to you, not your 7-year-old? What does it mean to me and the average American out there?

Well, we are talking about \$43,000. This is a number that means something to people. You talked about in some instances, I think it was the gentleman from South Carolina that mentioned some of his people are making \$13,000 a year. I know \$43,000 is a lot of money.

Yet tomorrow people will be reading additional stories about the situation with the Department of Energy, and they are going to look and say, "Why aren't we balancing the budget? Why don't they just do it, get rid of those, forget about the gimmicks, do it," and I am going to look forward to the next several days and weeks, and I will be very glad to put my vote up to balance the budget for all of our children, whether they be 7 years old or 25 years old.

Mr. RIGGS. I thank the gentlewoman. We are going to balance the budget with or without the help and cooperation of the President, for that matter, our Democratic colleagues in the House, because it is the right thing to do. We have to save the American dream for our children. We have to make America great again.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, November 9,

and Thursday, November 16, on account of official business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ABERCOMBIE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DURBIN, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. MCKINNEY, for 60 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KOLBE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GRAHAM, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HANSEN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SAXTON, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. MOAKLEY, and to include extraneous material, during debate on House Resolution 245.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. ORTIZ.
Mr. TORRES.
Mr. PICKETT.
Ms. DELAURO.
Mr. KANJORSKI.
Mr. TOWNS in two instances.
Mr. SERRANO in two instances.
Mr. OWENS.
Mr. MENENDEZ in two instances.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KOLBE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. GILMAN.
Mr. HOUGHTON.
Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas.
Mr. COMBEST.
Mr. CHRYSLER.
Mrs. ROUKEMA.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HOKE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. POSHARD.
Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.
Mr. DELLUMS in two instances.
Mr. GEJDENSON.
Mr. TATE.
Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

On November 7:
H.R. 1103. An act to amend the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, 1930, to modernize, streamline, and strengthen the operation of the act.