

down here with GOPAC and the Speaker? I do not think so.

It is time to admit we have failed. It is time to call upon the Speaker to go back to that bipartisan spirit he had when he shook hands with the President in New Hampshire, and it is time to get real reform that will bring dignity back to this House and get the special interest groups that are courting all of this out.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, here they go again. No ideas, so let us scare America with White House distortions and union leader lies.

Before Republicans took control of Congress last year, the President's 1995 budget had a rising deficit. Now overnight he is a budget hawk.

There is no real surprise here. The winds have shifted so the President has changed his sails.

But here is the truth: It is the Republican-led Congress that has cut the deficit. It has been cut \$43 billion just last year. Yet the President has the gall to take the credit. It is like the rooster taking credit for the sunrise. We would have saved even more if the President had not stood in our way. He has literally fought against deficit reduction by begging for more spending on pet programs.

The only areas where the spending continues to grow out of control is Medicare and Medicaid, more than \$50 billion. Yet when we tried to address the problem, he looked the other way.

What we get from the White House leadership is a steady stream of whining because they cannot cut themselves off from the spending gravy train.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of White House promises withering on the vine.

□ 1015

CAMPAIGN REFORM DAY

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

Mr. FARR of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address this House regarding campaign reform day. That is the legislation that is going to be on the floor, and the choice today is between the two R's, between reform, which the Democratic side of the aisle is promoting, and the rich, which is what the other side is promoting.

The Speaker asked not long ago for more money to be delivered to political campaigns, and today the law allowing him to do it will be delivered to the floor. They claim that there is reform in their bill, but for whom? It hurts women, hurts minority candidates.

The Democratic bill is the only bill that responds to the American public. It sets limits. It sets limits on PAC's, sets limits on the rich, and it sets limits on wealthy candidates.

Colleagues, we have a choice today. We can reform for the rich interest or we can reform for the American public. Reject the Thomas bill. Support the alternative Democratic Farr bill. I ask for your vote.

INTRODUCING THE VETERANS' CEMETERY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, last month 128 bronze grave markers were stolen from the Riverside National Cemetery in my district—the second largest national cemetery next to Arlington.

This was a despicable act. Our Nation should have no tolerance for those who desecrate and vandalize the graves of brave Americans.

The men and women who are buried at Riverside National Cemetery and other national cemeteries have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. They deserve our deepest respect and our eternal thanks.

Today I am introducing the Veterans' Cemetery Protection Act. This bill will create a criminal penalty of up to 10 years in prison for vandalism or desecration of a national cemetery.

If the criminals try to profit from stolen property the penalty is increased to up to 15 years in prison or a \$250,000 fine.

Many of you have already asked to cosponsor this legislation. If you are not yet a cosponsor and would like to show your support, please contact my office.

SUPPORT THE FARR CAMPAIGN REFORM ALTERNATIVE

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, many of us on both sides of the aisle have been waiting very patiently for this day when campaign finance reform would be before the House. This is our one opportunity in this term of Congress, and I must say we are extremely disappointed.

The rule that is being brought forward is very restrictive, will not allow for the bipartisan bill to be offered, and controls very much what we can consider on this floor. That is wrong.

The underlying bill moves in the wrong direction. The Republican bill would have us spend more money and put no limits on what we can be spent in campaigns. It carries out the wishes of Speaker GINGRICH when he stated that he thinks the problem with our campaign laws is that there is not enough money being spent.

My constituents disagree. We should be reforming the system to put controls on how much money can be spent and to reward small contributors, and that is exactly what the bill offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] will do. I urge my colleagues to support it.

No wonder that all of the public interest groups oppose the Republican bill, from Common Cause to Public Citizen, the League of Women Voters, U.S. PIRG. They oppose the Republican bill. I urge my colleagues to vote against that bill and support the Farr alternative.

COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Madam Speaker, let me go through some reasons I think America needs commonsense welfare reform. Between 1965 and 1994, the Government has spent \$5.4 trillion, that's trillion with a "T," on welfare programs. These programs were started under the proviso that we were waging a war on poverty. Thirty years and trillions of tax dollars later, poverty is winning.

Another reason we need to fix welfare is the alarming increase in broken families and especially teenage illegitimacy. Researchers at the University of Washington have found that increased levels of welfare benefits almost always lead to increases in the teenage illegitimate birth rate.

Welfare does not fight poverty; it perpetuates it. Welfare creates a set of incentives that crushes the work ethic, ruins the family, corrupts basic morals, and ultimately destroys the trust between people that is so necessary for civilized society.

Madam Speaker, it's way past time to fix the broken welfare system.

NO SUBSTANTIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, the most fundamental way that we can reform the way the Congress does business is to pass campaign finance reform. The Republican leadership today will renege on that promise to offer real, substantive campaign finance reform. It will happen today.

We had an opportunity. We were going to have reform week, and we have nothing. Now we have the Republicans presenting a bill before this House, calling it reform, that is a phony fraud.

Campaign finance reform is up, and not one Member of the Republican Party got up before this House in one-minute to defend their piece of fraud legislation. Does that not speak volumes about today's debate? Not one of

them would get up and defend the campaign finance reform bill that they are going to present before this House today. It is a disgrace.

We need to change our campaign finance system and we cannot get a bill to do it. They want to increase influence. Not one of their Members will come down and defend their bill. America is watching today, and Republicans will pay the price in November.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole under the 5-minute rule:

Committee on Agriculture; Committee on Banking and Financial Services; Committee on Commerce; Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities; Committee on Government Reform and Oversight; Committee on International Relations; Committee on the Judiciary; Committee on Resources; Committee on Small Business; and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado? There was no objection.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CHAPLAIN OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, in the wee hours of this morning as we were finding a way to adjourn and come back this morning, one in our midst passed over the big 65. He joined the Medicare-eligible society that several of us have already joined.

If it were possible to sing happy birthday under the rules of the House we would do that this morning, but since we can't, we do wish it to our Chaplain, Jim Ford, who is now eligible to go on Medicare. Of course he looks that old, but it is kind of shocking to realize that he really is, because we have known Jim for a good many years now since he finally graduated from West Point and came down to join us.

But, Jim, we wish you many more happy ones. Your birthday almost sneaked by us here, but after we woke up this morning we realized that you are passing the big one, we wanted to take this opportunity.

So, happy birthday, Jim.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for pointing that out. It is such fun to see people get older, is it not, but especially our Chaplain, and he wears it very well.

I think the gentleman should sing. Is it truly without the rules?

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Reclaiming my time, it is against the rules of the House, yes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, how sad.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Most of us cannot sing. The rules really protect us.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. The gentleman is the only one who could.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Thank goodness we have that rule, otherwise we would be trying to do it all the time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 3816) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and that I may be allowed to include tabular and extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Pursuant to House Resolution 483 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3816.

□ 1025

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3816) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. OXLEY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, July 24, 1996, amendment No. 14 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. HILLEARY] had been disposed of.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 483, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order: Amendment No. 4 by Mr. OBEY of Wisconsin; an amend-

ment by Mr. SCHAEFER of Colorado; and amendments No. 15 and 16 by Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the request for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. OBEY:

On page 17, line 21, after the dollar amount insert the following: "(reduced by \$17,000,000)".

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 198, noes 211, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 357]

AYES—198

Abercrombie	Ganske	McNulty
Ackerman	Gejdenson	Meehan
Andrews	Gephardt	Menendez
Baessler	Gibbons	Metcalf
Baldacci	Gilchrest	Millender-
Barrett (WI)	Gillmor	McDonald
Beilenson	Gilman	Miller (CA)
Berman	Goodlatte	Miller (FL)
Bilbray	Goodling	Minge
Bilirakis	Goss	Mink
Bishop	Green (TX)	Moakley
Blumenauer	Gunderson	Molinari
Boehlert	Gutknecht	Moran
Bonior	Hancock	Morella
Boucher	Harman	Nadler
Brown (FL)	Hastings (FL)	Neal
Brown (OH)	Hefley	Neumann
Brownback	Hilleary	Oberstar
Bunning	Hinchev	Obey
Camp	Hoekstra	Olver
Campbell	Hoke	Orton
Cardin	Horn	Owens
Castle	Hostettler	Pallone
Chabot	Istook	Payne (NJ)
Christensen	Jacobs	Payne (VA)
Chrysler	Jefferson	Pelosi
Clay	Johnson (SD)	Peterson (MN)
Coble	Johnston	Petri
Coburn	Kaptur	Pomeroy
Collins (MI)	Kennedy (MA)	Porter
Conyers	Kennedy (RI)	Poshard
Cooley	Kildee	Rahall
Costello	Kingston	Ramstad
Cummings	Klug	Rangel
Cunningham	Kolbe	Reed
Danner	LaHood	Richardson
Deal	Lantos	Rivers
DeFazio	Largent	Rohrabacher
DeLauro	LaTourrette	Ros-Lehtinen
Dellums	Leach	Roukema
Deutsch	Levin	Roybal-Allard
Dickey	Lewis (GA)	Royce
Dixon	LoBiondo	Sabo
Doggett	Lofgren	Salmon
Duncan	Longley	Sanders
Durbin	Lowey	Sanford
Engel	Luther	Sawyer
Ensign	Maloney	Saxton
Eshoo	Manton	Scarborough
Evans	Manzullo	Schroeder
Ewing	Markey	Schumer
Farr	Martinez	Sensenbrenner
Fields (LA)	Martini	Serrano
Filner	Matsui	Shadegg
Foley	McCarthy	Shaw
Frank (MA)	McDermott	Shays
Franks (NJ)	McHale	Skaggs
Furse	McKinney	Slaughter