

Helms-Burton law and waiving important parts of this legislation. It is time for the White House to wake up and realize that flirting with Castro will not help bring freedom to Cuba's oppressed people.

FISCAL YEAR 1999 AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly encourage the President to sign the 1999 agriculture appropriations bill. This bill contains much needed assistance for farmers and ranchers who are facing severe drought, farmers trying to hold together their operations in the face of several years of floods and disease, and farmers seeing their incomes decline significantly due to circumstances beyond their control.

I want to emphasize to my colleagues the assistance provided in this bill is not an implicit acknowledgment that agriculture policy needs to change direction. It is simply a recognition of the great need that we have in rural America.

The calls for additional funds for farmers are not about money, they are about policy. Some believe that they can seize on today's problems to change the course of the 1996 farm bill. My question is, why return to the old, failed farm policies of the past? Let us work through these international trade problems and continue to free agriculture to achieve great success in the 21st century. A good first step would be for the President to sign this bill. Do not play shut down the government with our farmers.

THE PRESIDENT IN HIS OWN WORDS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, guess who made the following quotes. In 1974: "If a President of the United States ever lied to the American people, he should resign."

Again in 1974: "I think it's plain that the President should resign and spare the country the agony of this impeachment and removal proceeding. I think the country would be spared a lot of agony and the government could worry about inflation and a lot of other problems if he'd resign."

Again in 1974: "I think the definition of impeachment should include any criminal act plus willful failure of the President to fulfill his duty to uphold and execute the laws of the United States. And another factor that I think constitutes an impeachable offense would be willful, reckless behavior in office."

In 1992: "I think trust and trustworthiness is an issue in this cam-

paign, and I think I've demonstrated it in my life."

Again in 1992: "I'm concerned by any action which sends a signal that if you work for the government, you're above the law, or not telling the truth to Congress, under oath, is somehow less serious than not telling the truth to some other body, under oath."

THE RULE OF LAW

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on November 5, 1997, I introduced a resolution calling for an inquiry into the impeachment of President Clinton. Yesterday the House Judiciary Committee, 11 months to the day thereafter, voted to begin that inquiry, having before it at least 15 possible impeachable offenses. By the end of this week, the full House will have the opportunity to begin to find the truth by supporting this resolution.

If we accept that this inquiry is merely about sex and politics, we have already failed in our constitutional responsibility. This is about the rule of law. It is about accountability. It is about American citizens being free from fear that a high government official can tap them on the shoulder, escort them into a room, force them to succumb to the official's wishes and then obstruct that citizen's right to seek justice in our courts.

We must stand firm for the law, the Constitution, and the American people by supporting the inquiry of impeachment.

THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM TODAY

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want my colleagues to ask themselves a question. That question is, how long will it be before rogue nations are able to reach American soil with ballistic missiles? In 1995, some said 15 years. President Clinton used this information to justify his veto of the 1996 defense authorization bill which called for the deployment of a national missile defense system by the year 2003. Mr. Speaker, as our esteemed chairman of the House Committee on National Security, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), said, the missile threat is not 15 years away, it is here now.

Recently we found out that North Korea fired its Taepo Dong 1 missile over the Sea of Japan. This missile has a maximum range of 1,250 miles. If anyone thinks that North Korea and other nations do not have the technological ability to hit American soil, we could all be dead wrong.

The U.S. must be able to defend itself from ballistic missile attacks. Efforts

not unlike those to make the U.S. first to the moon are needed to protect the American way of life. The President must agree to put a ballistic missile defense system in place today because the American citizens need to be secure that they are safe.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, there is an expression around this town that "people are entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts." We have heard a lot in the last couple of weeks about this Congress and how little it has accomplished, but let us look at the facts.

For the first time since I was in high school, we have a balanced budget. We have more than that. We have a surplus this year. And for the first time since Tiger Woods was 5 years old, American families are actually going to get some tax relief. Let us talk about some of those tax cuts and what they mean to American families.

We are allowing for a \$500-per-child tax credit. We are making it easier for families to send their kids to school and to college, and we are also making it easier for them to save and invest for their future through capital gains tax relief and estate tax relief.

IRS reform. We are now saying that the IRS has to prove that you are guilty rather than the other way around.

In the area of agriculture, we have made significant progress in terms of helping our farmers get through these tough times.

In health care, we have made it much more portable so if you lose your job or change jobs, you can take your health insurance with you.

In the area of education, this Congress is saying that 90 percent of the funds ought to go to the classroom rather than be consumed by the bureaucracy.

□ 1015

On all the areas people are entitled to their own opinions, but they are not entitled to their own facts.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MAKES HAVING REPUBLICANS IN CHARGE OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, after 2 years of being stricken and terrified with a Democrat House of Representatives, a Democrat Senate and a Democrat White House, the American people in 1994 changed horses. We put Republicans in charge of the House and the Senate, and what a difference it made

as compared to when the Democrats were running the show, pushing for socialized medicine, and pushing and passing the largest tax increase in the history of the country, pushing for all kinds of new regulations on the American families and businesses.

Republicans got in there, worked for balancing the budget. Now for the first time since 1969 the budget is balanced.

Medicare reform. 1995, when the trustees said Medicare was going broke, went in and on a bipartisan basis saved and protected Medicare.

And on the economy, by slowing down the rate of growth in government the economy has moved, and here is an indication of it where the Dow Jones industrial average in 1994 was at 3800. By 1998 it had gone towards the 9,000 level. That means lots of new jobs for American workers, and that shows what kind of a difference the ballot box can make.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICAN AND MINORITY FARMERS ACKNOWLEDGED BY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of a forgotten component of today's farm debate, the African American and other minority farmers.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is working at revealing speed to fashion a package of disaster assistance for our Nation's farmers, only some of our most needy farmers do not qualify, and more do not even know about it. The President has requested \$7.1 billion in emergency relief for Congress to consider, and we have heard the moving testimonials about low prices and devastating drought.

However, African American and minority farmers have borne a weight even more severe than heavy debt and poor harvesting, that of discrimination and racism. This discrimination has been acknowledged by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Secretary Glickman personally told me that this issue was a priority for his office. Now unfortunately even the Inspector General of USDA indicts Secretary Glickman as the culprit in the lack of relief for America's minority farmers.

I say no farm relief unless minority farmers and African American farmers are included.

REPUBLICANS HAVE WON THE WAR OF IDEAS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, balancing the budget, cutting taxes and reforming the welfare system, those are things of which both Democrats and Republicans are very proud. I remember that in speech after speech over the

last several months people have said, "Gosh, why do you all let Bill Clinton take credit for balancing the budget, cutting taxes and reforming welfare?" And I am reminded of that great, great sign that appeared on President Ronald Reagan's desk in which said:

"There is no limit to what you can do as long as you don't care who gets the credit."

Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that we as Republicans have, in fact, won the war of ideas. We, in fact, have been the ones who for years have been advocating balancing the federal budget, cutting taxes and reforming our welfare system.

So while Democrats and Republicans alike can take credit for it, I am particularly proud that it was our party, the Republicans, who consistently argued that for years, and we are today enjoying the benefits of those very important policies.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4194, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 574 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 574

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). 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 my very dear friend from South Boston, Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this rule waives points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 4194, the VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999. A key element of this rule is that it permits the inclusion in the conference report of the public housing reform bill that the House passed last year with substantial bipartisan support. That legislation will provide more flexibility

for local housing authorities and greater housing opportunities for the working poor. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), for his successful efforts in moving this good government reform bill forward.

I would also note that the conference report provides nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars more than the President requested for various veterans assistance programs such as medical care and research, and at this point, Mr. Speaker, having said that, I am going to move into a very, very important issue here, and I am going to take time and encourage my colleagues to join me as we pay tribute to the guy who has done more than almost anyone for veterans in those areas of medical care and research, and I am referring of course to my great pal from Glens Falls, New York, the distinguished chairman who will be retiring: JERRY SOLOMON.

Nobody has worked as aggressively and as tirelessly on behalf of our nation's veterans and for all those programs that benefit them than JERRY SOLOMON.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), as I said, will retire this year after two long decades of very distinguished service here in the House of Representatives. During the last 8 years he served as the top Republican on the House Committee on Rules, and during the last 4, as we all know, and especially the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) knows this, JERRY SOLOMON has served as chairman of the committee. I know I speak for many of his colleagues in Congress, his constituents in the Adirondacks and other parts of New York, our men and women in uniform and the millions of veterans who bravely serve their country when I say that we will all miss the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON).

Jerry was first elected to Congress as part of the very distinguished class of 1978, which includes, of course the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH), my colleagues from California, JERRY LEWIS and BILL THOMAS and a number of others. But the legacy he will leave behind is as impressive as some who have served in this institution for generations.

Inspired, as I was, by President Ronald Reagan, JERRY SOLOMON has worked to strengthen the morale and preparedness of our military and to make the government fiscally responsible by rooting out waste and inefficiency. He is a principal author of the line item veto legislation that was enacted in the Congress in 1996. He fought tirelessly for the defense build up of the 1980s that led to the end of the Cold War. At a time when the all volunteer Army is serving our Nation well, JERRY reminds us every year of the pending dangers that loom on the international horizon by his spirited advocacy of the Selective Service program. His unquestioned patriotism and love of country