

diligent we must remain in the struggle to secure the safety of our posterity, and that of the posterity of our neighbors around the world.

# PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. VIC FAZIO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 25, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, amending the Constitution to provide incentives for fiscal restraint will give us the discipline we need if we are going to continue to reduce our overwhelming deficits. But we need to ensure that our budget process balances this critical discipline with the flexibility that will enable us to make fiscal policy adjustments that are fair, responsible, and realistic.

Truth-in-budgeting is of primary concern to me. We must disclose, up front, how we plan to meet our financial goals. How will the budget be balanced? What benefits and programs will have to be reduced? Are Social Security and Medicare threatened? Will we achieve this goal by sacrificing the health and welfare of our senior citizens and our children? Will we resort to cutting or eliminating critical medical research, or emergency energy assistance for senior citizens and the poor, or job training and retraining initiatives? What about educational programs, funds for building and preserving bridges and highways, childhood immunization, health care, and veterans' benefits? Will our national security be placed at risk?

For example, according to the Children's Defense Fund, balancing the Federal budget by fiscal year 2002, as called for in the Republican Contract With America, would require slicing all other Federal expenditures by 30 percent if we do not cut Social Security or defense spending or raise taxes. Children's programs could suffer even more if cuts in such programs as Medicare or veterans' services were limited. If this were the case, in California alone, 682,000 children would lose free or subsidized school lunch program lunches; 550,150 cases now served by the State child support agency would lose help in establishing paternity or collecting child support; 19,150 or more California children would lose the Federal child care subsidies that enable their parents to work or get education and training; and 21,250 of our children would lose Head Start early childhood services.

I am also concerned about adequate funding for the critical investments that will enable our Nation to grow and thrive in this competitive international environment. America cannot prosper if we do not set aside funds for essentials like our schools, our infrastructure, and our national security—investments that provide long-term economic returns. If we amend the Constitution to provide for a balanced budget, we must deal with capital spending honestly and effectively.

I also cannot support a balanced budget amendment that leaves the Social Security

Program wide open for cuts. In these times of deficit reduction and spending cuts, Social Security is a most appealing target. But cuts in Social Security would deprive older and retired Americans of critical benefits that are rightly theirs—benefits that have been promised to them to help ensure their economic security in their golden years. A proposal that does not protect Social Security lays the groundwork for pulling the rug out from under older Americans at the time in their lives when they are most vulnerable. Social Security must be exempted from balanced budget calculations.

I also cannot support requiring the support of a supermajority—or three-fifths—of the House of Representatives in order to raise taxes, run a deficit or increase the debt limit. This gives the minority—the other two-fifths—the ability to control the process of passing the budget.

I can well remember the California State budget crisis in the summer of 1992 when the State legislature and Governor were held hostage because a two-thirds majority was needed to approve budget changes made by the Governor. This created gridlock. By example alone, this represents the need for the majority, not two-thirds or two-fifths, to control the budget process and to change our spending priorities. The Federal Government must be able to respond quickly to disasters, like the California earthquake and flood, and to run a deficit during a recession.

I have always maintained that the budget must be balanced—that the large annual deficits we are carrying are unhealthy and detrimental to our Nation. We cannot continue to perpetuate this burden on our future generations. That is why I supported the President's deficit reduction plan during the last Congress—the largest deficit reduction plan in history—and why I now support a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this unique opportunity to rise above partisan politics in the best interests of our country and meet this challenge responsibly, honestly, and realistically.

## THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SYSTEMATIC APPLICATION OF VALUE ENGINEERING ACT

**HON. CARDISS COLLINS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 27, 1995*

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that could significantly improve the way our Government does business. From all the discussion and speeches I've heard around the Capitol during the past couple of months, it is clear to me that this is a goal that we all share. It is certainly something that all of our constituents would like to see as well.

My bill would require Federal agencies to use value engineering [VE] which would enable the Government to save money while improving quality at the same time. This is a rare case where the taxpayers, the Government, and the American economy benefit—it's a win-win situation for everyone.

VE is a specialized, multifaceted, creative, team-conducted technique that defines the objective of a product, service, process, or construction project and questions every step to-

ward reaching it. It does so with an eye to reducing all costs and completion time while improving quality, reliability, and aesthetics. Analysis covers the equipment, maintenance, repair, replacement, procedures, and supplies involved. Life-cycle cost analysis is one of its many aspects and it differs from other cost-cutting techniques in that it is far more comprehensive, scientific, and creative.

It is widely accepted that VE saves no less than 3 percent of a contract's expense, and commonly that figure is 5 percent. At the same time, the cost of doing a VE review ranges from one-tenth to three-tenths of a percent. Thus, on a \$2 million construction contract, the very minimum that would be saved would be \$54,000 while savings of \$98,000 is very likely. On a major military procurement contract for \$1 billion over a life-cycle, that translates to a range of savings from \$27 million to \$49 million. Based on VE usage in recent years, the ratio of the cost of a VE review to savings yielded from using VE has ranged from 1:10 to 1:100, with 1:18 being the most frequent result.

Whenever value engineering has been examined, it is clear that it should be used more often and that its untapped potential is too great to estimate. The General Accounting Office has conducted various studies on VE over the years and each one has acknowledged its achievements and potential. Currently, several Federal agencies and departments reap significant benefits from VE but its use has been far too sporadic to achieve widespread savings.

Mr. Speaker, we have a responsibility to take advantage of VE. Ironically, although it was developed in the United States during World War II to maximize resources and improve our capabilities, it has been used most effectively by the Japanese electronics and automobile industries since that time. Isn't it time to bring this brainchild back home?

My bill, the Save Act, would provide significant savings and results by requiring all Federal agencies to use VE. To ensure that taxpayers get the greatest bang for the buck, my bill requires agencies to use VE for their most expensive projects. In order to see that VE is used to its greatest potential, each agency is required to designate a senior official to oversee and monitor VE efforts. Also, annual reports to the Office of Management and Budget would be required to ensure full compliance.

Plainly and simply, VE could make the Government run better and cost less. We've all heard America's cry for change, shouldn't we respond? I urge my colleagues to join me and cosponsor the Save Act.

## TRIBUTE TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 27, 1995*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, this coming Sunday, January 29, 1995, the First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens, in my home State of Michigan, is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

As one of the oldest churches in the area, the First United Methodist Church dates back

to when Mount Clemens was little more than a settlement in the wilderness of Michigan. The preachers were known as circuit riders because they traveled by horseback throughout the region serving the various churches. These preachers were like a pony express to the faithful, serving as a vital link to the pioneer families by delivering the word of God.

From the very beginning, the founders of the First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens were committed to seeing the emotional, educational, and spiritual needs of the community fulfilled. The commitment of the circuit riders and the faithful who used their homes as a place of worship helped meet needs too often neglected in the secular world.

The link between First United Methodist and the development of the Mount Clemens community were and still remain evident to this day. Before the public library was established, the church library served the readers of the wilderness community. Judge Christian Clemens, for whom the city is named, often used his log court house to host church services. Today, the congregation has been assisting in projects such as McREST, the program for feeding and housing the homeless, and a newly developed program called Logos which emphasizes involving young people from the community in church related events. I commend the congregation for their ongoing work and faith.

The 175th anniversary of the founding of the church is a proud milestone. As the community prepares to celebrate the event, I applaud the church for its contributions to the rich tapestry that makes up American life in Michigan. I urge my colleagues to join with me in wishing congratulations to all the members of the First United Methodist Church of Mount Clemens, MI. May the next 175 years be a continued fruitful ministry.

#### IN HONOR OF THE INDO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP SEMINAR IN DELHI, INDIA

#### **HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 27, 1995*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to those who have coordinated a friendship seminar in Delhi, India. On February 12, 1995, the Federation of Indian Associations of New Jersey will hold the Indo-American Friendship Seminar. This federation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, social and educational organization, committed to promoting mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and India.

The fact that so many people are coming together in one place to promote harmony is a step in the right direction toward maintaining a positive relationship between the United States and India. I commend everyone who is taking part in this special seminar. I especially would like to thank those who have worked to coordinate it. Their dedication to making this event happen is encouraging and admirable.

I would like to acknowledge Hardyal Singh, president of the Federation of Indian Associations of New Jersey, for the role he has played in coordinating this conference. Mr. Singh has dedicated his career to serving the

Indian community in New Jersey. He was the first Indian-American to be named a special deputy sheriff of Hudson County, and was successful in his campaign to have the Indian national flag raised at Jersey City city hall. Mr. Singh's contributions to the Indian community also include the role he played in renaming public school No. 23 to Mahatma Gandhi School and was instrumental in having a statue of Gandhi installed at this site.

S. Beant Singh, chief minister of Punjab State, a recipient of the Son of India Award, deserves recognition for the part he has played in making this conference happen. I would like to offer him my congratulations for his efforts to bring peace to Punjab State.

Please join me in wishing the participants of the Indo-American Friendship Seminar a successful conference. I am confident that all of the attendees, as well as all Indians and Americans, will reap the benefits of the discussions which will be held at the seminar. Furthermore, I would like to offer my best wishes to the Federation of the Indian Associations of New Jersey in their future endeavors.

#### AN EVENT OF REMEMBRANCE

#### **HON. MARTIN FROST**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 27, 1995*

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies, in cooperation with the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Anti-Defamation League, the Greater Dallas Community of Churches, and the Greater Dallas Veterans Council, for their work in putting together an event for the entire Dallas community celebrating and honoring the 50th anniversary of those heroic individuals who participated in the liberation of concentration camps during World War II. This tribute to these fine individuals will occur on February 12 at the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas.

This event will most certainly rekindle memories of the worst atrocity in contemporary history and is a historical milestone that should be deeply praised. It is only through this type of continual recognition of those atrocities of the past and the heroism that stopped it that we can work to prevent such inhumanity from occurring in the future. We must remember both that while there will always be those who would commit horrendous acts against humanity, it is up to all of us to stand up and stop them. We must make certain that similar atrocities to those committed in concentration camps never do happen again. We need not look far to see that all around the world we are confronted by barbarism. We cannot ever allow ourselves to forget what terrible atrocities can occur if acts of barbarism are allowed to progress.

Again, I commend those involved with putting together this important event of remembrance.

#### A BALANCED BUDGET FOR THE PEOPLE

#### **HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 27, 1995*

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, last night we kept our promise to the American people and passed a balanced budget amendment. For years, the liberal controlled Congress acted like wild kids in a candy store. They thought every proposed government program looked tasty and grabbed them all. Now, the Nation is left with one huge fiscal stomach ache.

The new Republican controlled Congress provided the remedy last night. A balanced budget amendment will impose discipline on the indulgent habits of Congress. It will fundamentally change the way government works.

We are working hard to strip the shelves of those sweet temptations. We have a mandate from the American people—a commitment to work for less government, less spending, and less regulation. A balanced budget will work toward restoring the people's government. This is only the beginning. Now, we will continue to reject big government status quo by passing unfunded mandates legislation.

#### MARKING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS

#### **HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 26, 1995*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article written by a great American and a great friend named Col. Bernard Wray. Colonel Wray has spent his entire career advocating the needs of America's soldiers, both active and retired. In this article, Colonel Wray writes about the 50th anniversary of the passage of the GI bill of rights. I salute Colonel Wray for his commitment to America's military, and urge my colleagues to read his account of the passage of this landmark legislation.

UNITED-MANHATTAN POST No. 9 AMERICAN LEGION SALUTES THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights, was signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, in his office in the White House, flanked by Legionnaires John Stelle, former Governor of Illinois, and Commander Harry W. Colmery of Kansas, who drafted the GI Bill of Rights in December, 1943.

The American Legion Posts at the Grass Roots level, from all over the USA, demanded that Congress should provide for returning Veterans, unlike the dark days after World War I, when thousands of war veterans returned, homeless and helpless, with few places to turn for help. The American Legion rank-and-file members around the 48 states demanded a GI Bill, which was drafted entirely by the American Legion.

The GI Bill of Rights proved to be the most revolutionary piece of social and economic legislation ever enacted! It has educated over 20 million GI's, men and women Veterans, who served their Country with honor. It