

alive. The President is clearly jumping the gun in committing troops to Bosnia. It is a dangerous move and has all the makings of a very, very deadly quagmire.

Mr. Speaker, there is no plan. There is no compelling national interest to send young American men and women to die in Bosnia. Mr. Speaker, there is no compelling reason to take this action.

Let us lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Moslems so they can defend themselves, but let us not place United States troops in a deadly situation. Let us not spend \$2 billion of American taxpayers money.

CONGRESS CUT NOT ONE PENNY FROM ISRAEL OR EGYPT

(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, everybody realizes that cuts must be made, but there is something definitely wrong here. Congress cuts seniors in America. Congress cuts housing in America. Congress cuts kids in America. Congress cuts education in America. Congress cuts farmers in America. Congress cuts services in America. Congress cuts bridges and roads in America.

I might be able to accept that, but, on the other hand, Congress did not cut one penny from the aid to Egypt or Israel. Now, a Congress that can find money for Israel and Egypt while cutting all of this in America, in my opinion, is not only misdirected but out of touch with America.

I am going to vote "no" on this budget. We should treat everybody alike; even if it is like dogs, treat everybody alike.

□ 1115

IT IS TIME TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will debate H.R. 2491, the fiscal year 1996 budget reconciliation. For the first time in a generation, Congress will pass a balanced budget. By the year 2002, the deficit will be zero and we will be on our way to paying down the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, this is the right thing to do. For the first time in 25 years, Congress has run out of excuses for not doing the right thing for America's future. Previous Congresses totally avoided the most basic financial responsibilities. They squandered billions on frivolous, ineffective, and repetitive bureaucracies. They repeatedly raised taxes, making it appear that the problem was the American people's problem and not their own. Americans paid 37 percent of their income in Federal

taxes in 1995. Today their total is over 40 percent with Federal, State, and local taxes combined.

Last November, the American people said "enough." Republicans campaigned on a promise to balance the budget, and we will keep that promise. No excuses. No gimmicks. It is time to balance the budget.

A QUICK QUIZ

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

Mr. ENGEL. As we do budget reconciliation, a quick quiz, Mr. Speaker, three questions:

First, why are Republicans cutting Medicare and hurting seniors? A—to save the Medicare Program? B—to balance the budget? C—to pay for a tax cut for the rich?

If my colleagues said "C" they are right. The Republicans are cutting Medicare to help their rich friends.

Second, who do Republicans care most about? A—senior citizens? B—America's children? C—the B-2 bomber?

Again, if my colleagues said "C" they are correct. While the Republicans are cutting Federal funding to Medicare and education, they are increasing funding for the B-2 bomber, what even the Pentagon says we do not need.

Third, which programs will be protected under Republican proposals? A—Social Security? B—Medicare? C—Pork barrel projects in Republican districts?

Again, the answer is "C." While Republicans are hurting seniors by reducing their Social Security and Medicare benefits, they are conducting business as usual by increasing funding for fat cat projects.

Well, Mr. Speaker, all three answers were "C."

I guess the "C" stands for cuts—Republican cuts. Cut the heart out of our seniors by raiding Medicare. Cut the heart out of our children's education. Cut the heart out of America's future.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND IT IS TIME FOR FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] play a game that really should be called, Who does he think he's fooling? I at least was happy it was a multiple-choice test because we will provide seniors something that has been lacking in health care for the last three decades, a choice, the most fundamental element of American freedom, the freedom to choose what health care plan is best for them, and once again, Mr. Speaker, only in Washington, with the twisted Washington mathematics of

the guardians of the old order, can an increase from \$4,800 this year to \$6,700 in the year 2002 be considered a cut. How is that a cut? It is an increase of almost \$2,000.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will not be fooled. They understand it is time for fundamental change. That is why we were sent here, and that is why we will change things for the better.

THIS IS NOT A FAIR BUDGET

(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, good morning. Balancing the budget may be a good idea. Tax breaks for the wealthy is not. I want to talk about Medicaid.

In this so-called reconciliation bill the Republicans cut \$182 billion out of Medicaid. Now some people are saying, "There you go, talking about the poor again." No, I am talking about the elderly, the disabled, and the blind. They had not one public hearing. They cut \$182 billion. They tell us, well, it is to make things better for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, the future is now. The future is my parents, my colleagues' parents. It is my colleagues' parents, my colleagues' grandparents, my colleagues' aunts, and my colleagues' uncles who are in these nursing homes. In the year 2002, when they tell us they will have a great balanced budget, they will also be spending 30 percent less on Medicaid. They also are eliminating the standards that protect seniors from oversaturation, protect their nutrition, protect their health standards in nursing homes.

The other night I met with the Alzheimer's support group. They are worried. They are concerned that they may have to spend their children's college education to support their parents in nursing homes. They are concerned that the elderly are sometimes eating cat food because they cannot afford it.

This is not a fair budget, and they worsen the pain by adding tax breaks for the rich. We need to protect our seniors. Reject the Republican budget approach.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY DELIVERS CLINTON'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE FOR A TAX CUT

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's reelection campaign is now in full swing, so once again he has flip-flopped his position on taxes. Now the President admits that he raised taxes too much in his 1993 budget. Let us listen to what the pundits around this Nation are saying:

Eleanor Clift said, "This is just one notch below 'Read my lips.'"

Margaret Carlson said, "It was pandering of the worst sort, and it's indefensible."

Morton Kondracke said, "It's evidence of a character disorder on Bill Clinton's part."

Mr. Speaker, candidate Bill Clinton promised a middle-class tax cut, but then President Bill Clinton raised taxes on the American people. This week the Republican majority will deliver on those promised tax cuts, and it is about time.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS RECONCILIATION TO TAKE OUR ECONOMY HOSTAGE

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

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today, as we begin debating the reconciliation, we are debating nothing less than the path the United States will take in the future. On issues from education to the environment, health care to nutrition, the choices we make will have an impact for many years.

But of all the choices we make, none is more critical than this: We cannot allow our very significant differences over reconciliation to take our economy hostage. We cannot allow a failure to raise the debt ceiling to force America into default.

I want to make just two simple points (about this): First, no matter how stringent the budget action we take this week, the debt ceiling will still have to be raised. There is no way to avoid it without pushing us into default.

And second, no one knows what the consequences of default could be because it has never happened before. I, for one, see a real potential for worldwide economic disruption. I urge my colleagues to avoid politics or grandstanding on this incredibly important issue.

TAXES ARE KILLING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, enough of the rhetoric from the other side. We are engaged in a great debate here about the budget, about the issue of tax cuts or deficit relief.

Mr. Speaker, I just heard the minority leader come to this floor and say the Republicans were out of touch. He said they ought to take a step out and talk to real working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, he did not know what I did last weekend because last weekend I spent hours in front of grocery stores and drug stores in any district, and I asked the American people the question my colleagues and I are debating, "Do you need tax relief?" And their answer, and I did this in a working-class

neighborhood in my district with real people, was that we need tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, one of them said, "Taxes are killing the American people."

Now the other side calls this tax relief for the rich, but that is garbage, and they know it. Rich people do not have any more children than poor people.

As young ladies walked up to me with one baby in their arms and another dragging along behind them, I asked them, "Could you use a thousand dollars' tax credit?"

Mr. Speaker, they said to me, "You bet I could."

I ask my colleagues, "Whose money is it, and who can better spend it?" That side says government can spend it better. I say we can spend it better by giving it to the American people.

WELCOME TO THE GINGRICH REVOLUTION

(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, my Republican colleagues say their tax package benefits the middle class. I guess it all depends on how you define middle class.

In today's Washington Post one Republican Congressman explains that GOP tax credits for people making \$200,000 a year are not tax breaks for the wealthy, because people making \$200,000 a year are not wealthy, they are lower middle class.

The Congressman is quoted as saying: "When I see someone who is making anywhere from \$300,000 to \$750,000 a year, that's middle class."

If Republicans consider a person making \$750,000 a year as middle class, I am beginning to understand how they can claim that this budget helps the middled class. In fact, by GOP calculations, NEWT GINGRICH might qualify for food stamps. Except there would not be food stamps, because they are being cut to help out those poor, struggling families making \$750,000 a year. Welcome to the Gingrich revolution.

A PATRIOTIC OBJECTION

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow a courageous young man named Michael New is to be arraigned for a court martial.

Mr. New's offense is that he refused to wear the blue uniform of the United Nations on a peacekeeping mission to Macedonia.

He has not refused to go overseas on the peacekeeping mission as ordered.

He simply has taken the position that his oath upon entering military service was to the United States—not the United Nations—and he wanted to wear his U.S. Army uniform.

Obviously, this young man loves America, and he has taken a very patriotic stand.

Most Americans believe that the young men and women in our Armed Forces should not be sent overseas except under the command of American generals and admirals.

The Members of Congress who are the most concerned with the treatment of Mr. New are generally the Members who are among the strongest supporters of the U.S. military.

Our Armed Forces are going to squander a great deal of public and congressional support if they continue to prosecute Michael New.

They could easily have found other duty for someone who was making a reasonable, principled, and patriotic objection as was Mr. New.

RECONCILIATION WITH A "W"

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I talked about the words that the Gingrich revolution uses to sneak up on people and make them think that they are all warm fuzzies. Reconciliation is one of those words. It sounds so warm and wonderful, but let me say, unless you are in the middle class that the Republicans have had defined by them, by the gentleman from North Carolina, Congressman HEINEMAN, as those people from \$300,000 a year to \$750,000, unless you are in that middle class, reconciliation is spelled this way for you.

This is really "wreconciliation" for the middle class. That is where I am, and I think we need to go into this much further and point it out before this all happens and before people are lulled to sleep.

What happens to the elderly? Boom. What happens to families? Boom. What happens to children? Boom. We are going to wreck families, children, and all sorts of people's sustainable income that has kept them in what we define as the middle class.

So, pull it away, and away they fall. This is wreconciliation; do not be fooled by the word.

THE TRUTH ABOUT BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, Jay Thomas, who lives in Wichita, KS, said, "I would just like to know where I could go to hear the truth," and, as we heard before, supposedly we snuck up on people, because he heard that nutrition programs were being cut and that children would starve, but there have been no reports of children starving. In fact, nutrition programs are up 4 percent in the Republican budget.