

had a major influence throughout the world and, in many ways, has been the engine of inflation driving world financial markets for years.

But economic law dictates that adjustments will be made for all the bad investment decisions based on erroneous information about interest rates, the money supply, and savings.

The current system eventually promotes overcapacity and debt that cannot be sustained. The result is a slump, a recession, or even a depression. When the government makes an effort to prevent a swift, sharp correction, the agony of liquidation is prolonged and deepened. This is what is happening in Japan and other Asian countries today. We made the same mistake in the 1930s.

A crisis brought on by monetary inflation cannot be aborted by more monetary inflation or the IMF bailouts favored by the American taxpayer. It may at times delay the inevitable, but eventually, the market will demand liquidation of the malinvestment, excessive debt, and correction of speculative high prices as we have seen in the financial markets.

All this could have been prevented by a sound monetary system, one without a central bank that has monopoly power over money and credit and pursues central economic planning. My concern is profound. The retirement and savings of millions of Americans are jeopardized. Economic growth could be reversed sharply and quickly as it already has in the Asian countries. Budget numbers will need to be sharply revised.

The Federal Reserve hints at lower interest rates which means more easy credit. This may be construed as a positive for the market, but it only perpetuates a flawed monetary system.

Protecting the dollar is our job here in the Congress, and we are not paying much attention. Although turmoil elsewhere in the world has given a recent boost to the dollar, signs are appearing that the dollar, unbacked by anything of real value, is vulnerable. Setting a standard for the dollar with real value behind it can restore trust to the system and will become crucial in solving our problems, soon to become more apparent.

The sooner we understand the nature of the problem and start serious discussions on how to restore soundness to our money the sooner we can secure the savings, investments, and retirements of all Americans.

#### FARM CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, in the next several weeks, we in this body will consider the fate of our Nation's President. This undertaking will be balanced with our continued efforts to do the people's business on this

floor. It is imperative that we do not lose site of this as we enter the waning days of the 105th Congress.

I have come to the floor this evening, not to discuss the White House crisis, but to discuss the agricultural crisis plaguing rural America. Today will be the first of a series of floor appearances that I plan on making to try and educate my colleagues on the severity of the crisis now facing our Nation's producers.

As a cow/calf operator from western Oklahoma, I can tell you firsthand that the crisis in the country is real. Our producers are plagued by weak grain prices, drought, bugs, wildfire, and dwindling forage and hay supplies. Good farmers, good farmers are losing equity and millions of dollars are being lost to our economy.

The 1996 Farm Bill was a bold step. In farmer's terms, it can be likened to the purchase of a new farm truck. We expect it to be reliable and dependable. It should have all of the tools to get us through the harvest, and it must be flexible enough to allow us to use our ingenuity to conquer unexpected tasks.

In these trying times, I believe it is time to assess whether the farm bill is running right. There are those who would advocate trading the whole thing in for an older model that did not run all that well in the years gone by. I do not think this is the proper route to take. We must diagnose the problem and fine tune the farm bill to make it better.

In mid July, the presidents of Oklahoma's major farm groups came to Washington to ask our delegation to come up with short-term and long-term steps to help producers.

I asked this group what the number one need was for Oklahoma producers. The number one answer was a quick infusion of cash in producers' hands to help them put in a crop this fall.

In response, we passed legislation to speed up the disbursement of \$5.5 billion in 1999 market transition payments. This is a good but limited step that must be built upon.

Mr. Speaker, the farmers of this country have been hit by what could be likened to the 7 plagues of Egypt: drought, bugs, fire disease, the Asian financial crisis, and low prices. Any one of these is bad, and right now we are being hit by all seven.

Over the next several weeks, it is imperative that we in Congress work with the USDA to develop a package of relief for our Nation's producers.

This is a must pass issue. We cannot close this session of Congress without responding in some fashion.

#### AMERICAN PEOPLE ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, the crisis that we are now facing here

in the Nation's Capital is unfortunately obstructing the view of a historic struggle that is now going on in southeast Asia and China.

So I believed tonight to be the night that I should, instead of getting up and talking about some of the problems and some of the crises and challenges we face here, point to this historic event that is taking place in Southeast Asia so people will understand that, yes, the forces of democracy are on the move, and there are positive things happening around the world as well as some things that may cause us great concern.

Asia is at a turning point. Asia will have tyranny and deprivation in the long run, or it will have democracy and free markets. The people in various countries in Southeast Asia and also in China understand that they are at this turning point, and the choices that are being made today will impact on their countries and on this planet for decades to come.

We can be grateful here in the United States that what we believe in, a democratic government, free enterprise, individual rights, are the type of ideals that are inspiring young people and are inspiring those folks who would change their systems in Southeast Asia.

Although those folks are up against some incredible odds, people in various countries are showing admirable courage as we speak and as we meet. They are confronting dictatorship and cronyism in their countries and putting their lives on the line by doing it.

In Indonesia, for example, young people are still in the streets, still facing off with the power structure. And Soeharto himself, the dictator, at long last may be gone, a man whose family looted that country of tens of billions of dollars, he may be gone, but his power structure remains, and the young people of that country are trying to eliminate cronyism and establish democracy for that country.

In Cambodia, ordinary people, street vendors, taxi cab drivers, Buddhist monks, people of every stripe and from every walk of life are joining together to sit in front of the American embassy and also in the town square, reminiscent of what happened in the Philippines under Marcos, and telling the dictator Hun Sen, a man who was a trigger man for Pol Pot that he will not rob them of their free elections.

This confrontation in Cambodia should have the attention of every freedom-loving person in the world, especially here in the United States. The United States stands with the people who are struggling for democracy in Cambodia, and they should understand that we are on the side of the people, democracy, and free enterprise, and we are opposed to Hun Sen and crooked elections and the use of force and violence.

These young people in Cambodia are admirable. These Buddhist monks are people who deserve our admiration and deserve our applause.

Similarly, in Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi and her democratic movement is at long last standing up to the SLORC dictatorship.

Both in Cambodia and in Burma, those ruthless gangsters who run those countries who are tied in with drug lords and have made international deals with the Communist Chinese should understand that, if they commit murders in order to maintain their power, if Aung San Suu Kyi is hurt or hundreds of people are murdered in Cambodia, those individuals in those governments, like Mr. Hun Sen and the military leaders in Burma, will be held accountable, and they will be treated as war criminals in the United States and the other democracies.

Because the struggle for freedom in Southeast Asia is reaching a crescendo, the Burmese people could free themselves. The people of Cambodia, if they remain courageous, could free themselves from Hun Sen and his dictatorship and his iron-fisted rule.

The United States, those of us in Congress, while we are going through our own crisis at home, have not lost site of our ideals. And as we speak, we should send a message to the people in Southeast Asia struggling for freedom and the people in China struggling for freedom we are on their side. Have courage. The American people will not let you down. We are on the side of freedom and democracy and opposed to dictatorship just like you.

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR SITTING IN JUDGMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor tonight because I think it is very important that a Member of this body speak out with respect to some of the inferences or suggestions that have been made that are in a way somewhat related, although I would suggest very immaterial and extraneous, to the allegations that have been made against the President.

I do not think that any Member of Congress could possibly relish the tremendous responsibility of potentially sitting in judgment on the President of the United States, but it appears in the coming days, the coming weeks, the coming months that will be the case with this Congress and potentially the next Congress.

As each of us struggles to uphold our constitutional responsibility to define what constitutes a high crime and misdemeanor and to decide whether or not the material, the evidence amassed in the independent counsel's report to the House which presumably will be made public tomorrow, constitutes impeachable offenses.

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But the reason I wanted to stand up and speak tonight on this particular

issue is because I noticed, I have noticed in recent days, and with increasing concern, that there are Members of this body that would endeavor to lower the very solemn and dignified tone that I think is necessary to have a debate on these momentous issues by inferring that "everyone does it".

Everyone does not do it. I am here tonight to flatly say that most Members of Congress take very seriously the responsibilities of their office, and are honorable, decent men and women who also take very seriously their marital vows.

What caught my eye was a remark made by Tim Russert, the Washington Bureau Chief for the NBC News Network, when he said, a lot of Congress people I have talked to over the last few days are talking about the MAD doctrine, M-A-D doctrine, mutual assured destruction, and they do not want any part of this.

Now, Mr. Russert goes on to quote the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JOHN CONYERS), the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the principal member of the minority party who will be involved in the deliberations at the committee level over the independent counsel's report. Tim Russert quotes the gentleman from Michigan as saying, in effect, that if every Member who has lied about his or her sex life had to recuse themselves from voting on the President, they would not have a quorum.

Well, I think that completely misses the point. This is not just about sex or a sexual relationship, it is all about potential, and I underscore potential, perjury and obstruction of justice. It is about 7 months of concealing the truth from prosecutors and the American people.

But I take real offense at the suggestion implicit in the statement of the gentleman from Michigan.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The Chair would advise the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) that he should not allude to charges against the President.

Mr. RIGGS. I will do that.

As I was saying, though, I think someone has to challenge the statement of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS). Everyone does not do it. And for him to suggest that, I believe, is degrading and insulting.

And the point, again, that I wanted to make here on the floor tonight is that most of us recognize that we have to be exemplary in our personal lives; that our personal lives are, to a very large extent, simply an extension of our public lives and the public offices that we hold. We realize that we are in the public eye, that we are highly visible, and that we have to, to the extent humanly possible, by our every word and action, try to uphold the trust that has been placed in us. We realize that the office that we hold carries with it a very special responsibility to be a role model and to be a moral exemplar

for the people of our country, our constituents, and especially our children.

So, again, I simply wanted to take the floor tonight to encourage my colleagues not to make suggestions that "everyone does it," and to remind Members, as well as our constituents, that most Members of Congress, again, take very seriously the responsibilities of their office and seek at all times to honor their marital vows as well.

#### JOB CORPS: ONE OF THE MOST WASTEFUL, LEAST EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days we will be asked to vote for the annual Labor-HHS appropriations bill. I have voted for this bill every year because it contains some very good programs. However, one of its programs has become one of the most wasteful and inefficient in the entire Federal Government and should either do much, much better or be abolished. Yet this agency, because on the surface it appears to be one for young people, seems to believe it should be immune from criticism and simply get one increase after another.

I am speaking of the Job Corps. Today, it costs over \$26,000 per year per Job Corps student, according to the GAO. We could give each Job Corps student an allowance of \$1,000 a month, send them to some expensive private school and still save money. If we did, these young people would probably think they had gone to heaven or hit some type of lottery. These Job Corps students would probably be shocked if we told them we were spending \$26,000 per year on them, because the people who get the big bucks out of this are the fat cat contractors and the bureaucrats who run the program.

Programs like the Job Corps are really, in the end, harmful to young people, because they just take more money from parents and children and give it instead to bureaucrats and contractors. And we are not talking about small change here. This year's proposed appropriation is \$1.246 billion, an increase of \$61 million over last year, \$1.246 billion for one of the most wasteful, least effective programs in the entire Federal Government.

According to a 1995 GAO report, the Job Corps is the most expensive program that the Labor Department administers, spending on average four times as much per student as the JTPA. In fact, the Workforce and Career Development Act of 1996, which passed the House by a vote of 345 to 79, included report language calling for five Job Corps centers to be closed by September 30, 1997, and five more to be closed by September of 2000.

Yet the number of Job Corps centers has actually gone up since 1996 from 112