

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to look at page 13 of the conference report on the grassroots gag rule that is being brought to the floor today. It says that churches are exempted from this, and religious orders are exempted from this, "if the communication constitutes the free exercise of religion."

Who is going to decide that? A director appointed by Bill Clinton. As for me, Mr. Speaker, the prospect of a Roberta Achtenburg, of Dr. Elders, or of VIC FAZIO or their ally being appointed to define "the free exercise of religion" I think is a very chilling prospect.

I urge the defeat of this effort to gag Americans at the grassroots level.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

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

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, today, citizens in my district will commemorate the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the national Underground Railroad. While many people associate the Underground Railroad with the courageous efforts of Harriet Tubman, in actuality the Underground Railroad started in Greensboro, Guilford County, NC, in 1819, 1 year before Harriet Tubman was born.

Founded by Vestal Coffin, a member of the Society of Friends, this slave escape system made it possible, during more than 35 years of operation, for hundreds of thousands of African-Americans to flee from captivity and enslavement. This mysterious transportation system, a primitive system with many routes, was never discovered by the slave owners.

According to "White Water, Colored Water," a history of Greensboro's African-American community, the Underground Railroad began when Greensboro, founded in 1808, was a village only 11 years old.

A slave named Sol assisted Vestal Coffin in preparing many slaves for their escape. By day, Sol sought out slaves who were interested in escaping or who had been free blacks, kidnaped and forced into slavery. He then fed this information to Coffin. In 1819, John Dimrey became the first passenger on the secret escape route traveling from Greensboro to Richmond, IN.

As John Dimrey was traveling north from Greensboro on the Underground Railroad, another African-American man, Benjamin Benson, became the first slave to successfully go to a local court to obtain his freedom. This was in Greensboro, NC. Many will also remember that Greensboro later became the place of the first sit-in demonstrations which launched years of efforts which resulted in the opening of public accommodations to black people.

The Quakers—as the members of the Society of Friends are called—stood against the institution of slavery through the Manumission Society, also based in Greensboro. One of the Quakers, Levi Coffin—cousin of the founder of the Underground Railroad and also a Greensboro native—became the president of the national Underground Railroad system.

I ask all Americans to join me, Project Homestead and Greensboro city officials today in this special remembrance of Sol, Vestal Coffin, Levi Coffin, John Dimrey and others who originated the historic Underground Railroad.

LIBERALS ARE WORRIED

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

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SMITH].

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrat establishment in Washington is worried. Judging from their reaction to the idea of a contract with America it is clear they are afraid—if the American people are given a pledge that is kept, it will ruin their chances of every making empty promises again.

Everyone should be aware that the same people who are upset with the contract with America are the same people who promised to deliver health care in 100 days—2 years ago; the same people who promised a middle class tax cut and raised everyone's taxes instead; the same people who promised to end politics as usual and instead have given us a scandal a week.

Every part of the Republicans' contract with America is supported by the American people. That's what Democrats are worried about.

□ 1030

A VOTE AGAINST GATT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Senator HOLLINGS for his decision to slow down the GATT—a new world trade agreement that is the culmination of nearly 15 years of radical free-trade-at-any-price policies that have run up more than \$1 trillion in trade deficits and made the United States the world's largest debtor nation.

All we hear is that this GATT lowers tariffs. If that is all it did, I might support it. But it goes much further than that.

This GATT creates a new world trade organization—a United Nations of trade—except the United States will have no veto power. The tiny nation of Rwanda will have exactly the same

vote and same power in this organization that we will.

A panel of three unelected trade bureaucrats will decide international trade disputes in secret sessions, without any possibility of appeal.

GATT puts every one of our Federal, State, and local laws on the table. If they are challenged as unfair trade barriers, a secret tribunal could order massive trade sanctions against our products and our markets until Congress changed those laws.

U.S. food safety standards could be challenged as unfair trade barriers. U.S. consumers could be forced to accept foreign foods that contain pesticide residues that are illegal under our laws.

U.S. environmental laws—like our automobile mileage standards will be overturned and protections for dolphins and other wildlife—have already been successfully challenged.

The Japanese Government has already said it will challenge our ban on the export of logs from our national forests as an unfair trade barrier. Many State and local laws, like Oregon's bottle bill, could be challenged.

Under the new GATT, faceless trade bureaucrats in Switzerland would aim trade sanctions against our markets that would put huge costs on U.S. consumers—until Congress changed those laws.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, this GATT is a \$40 billion budget buster. And to pay for it, the Clinton administration is resorting to gimmicks that would make Ronald Reagan blush.

Senator HOLLINGS is right. Give the American people and the Congress a few months to read the fine print before Congress signs on the bottom line.

Send this turkey back to the white House for Thanksgiving and give the American people a break.

DO NOT SURRENDER OUR SOVEREIGNTY

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the President in sending GATT down in an attempt at the last minute to get it through is really doing a disservice to our country. He is doing a disservice particularly to the sovereignty of this country. Eighty-three of the nations that will be members of the WTO, the World Trade Organization, and that will be about two-thirds of the membership, have a record in the United Nations of voting more than 50 percent of the time against America.

What President Clinton is doing is giving away our strong right to bilateral negotiations in trade. He is surrendering that to a committee that does not like us very much. This President is sending our Government to the United Nations, our troops to Haiti, and our jobs to Japan.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA IS A CONTRACT FOR FAILURE

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, Republican Members of this body and Republican candidates from across the country gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to pledge their allegiance to the GOP agenda. That agenda is nothing new. It is the same old combination of increased defense spending and tax cuts for the wealthy that tripled our country's debt in the 1980's.

Of the so-called contract with America, David Broder wrote: "It sounds suspiciously like the fairytale economics of the 1930's, which landed us in this budgetary mess."

The New York Times called the contract "duplicious propaganda."

The director of Citizens for Tax Justice called the contract "voodoo economics: the sequel."

Now that the reviews are in, Republican candidates across the country are shying away from the contract. And, the Republican leadership will not release the names of the candidates who blindly signed this contract for failure. The same party that led the fight to have discharge petitions made public, now has its own secret list. Let the American people see who signed this contract to cut Social Security and Medicare. Release the list.

PASS REFORM LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BARCA of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today we will bring up for debate a lobby law reform. That is very positive, that at long last this will be brought before us for a debate and final resolution.

But let us not forget the rest of the reform agenda. My understanding is that we are very close to an agreement on election law reform. We passed a strong election law reform bill in this House that was supported by all of the reform groups. We need to pass it. We need more support from our colleagues to team up with the rest of us who are demanding that the Senate bring up the Swett-Shays Congressional Accountability Act. That passed this House nearly unanimously.

Then we need to have a similar kind of bipartisan team effort to call for the rest of the reform agenda: A line-item veto, emergency spending restraint, and baseline budgeting. All of these passed this House by a large majority. Let us team up. Let us ask for colleagues in the Senate. We can still pass it this session. That will bring fiscal responsibility to this Congress once and for all.

CONTRACTS AND PLEDGES SHOULD BE KEPT

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, we are talking a lot about contracts today and I could not agree more with the gentleman who said that contracts and pledges should be kept. I found it very ironic that yesterday on the agriculture reorganization bill, the first recorded vote that this body, after a contract has been signed for reform and making changes, that 171 of my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, and 6 on this side voted against reform and change.

As the chairman of the committee that has worked very hard for over 2 years with the previous administration as well as this administration, I found it very ironic that on the first recorded vote of keeping a pledge for change and reform and saving money, we vote different than what we pledge.

I say in a very, very sincere way: Whatever we do or say in this campaign on whatever issues we say, we must be prepared to come to this floor and vote the same way that we say.

VOTERS BEWARE OF TRICKS

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

Ms. SHEPHERD. Mr. Speaker, voters should beware of election year tricks.

It is a trick to propose a plan that pretends to cost nothing, but that adds \$1 trillion to the Federal deficit.

It is a trick to support reform in word and then vote against it on the floor.

The latest trick is the assertion that the lobbying reform bill threatens grassroots religious efforts.

The Lobbying Disclosure Act has received the support of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Baptist Joint Committee, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. The Joint Baptist Committee says that the language of the bill and the report "protects the free exercise of rights of Churches and religious organizations. * * *"

Mr. Speaker, today the real reformers will stand up and be counted by voting "yes" on the rule and then "yes" for adoption of the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker. I have heard my Democrat colleagues come to the floor today attacking our contract with America because they are scared to death. They have lost election after election after election this year. The Speaker only got 35

percent of the vote in his own district. They are all terrified.

I would like to ask them, what is wrong with making a contract with America that says we will bring to the floor of the House a balanced amendment to the Constitution? They do not want to do that. What is wrong with bringing a line-item veto piece of legislation to the floor for a vote? They do not want to do that. What is wrong with tax fairness for senior citizens, where they go on Social Security and right now they are penalized if they work. We are going to change that if we get a chance, but they do not want to do that because they say it is going to take money away from the Treasury that they want to spend on more and more new social programs.

If we cut taxes, we put more money in Americans' pockets that they can spend and create an economic boom that brings in more taxes because more people are working. But they do not want to do that. They believe Government knows best how to spend your money. We do not believe that. That is why we want to change. They have had control for 40 years. It is time for a change, America.

We are going to bring these things to the floor so you will get what you want out of Congress, not what they are giving you, more and more government.

REPUBLICANS WILL BALANCE BUDGET

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I sure am glad that 16 years ago I did not move to Washington after I was first elected to the House. I have been going home every weekend, because people outside the beltway think differently than the Democrats. I just cannot believe Democrats stand up here and complain when we Republicans want to take money out of the way of the Government and give it to the people. What in the world is wrong with that?

Democrats say that we Republicans want to balance the budget and that this is going to cost \$1 trillion. Ladies and gentlemen, that is going to save \$1 trillion. The balanced budget alternative that I offered on this floor back in April actually cut the deficit by \$750 billion. That did not cost the taxpayers, it saved the taxpayers. Who did it cost? It cost the Government bureaucrats.

Give us 218 Republicans and we will pass not just the balanced budget amendment, but a balanced budget as well. We will give the American people back \$750 billion.