

When I came here in 1994, we came here as part of a group of people that believed in fiscal restraint; believed that the government had spent too much of our money. We believed that Congress had gone awry of what the American people had sent it to do.

We promised a number of things. You will remember back in the Contract with America we promised to balance the budget, which we have done; we promised to overhaul the welfare system, which we have done; we went through that Contract with America, and the American people were proud of what was accomplished.

I just returned back from Omaha today, and I have to tell you that the people in my district, the Second Congressional District of Nebraska, are very disappointed. They are very disappointed with the Congress, with the leadership. They are disappointed with the fact that we could not pass a budget bill that stayed within the caps. This bill is \$20 billion over the budget caps.

There are a number of measures in this bill that are now called "emergency funded," emergency spending priority items. I talked with my staff and said, why do we not just declare the whole budget emergency, because that is basically what it is. Things have been thrown in at the last moment, items that nobody in this Congress has seen yet. I think when it comes out into the full light, we are going to be very disappointed with a lot of projects that have been thrown in at the very last moment.

The main paper in my district, the Omaha World-Herald, ran an editorial cartoon on Sunday which I thought was quite amusing. It is a picture of an elephant. It has the GOP leadership on that elephant. It is in a chiropractor's office, and the chiropractor is saying, "I believe I have discovered the problem with your spine—you don't have one."

Folks, that is what has happened to the conservative movement back here, when we pass a bill that is \$20 billion over the caps that has projected spending programs in there that the 1994 class would not have agreed to. And I do not know where we get off on the idea that we can come in here, pass a \$500 billion-plus spending program, not have an opportunity to look at the bill, not have an opportunity to examine all the various programs that have been thrown in there, and say to the American people at a 4 o'clock rally today, "This is a great product. You should be proud of this product, because we have passed it for you, the American people." That is not what this Congressman came to Washington to do.

I know there is a lot of compromise that must go on between the leadership, between the Senate and the House, the majority and minority leaders. But at a time when we are dealing with a weakened President, at a time when the American people have said enough of overspending the taxpayers'

money, you would think that our leadership, who professed to be the conservatives leading this revolution, could stand tough within that budget cap and stay true to the commitment that we came to and came here for in 1994. We have failed in this process.

COMMUNIST VIETNAM RELEASES 80-YEAR-OLD BUDDHIST MONK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, this year I joined the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) in establishing the formation of the "Adopt a Voice of Conscience in Vietnam Campaign" in this House of Representatives.

We established this task force to bring attention to the human rights violations in Vietnam and to generate pressure for the release of all prisoners who have been in house arrest, in prison or in other forms of detention. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to highlight what is going on in Vietnam against religion and freedom of speech.

We need to focus the public attention on Vietnam's repression against freedom of expression so that it becomes a part of the United States policy towards communist Vietnam. With Members of Congress adopting prisoners, we can successfully advocate for religious prisoners suffering persecution at the hands of this Vietnamese government.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we now have evidence that our efforts are working. On September 2, the Government of Vietnam released over 5,000 political and religious prisoners. Included in the release was Mr. Tran Huu Duyen, a Buddhist monk who is a member of the Hoa Hao Buddhist Church located in my district. I have been notified that he is now at home in Vietnam with his family, but in very poor health.

Well, what crimes did he commit to have spent the last two decades in prison? After the communist takeover, Mr. Huu was arrested and charged with plotting to overthrow the People's Government and for participating in a political party that was affiliated with his church. Despite his 78 years of age, he was forced to do hard labor eight hours a day.

By adopting these prisoners, Members of Congress can generate constant pressure on the Vietnamese authorities to release those who really have been detained for no reason, just because they choose to speak up against this government or just because they want to practice their religion.

This is an important date for all American-Vietnamese citizens, and it represents another major step in the fight to provide liberty to all political

prisoners around the world. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

REMARKS ON THE OMNIBUS BUDGET COMPROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. CHRISTENSEN) for his remarks. As a member of the other political party, I would like to join him in really condemning what the leadership on both the minority and majority side are trying to do to the 435 elected representatives of the people.

Mr. Speaker, all across our country, people hire tax accountants to help them make sure that they are not violating any laws. You can imagine how aghast they would be if when it came time to submit that form, the accountant told them they had never actually looked at the information that they had given them.

People hire lawyers from time to time to help them with contracts, and, again, you can imagine walking into negotiations and at the last minute your lawyer saying well, he has not quite bothered to read it; or having a purchasing agent who works for you who on a daily basis is signing forms for tens of thousands of dollars or hundreds of thousands of dollars, but who never bothered to see what he was really signing for and spending your money on.

Starting Friday at 9:30, the great young people who help me in my Congressional office started calling and asking for copies of this 4,000-page document that is going to spend over one-half of a trillion, that is \$500 billion, of the citizens' hard-earned money. They have been calling about every hour since then.

As of right now, 20 minutes to 1, a copy of this document is still not available. Yet the Democratic leadership and the Republican leadership are going to tell us to trust them, just go ahead and vote for it.

One of the people who is asking us to trust them is now being studied to see if he committed perjury. Another of the people who says "trust us" admitted lying to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. That is not a very good place to start.

Every Member of this body was elected. Not one of us was given this job. We had to go out and ask for it. Most of us went out and begged for it. We mortgaged our houses, we sold those things we really did not need and put ourselves in financial jeopardy because we wanted to come here and make things better.

But now we are being given the option of either taking a half a trillion dollars worth of spending that does some good things, but we do not know what else it does.

My friend from Nebraska mentioned the Welfare Reform Act. There is no one that can tell me with great certainty that this bill does not repeal it. We do not know if it establishes all new criteria for gun control. We do not know if it says on a permanent basis that we are going to have troops in Haiti or Bosnia forever. We do not know what kind of trade pacts are buried in there, because, quite frankly, there is not one copy of this bill that 435 Congressmen are being asked to vote on available for any of us to read.

Mr. Speaker, I take my job very seriously. I begged for it. When we get through with this, I am going to go back home and beg for it again. I am not going to give my responsibility away. I am going to vote no. Until there is a copy of that bill that is available for the Members to study and have some idea and some certainty as to what we are doing to and for the American people, I am going to continue to vote no.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

At a time when there is so much that must be accomplished, we take this moment for prayer and reflection, for thanksgiving and praise. We are grateful, O God, for the blessings that have come to us and to our land. Through days of celebration and achievement and at times of challenge and struggle, You have encouraged us to live our lives in grateful response to Your gifts by doing those good deeds that honor You and serve people with justice and mercy.

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make His face shine upon us and be gracious unto us, the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Solomon 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 633. An act to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to provide that the annuities of certain special agents and security personnel of the Department of State be computed in the same way as applies generally with respect to Federal law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3633. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to place limitations on controlled substances brought into the United States.

H.R. 4501. An act to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to improve the access for persons with disabilities to outdoor recreational opportunities made available to the public.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2070. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the testing of certain persons who are incarcerated or ordered detained before trial, for the presence of the human immunodeficiency virus, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4283. An act to support sustainable and broad-based agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 129. Concurrent resolution to correct a technical error in the enrollment of H.R. 3910.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 20, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 5 of Rule III of the

Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on Tuesday, October 20, 1998 at 10:30 a.m. "that the Senate Passed without amendment, H.J. Res. 137".

With warm regards,
ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker pro tempore signed the following joint resolution on Tuesday, October 20, 1998:

H.J. Res. 137, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1999 and for other purposes.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR TODAY

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the call of the Private Calendar today.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1132, BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENT AND WATERSHED PROTECTION ACT OF 1998 AND S. 2133, PRESERVATION OF THE ROUTE 66 CORRIDOR

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 604 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 604

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (S. 1132) to modify the boundaries of the Bandelier National Monument to include the lands within the headwaters of the Upper Alamo Watershed which drain into the Monument and which are not currently within the jurisdiction of a Federal land management agency, to authorize purchase or donation of those lands, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (S. 2133) an act to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on