

Secretary Rubin. They want to impeach Secretary Rubin because he has been trying to pay the bills and not totally default.

It is not like this Government does not look foolish enough. They want it to look even more foolish.

I encourage them to listen to their own leadership and stop this political theater now.

LAYING ON THE TABLE HOUSE RESOLUTION 310, EXPEDITING COMMITTEE HEARINGS DURING REMAINDER OF FIRST SESSION OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that House Resolution 310, a resolution expediting the commencement of committee hearings during the remainder of the first session of the 104th Congress, be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNNING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, could the gentleman from California explain what this is?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Chair has already ruled.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Yes, the Chair has already stated "without objection" on this request. The gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] was not on her feet.

DISPOSING OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1643, EXTENSION OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR BULGARIA

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 334 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 334

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1643) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Bulgaria, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House the motion printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. All points of order against the motion are waived. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman

from South Boston, MA [Mr. MOAKLEY], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for taking from the Speaker's table H.R. 1643, with the Senate amendment, and consideration in the House of the motion printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying this resolution. The Senate amendment and the motion in the committee report shall be considered as read, and all points of order against the motion are waived.

The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate on the motion, equally divided by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule further provides that the previous question is considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

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Mr. Speaker, from the 1st day of the 104th Congress a year ago yesterday, the new majority in the House has maintained that balancing the Federal budget in 7 years is our top priority. To fail in this effort is to let down America's families, especially our Nation's children. They are the ones that will pay the bill for continuing the tax, spend, and deficit policies that Washington insiders have maintained for decades. The bill just for interest payments on our debt is approaching \$187,000 in lifetime tax payments per American child. That is why we must change the direction of this Government.

Mr. Speaker, the President and Congress made a commitment on November 20 of last year to enact a 7-year balanced budget using honest economic assumptions. The balanced budget was to reform welfare and provide a tax cut that lets families keep more of the money they earn. The balanced budget was to provide an economic stimulus to finally get family incomes moving upward, something that the Clinton administration unfortunately has failed to do.

Finally, the balanced budget was to increase spending on health care, education, and veterans, while maintaining a vibrant national defense.

Mr. Speaker, the majority in this House made one major mistake in our efforts to reach a balanced budget agreement to save the future for our children. That mistake, Mr. Speaker, was believing the President of the United States. We believed the President when he said he would balance the budget in 5 years. We believed him when he said he would support a 7-year balanced budget. We even believed the

President meant it when he signed the last continuing resolution saying that a 7-year balanced budget would be enacted by the 1st session of the 104th Congress.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the President is very committed. He is committed to saving Washington, not to saving Medicare. He is committed to balancing his poll numbers, not to balancing the budget. He is so committed to business as usual that he was willing to see Federal workers thrown out on the street, rather than putting a balanced budget on the negotiating table.

Mr. Speaker, one thing should be very clear at this point: Those of us committed to balancing the budget will not go along with business as usual. This Congress and this country are well into uncharted territory in this budget showdown because there is finally a majority in Congress that will say "no" to Washington's deficits and Washington's spending. We are not willing to just declare victory and draw up a phony budget that will result in the same type of debt and waste in 2002 that we have today. The President has refused to lead, choosing cheap political rhetoric over a balanced budget. Therefore, Congress has taken the lead. The President has refused to lead to find common ground on appropriations bills so that Federal workers can be paid. Therefore, we are leading with a bill to put Federal workers back on the job with pay through January 26.

Mr. Speaker, we must be clear. This is not a business-as-usual continuing resolution. This bill will only fund targeted Federal programs which enjoy a bipartisan consensus of support. The bill funds some of those programs through March 15; others, through the end of the fiscal year.

If the President would really like to satisfactorily see all Federal programs funded, he should offer his version of a 7-year balanced budget using honest numbers.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several days, while negotiations have been going on, I have had a little time, because I have not been in the midst of those negotiations. I have been spending some of that time rereading the Federalist Papers. I am more committed than ever to the belief that the Congress does not work for the Government. The Congress is here to serve the American people.

How would James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay react to a Congress so beholden to Government programs that its primary duty was to ensure that Government is free to spend taxpayer money? Madison believed that the primary role of Congress was to serve the people by ensuring a just society that protects individual liberty. Our debt-ridden status quo Government is not living up to that mission.

Mr. Speaker, our first duty is to deliver a balanced budget to America's children. The President was prepared