

to get than aspirin, who have our borders overrun with illegal immigrants, now want the border all to themselves.

Beam me up. The American people want Congress to secure our borders. Let me say this, Congress: If American troops can guard borders for the United Nations all over the world, American troops can guard the American border at home for the American people.

I think we should investigate those bungling nincompoops at the INS.

I yield back the 1 percent positive rate they have.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, after more than a year of stalling, the Republican leadership has finally agreed to schedule a vote on campaign finance reform this spring. I am thrilled about that. The question, though, is a vote on what? Will it be a vote on real reform, which includes a ban on unregulated soft money and more disclosure, like the American people want? Or will it be a vacant or destructive bill that is soft pedaled as reform?

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge you to do the right thing by bringing a bill that includes real reform to the floor for a vote. The American people will not settle for anything less.

CALLING FOR A VOTE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from Oregon, (Ms. HOOLEY) for her tenacity on an issue that I think is one of the most important issues that this body, this Congress, in this session should be working on, and that is campaign finance reform.

We have had numerous conversations with the Speaker, trying to get a promise from him to bring this measure up. TRENT LOTT in the Senate has agreed to allow the McCain-Feingold bill to come forward.

We have the perfect vehicle on the House side. A freshman task force has been working for the better part of a year, six Republicans, six freshman Democrats, in trying to get the poison pills out of a good finance reform bill, and believe we have done that.

We have numerous cosponsors from across the aisle, and I am asking today for the Speaker and the leaders in this House to at least allow us to bring this issue up for a full debate and for consideration and for a vote on this bill this spring.

I hear from my constituents in western Wisconsin that they do not expect me to take no for an answer, and figure

out a way to get big money and the influence of money out of politics.

□ 1515

I think now is the day that we should act. The time has come, and I commend my freshman colleagues who have been working for the better part of a year to make that day a reality.

"1-800-CAR-FIND ACT"

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning New Jersey's families woke up to a story in the Bergen Record newspaper that is becoming all too familiar. Car thefts are up once again. This time it is at Newark Airport, a growing international airport that we are counting on to spur North Jersey's economy well into the 21st century.

The 83 percent increase in stolen cars at Newark Airport means that 83 percent more New Jersey families traveling via Newark Airport are dealing with the possibility that their car will be stolen. Beyond the personal trauma and the hassles of getting their lives back in order, these families will have to bear significant costs. That is why I am urging my colleagues to take up the "1-800-CAR-FIND" bill that is currently awaiting action in the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

As a member of that subcommittee, I can assure my colleagues that I will strongly support the "1-800-CAR-FIND" bill. It sets up a national system to track stolen cars more efficiently, and the bill will return the cars to their rightful owners more quickly. It will provide lower insurance premiums for our families.

The rise in car thefts at Newark Airport and the other of our Nation's airports is a serious matter, it is a national concern, and it requires a national solution. Congress must not delay any further action in taking up "1-800-CAR-FIND" any longer.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, this morning on a local radio station a little girl called in with the joke of the day and the joke was, "What do you call a boomerang if it doesn't come back? A stick."

We are confronting here the issue of campaign finance reform, and the fear of many people in America and the fear of many people in this House, is that we will have a bill presented before this body that will be called campaign finance reform but will, in fact, be just an empty stick with none of the clout of a true campaign finance reform bill. I am one of the cosponsors of the freshman campaign finance reform bill, and,

at a minimum, it must be one that bans soft money and severely restricts these huge, unlimited donations to the parties.

In addition to that, our campaign finance reform bill must have no poison pills, and by that I mean to have provisions in the bill that would mean large numbers of this body would have to vote against it. There are options out there with bipartisan support that this House and the American people would support without such poison pills and I encourage the Members of this body to support them.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS ON A ROLL

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, expect to see me on the floor often reporting on the condition of our capital city. An extraordinary turnaround is in the making. At a hearing today, the District reported an almost \$200 million surplus. My colleagues heard me right: surplus.

This signifies another breakthrough. The District has balanced its budget 2 years ahead of the congressionally mandated year. This progress comes before the historic revitalization package we passed last summer has been felt. I will be coming to the floor on a regular basis in what are sure to be similar improvements on the way. This progress sets in motion the day when the District will soon regain the home rule it has lost. Get ready for it. We are on a roll, Mr. Speaker.

NO BAILOUT FOR THE IMF

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this Congress voting 1 penny of future funding for the IMF, let alone the \$18 billion requested unless a number of conditions are met:

First, the taxpayers of this country should not be forced to bail out the large multibillion-dollar banks like Chase Manhattan, Citibank, and Bank America, who have made billions of dollars investing in Asia, but now that their loans have gone sour, they are running to the United States Congress and the taxpayers of this country to be bailed out. That is wrong.

Further, we should not be bailing out people like General Suharto, the dictator of Indonesia, whose family is worth \$30 billion. The taxpayers of this country should not be bailing him out.

Further, I believe that we need a study to determine how effective the IMF has been in developing the global economy. My impression is that the middle class of this country is shrinking, unemployment is too high in Europe, poverty is increasing in Latin

America, the economy remains dismal in Africa, and now we are seeing an economic collapse in Asia. I think we need to question the whole concept of the centralized global economy and the role that the IMF is playing.

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, we are back in session and some of the stories in the paper are the same old stories. There are stories about too much money in politics, about investigations that go on and on.

The Washington Post editorial this morning said it well. Many of the Senate Republicans who have criticized the Democratic fund-raising in 1996 will now vote against significant campaign finance reform. We cannot let that happen in the House. We need a campaign finance reform bill on the floor of this House in March. It should be a bipartisan bill.

The Republican majority has been questioned as to whether or not they are really serious about campaign finance reform, but there are some Republican freshmen who have stood with Democratic freshmen to put together a bill, H.R. 2183, the bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act of 1998. It bans soft money, it improves issue advocacy disclosure, it tightens candidate reporting requirements.

That is the bill we ought to bring to the floor of this House, a bipartisan campaign finance reform bill with no poison pills, no effort to get one side or the other, or the backers of one side or the other. We need real campaign finance reform; we need it now.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, February 10, 1998.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1022, attached is the Economic Report of the President together with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-176)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together

with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Joint Economics and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

For the last 5 years this Administration has worked to strengthen our Nation for the 21st century, expanding opportunity for all Americans, demanding responsibility from all Americans, and bringing us together as a community of all Americans. Building a strong economy is the cornerstone of our efforts to meet these challenges.

When I first took office in 1993, the Federal budget deficit was out of control, unemployment was unacceptably high, and wages were stagnant. To reverse this course, we took a new approach, putting in place a bold economic strategy designed to bring down the deficit and give America's workers the tools and training they need to help them thrive in our changing economy.

Our strategy has succeeded: the economy has created more than 14 million new jobs, unemployment is at its lowest level in 24 years, and core inflation is at its lowest level in 30 years. Economic growth in 1997 was the strongest in almost a decade, and the benefits of that growth are being shared by all Americans: poverty is dropping and median family income has gone up nearly \$2,200 since 1993. We also saw the biggest drop in welfare rolls in history. Many challenges remain, but Americans are enjoying the fruits of an economy that is steady and strong.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY

From the beginning, this Administration's economic strategy has had three crucial elements: reducing the deficit, investing in people, and opening markets abroad.

Deficit reduction. In 1993 this Administration's deficit reduction plan set the Nation on a course of fiscal responsibility, while making critical investments in the skills and well-being of our people. When I took office, the deficit was \$290 billion and projected to go much higher. This year the deficit will fall to just \$10 billion and possibly lower still. That is a reduction of more than 95 percent, leaving the deficit today smaller in relation to the size of the economy than it has been since 1969. And this year I have proposed a budget that will eliminate the deficit entirely, achieving the first balanced budget in 30 years.

Beyond that, it is projected that the budget will show a sizable surplus in the years to come. I propose that we reserve 100 percent of the surplus until we have taken the necessary measures to strengthen the Social Security system for the 21st century. I am committed to addressing Social Security first, to ensure that all Americans are confident that it will be there when they need it.

Investing in our people. In the new economy, the most precious resource this Nation has is the skills and inge-

nuity of working Americans. Investing in the education and health of our people will help all Americans reap the rewards of a growing, changing economy. Those who are better educated, with the flexibility and the skills they need to move from one job to another and seize new opportunities, will succeed in the new economy; those who do not will fall behind.

That is why the historic balanced budget agreement I signed into law in 1997 included the largest increase in aid to education in 30 years, and the biggest increase to help people go to college since the G.I. Bill was passed 50 years ago. The agreement provided funds to ensure that we stay on track to help 1 million disadvantaged children prepare for success in school. It provided funding for the America Reads Challenge, with the goal of mobilizing a million volunteers to promote literacy, and it made new investments in our schools themselves, to help connect every classroom and library in this country to the Internet by the year 2000.

The balanced budget agreement created the HOPE scholarship program, to make completion of the 13th and 14th years of formal education as widespread as a high school diploma is today. It offered other tuition tax credits for college and skills training. It created a new Individual Retirement Account that allows tax-free withdrawals to pay for education. It provided the biggest increase in Pell grants in two decades. Finally, it provided more funds so that aid to dislocated workers is more than double what it was in 1993, to help these workers get the skills they need to remain productive in a changing economy.

But we must do more to guarantee all Americans the quality education they need to succeed. That is why I have proposed a new initiative to improve the quality of education in our public schools—through high national standards and national tests, more charter schools to stimulate competition, greater accountability, higher quality teaching, smaller class sizes, and more classrooms.

To strengthen our Nation we must also strengthen our families. The Family and Medical Leave Act, which I signed into law in 1993, ensures that millions of people no longer have to choose between being good parents and being good workers. The Health Care Portability and Accountability Act, enacted in 1996, ensures that workers can keep their health insurance if they change jobs or suffer a family emergency. We have also increased the minimum wage, expanded the earned income tax credit, and provided for a new \$500-per-child tax credit for working families. To continue making progress toward strengthening families, the balanced budget agreement allocated \$24 billion to provide health insurance to up to 5 million uninsured children—the largest Federal investment in children's health care since Medicaid was created in 1965.