

CONGRESS SHOULD RETURN BUDGET SURPLUS TO AMERICAN PUBLIC

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the budget estimates are in; and the news is very good. This year, for the first time, the Congress of this Nation is going to have an opportunity to do what the American family has had to do for year after year. That is balance the budget.

Substantial progress has been made and giant steps have been taken in shrinking the size and the scope of the Federal Government. However, we must not stop now. We have finally righted the ship, and now we must take great care to stay the course.

The presence of a budgetary surplus must be used to save our current entitlement programs, not create new ones. This money should be returned to the people, not used to create more layers of bloated Federal bureaucracy.

Now that this Republican Congress has succeeded in balancing the Federal budget, all attention should be focused on the family budget. The liberal's concept of bigger government and \$100 billion in newer taxes is not better government. Decreasing taxes and reducing the size and the scope of the Federal Government has gotten us where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue this fight. Do not follow this giant step forward with two equally large steps back.

PATIENT ACCESS TO RESPONSIBLE CARE ACT

(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, today the National Association of Manufacturers is in Washington to oppose legislation that would reform managed care. It appears that the Republican leadership will stand with their special interest friends at the expense of average, middle-class Americans.

Now, let us talk about what this legislation is, the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act. Take away that title. This is what this bill is about: ensuring that patients have access to specialists; making it easier for consumers to sue health plans for medical malpractice; and ensuring that medical decisions are made by doctors and not by insurance company bureaucrats and by allowing doctors to tell their patients what their options for medical treatment are and not be gagged by health care providers.

Instead, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Republican leadership want to keep power in the hands of the insurance companies that are more concerned with healthy profits than with healthy patients.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Republican leadership to join Democrats in supporting these commonsense reforms.

THE ERA OF SMALLER GOVERNMENT

(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, 2 years ago on the lectern to my right behind me, the President stood up and said the era of big government is over. Hence, enter into, I guess, the era of the smaller government. And then this week, as he announced his new \$100 billion increase-spending budget, he said we are at the end of an era. So I guess what the President was saying is that the era of big government being over only lasted 2 years, or about 23 months if we are counting.

What else does he say in this new era? Nationalize health care; nationalize Federal day care programs; expansion of the sinking Medicare program, causing more problems for our Nation's seniors; and, of course, paying millions and millions of dollars to that favorite U.N. organization.

We in the Republican party hate to see the era of smaller government being over with. We think that it should continue. We support smaller government and lower taxes; stronger families, not a stronger Washington bureaucracy. We support a stronger military, not a stronger Saddam Hussein. We support stronger local governments and less influence outside of Washington.

INTERNET NEEDS A CHASTITY CHIP

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, what a world. Frazzled Frances Wyndham believes she got pregnant during a sexy e-mail exchange by a paramour 1,500 miles away. That is right: pregnant.

Frances said, and I quote, "His words were so sexy, I was totally seduced." Talk about instant connection. This is immaculate reception, Mr. Speaker.

And if that is not enough to crash our hard drive, think about the legal implications. What is next? Bill Gates paying child support? Microsoft, my eye.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act. The computers do not need a V-chip; Internet needs a chastity chip. I would say, "Beam me up," but that may be a new delivery system for e-mail.

PRESIDENT'S "TAX AND SPEND" BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton just 3 years ago proposed a 5-year budget with \$200 billion deficits every year for as far as the eye could see. We Republicans said no. We said no to big government, no to using phony numbers. We in Congress insisted on passing a bipartisan budget that balanced and that kept the lid on spending.

Well, here we go again. It is back to budget-busting time. Once again it is going to be up to Congress to act like grown-ups and keep a lid on spending. The President's budget expands entitlement spending. It puts the Medicare program in jeopardy only 1 year after we acted to save it. Taxes go up and up again in the President's budget.

Tax and spend, tax and spend. No matter how good the White House can spin it, and they are very good at spinning, the President's budget is a tax and spend budget.

Mr. Speaker, let us balance the budget. Let us pay down the national debt. Let us really save Social Security, not with smoke and mirrors. And let us give the American people the much deserved tax relief.

AMERICA SHOULD END CUBAN EMBARGO

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, last month we witnessed one of the most amazing events in recent memory, one that we thought that we would never see: Communist dictator Fidel Castro welcoming Pope John Paul to Cuba.

The sight of thousands of Cubans turning out to see the Pope and the sounds of his words on Cuban national television rebuking Castro for decades of repression against democracy and the Church were cheered by Americans. The Pope is on our side in the fight against communism and tyranny.

But let us also remember the second part of the Pope's message: The U.S. embargo against Cuba is unfair and inhumane and should be ended. For almost 40 years, we have tried and failed to isolate Castro's Stalinist regime. The Cold War is over, yet we still pretend that the small island 90 miles off our coast does not exist. But for the millions of Cubans who live in poverty, the lack of adequate food and medicine is all too real.

At a time when we send millions in humanitarian aid to "democratic allies" like North Korea, we should heed the Pope's advice by ending the embargo for food and medicine. We can punish Castro, but it is time to stop punishing the poor people who live in Cuba and need food and medicine.

AMERICA SHOULD MOVE CAUTIOUSLY REGARDING IRAQ

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the Saudis this past week expressed a sincere concern about an anti-American backlash if we start bombing Baghdad. We should not ignore the feelings of the Saudis. If a neighbor can oppose this bombing, we should be very cautious.

In the next week or two, we may have a resolution coming to this floor endorsing the bombing and, in essence, allowing for a declaration of war. Saddam Hussein does not pose any threat to our national security. We should be going very cautiously. Bombing might cause some accident regarding biological warfare. It may cause an irrational act by Saddam Hussein with one of his neighbors. It is bound to kill innocent lives, innocent civilians in Iraq. It could kill many American flyers as well. It costs a lot of money.

And even if we do kill Hussein, what do we do? We create a vacuum, a vacuum that may be filled by Iran. It may be filled by some other groups of Islamic fundamentalists.

There is no real benefit to pursuing this. Our own military has said this is like putting on a show. It is political, not a military operation.

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PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there is a bipartisan coalition formed in Congress to pass a patient bill of rights to curb abuses from health maintenance organizations, from HMOs. This bill would give people the right to know all their medical options, not just the cheapest: the right to choose the doctor they wanted for the care they need, the right to emergency room care wherever and whenever one needs it, and the right to keep medical records confidential.

A majority of Congress, almost all the Democrats and a fairly large number of Republicans, support the bill. So what is the problem? The problem is Speaker GINGRICH, Republican leadership in this House, Republican leadership in the other body and the insurance industry. Not so long ago there was a memo passed around from one of the top Republican leaders in the other body talking about opposing this legislation and he said, quote, get off your butt, get off your wallets. He talked about spending money and raising money from insurance companies, spending that money to defeat this bipartisan legislation. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is the right thing to do. It is too bad the Republican leadership will not get out of the way and let the House pass it.

THE COMPREHENSIVE HOLOCAUST ACCOUNTABILITY IN INSURANCE MEASURE

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, during the Second World War and the years preceding it, life insurance companies throughout Europe sold numerous policies to Jews and other minorities worth an average of 400 deutsche marks. As the Nazis seized power and began their anti-Semitic practices, laws were passed to deprive the Jews of their property. In fact a 1933 German law confiscated the property of Jews who emigrated to escape the Nazis. But with sickening irony, Jews who were forcibly deported to the Nazi death camps were considered emigrants, and their property, including any life insurance policies, was confiscated according to German law.

At the war's end death camp survivors and the heirs of those who perished attempted to collect on the life insurance policies that were due. But because many policies had been paid out to the Nazis or because of the companies' unwillingness to pay out the claims, there was no money for the rightful heirs.

Over the years much of the insurance companies' collusion with the Nazis became evident. Some companies attempted a small amount of restitution, but the vast amount of money owed the Holocaust survivors has never been paid.

I have crafted a bill to help these Holocaust victims get restitution.

The Comprehensive Holocaust Accountability in Insurance Measure will prohibit foreign insurance companies and their American subsidiaries from conducting business in the United States or conducting business with a United States bank unless the insurance company fully discloses all financial dealings they have with individuals who are known to have survived or perished during the Holocaust years. Today survivors and surviving heirs are still struggling to regain their property.

I urge Members to cosponsor this bill.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, today our Republican friends are talking about naming airports. What America should really be concerned about is the "NAMing" of our airports. That is right, NAM, the National Association of Manufacturers, is having a corporate fly-in today.

The corporate jets line the runways out at the airport here in Washington, and the special interests fill this Capitol. And what is it all about? They are heeding the cry of the Republican Party to come to Washington and block a consumer bill of rights for health care consumers who are enrolled in managed care: the right to see your own doctor, the right to be able to go

to the emergency room without having to ask someone's permission, the right to hold accountable some insurance plan that denies you access to health care, the right of all Americans to begin to do what Texans can already do, and that is to hold accountable these managed health care plans.

But NAM and the Republican Party, they have the NAM slam of this plan. It is really a NAM scam. It is a scam to deny the American people the rights they should have as health care consumers.

HONORING RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I would remind my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) that the last time a slew of corporate jets converged upon Washington, DC, those executives were not filling the Capitol. I believe they were filling the Lincoln bedroom.

That aside, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about another President: Ronald Reagan. I am pleased to support naming Washington National Airport after him. He was a President whose legacy was not being written by supermarket tabloids. President Reagan's great legacy included 20 million new jobs created, a substantial drop in poverty rates, an increase in middle class and real farm income, and the doubling of women-owned businesses. Under President Reagan, African-American employment increased 46%, and Hispanic employment increased a whopping 84%.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, he was a President who gave us a romance and patriotism about our country that we knew long since, and had lost for awhile. We recovered that splendid sense under his leadership. It is time to honor President Reagan with this simple, yet well-earned, tribute.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, today the American people will get an opportunity to see the spectacle of the dreaded special interest groups. That is right. The National Association of Manufacturers have flown into town to oppose managed care reform.

Congress has in the works the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act, a bipartisan bill, Democrats and Republicans working together to protect patients rights. The President refers to it as a patients' bill of rights. It would guarantee access to emergency rooms, access to specialists. It would make the decisions or put the decisions in the hands of doctors, not medical insurers or bureaucrats or medicrats. It would guarantee that the American people