

CHICKEN LITTLE DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in deference to our last speaker, everybody knows that it was not the Civil War, it was the War between the States.

Mr. Speaker, today we will pass a 7-year budget reconciliation that is a huge step forward for this great Nation. In the reconciliation, we will do the things the voters asked us to do when they swept the liberal Democrats out of office. We will balance the budget in 7 years, something that has not been done in a generation. Where the liberal Democrats of the 103d Congress raised taxes, we will refund taxes back to the hard working men and women in this Nation. We will fix a Medicare system that was going bankrupt. We will reform the morally bankrupt welfare system. In short, Mr. Speaker, today we will do the things we promised the American people we would do.

I have listened to the Chicken Little Democrats whine "this is too much, too fast, too hard". But what do they offer? Nothing. Mr. Speaker, every day we ignore the problems of the Nation, they become worse. Now is the time for great action, and today will be remembered as a great day.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House. Therefore, what are the people of this great country saying about cutting taxes in order to get to a balanced budget?

Well, the Committee on the Budget went out to listen to the American people. Here is a transcript of what the Committee on the Budget heard going coast to coast in January and February.

They heard from Mr. Frank Ramsey from Prescott, AZ. He said, and I quote, "We feel here in Prescott what needs to be done first is to cut spending long before cutting taxes."

Cole Kleitsch of New Jersey said, "The other thing, we cannot have a tax cut right now."

Lynn Dill in Delaware: "I am very unenthusiastic about tax cuts."

Greg Pearson in Montana: "I think it is absolutely foolish for Congress to talk about reducing taxes at all."

Mr. Speaker, what we need to do is balance the budget by making tough cuts in spending as our coalition budget does. Let us demand sacrifice from all the American people, not division and redistributing the resources.

TAXES ARE TOO HIGH

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, perhaps confession is good for the soul, and

good politics. Look at President Clinton.

Last week at a fat-cat fundraiser in Texas, he confessed that he raised taxes too much in 1993.

Today, the polls show that Mr. Clinton has gained some favor with the American public after that confession.

I am sure that news has warmed the hearts of all those Democrats who were defeated last year after helping the President pass the largest tax increase in history.

But there is a lesson in all this for those surviving House Democrats who followed their President like lemmings and voted to raise taxes on Social Security, who voted to raise taxes on low- and middle-income working families.

The lesson is that it is not too late for you to have a change of heart, just as the President has.

You can confess that you were wrong to raise taxes in 1993 and you can demonstrate your sincerity by helping the Republican majority cut the Clinton taxes and let working families keep more of their earnings. Taxes are too high. Let us cut them today.

TAXES ARE BEING RAISED TODAY

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about taxes. In fact let us talk about the taxes that are going to be raised today in this NEWT GINGRICH Congress.

First of course is the sick tax. To be old or disabled in America is to have the opportunity to pay more and get less health care. It is a tax on being sick to finance a tax break for those who are well, very well, very well off.

Then there is NEWT GINGRICH'S new tax on work. That is right. The Americans who earn less than \$30,000 will be paying more taxes after today, if Mr. GINGRICH has his way. To those who are off welfare, who walk past the drug dealer to get to the bus stop, to go across town to empty the bed pan at the nursing home, to the young mother who is off welfare, who is struggling to get child care, who is going across town to sack up another burger and fries, to those people taxes are going to go up after today. They may call that no new taxes, it is at least NEWT'S taxes.

LIBERALS OPPOSE RECONCILIATION

(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, from the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, the top 10 reasons liberals oppose reconciliation. No. 10, mistaken notion that milk comes from cartons, electricity from light switches, and money from the Government instead of from taxpayers. No. 9, forget Travelgate and Whitewater; it is more fun to rip off

taxpayers in the broad daylight. No. 8, tax and spend without end, tax and spend without end. Hey, Mr. Speaker, why would the American people join in that mind-numbing chant?

No. 7, liberal PR firm of Jennings, Rather and Brokaw advises keep confusing and misleading the public, then leave the rest to us. No. 6, anxiously awaiting new sitcom from Larry and Linda Thomason: Bureaucrats Know Best.

No. 5, people should not keep more of their money. That is unfair and, besides, it makes too much sense. No. 4, liberal mantra for year-round Halloween: Trick the people then treat big government.

No. 3, people's money, what a wonderful thing to waste. No. 2, self-reliance, what a dangerous concept. And the No. 1 reason liberals oppose reconciliation, a secret fear that the President will flipflop again and refuse to veto this commonsense approach to the future.

THE BUDGET BILL

(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, both parties, Democrats and Republicans, have raised taxes. Although I will not vote for the budget bill today, I want to commend the Republican Party for at least having a program and attempting to turn the country around.

There are two provisions in this bill that I have sponsored. First, it increases penalties for IRS misconduct tenfold. That will cool the jets of some of those at the IRS, folks. Second of all, it will give taxpayers an opportunity to sue the IRS for cause.

But I am disappointed. Although there is some language on shifting the burden of proof, my provision is not in there. Let me say this; one of the main reasons is money.

My colleagues, if our Founding Fathers used money as the yardstick for liberty, we would not have the protection of the Bill of Rights today. There can be no justice in America, and after this bill is over, a taxpayer will still be considered guilty and must prove themselves innocent in a court of law.

I think the Democrats did nothing about it; tell it like it is. The Republicans have an opportunity. I am hoping they give me a shot here in the next year.

VOTE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, as of yesterday, the national debt stood at \$4,975,508,732,304.35.

It's not enough to debate how previous Congresses let this happen. It is

not enough to complain and bellyache. It is not enough for Members of Congress to make excuses and dance around their most basic responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to deal with our national debt and balance the budget. The excuses are over. The gimmicks have all been tried and have failed.

Last November, the American people told Congress to get its act together. They sent a new Republican majority to do the job the first time in 40 years. Our party made a promise to give them what they have been denied for the last 25 years: simple, basic, financial accountability from the U.S. Congress.

Today is historic. For the first time in a generation, Congress will vote to balance the budget and do the right thing for America's future and for America's children.

THIS BUDGET BILL DOES THE WRONG THING

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to be faced with a budget which I feel does the wrong thing. It does the wrong thing because it cuts at the very heart of our safety net in this country, and that is our seniors and their reliance on the Medicare Program.

A \$270 billion reduction in the spending over the next 7 years will absolutely be a cut in services. And why? At the same time I wonder are we being given the choice, not given the choice, not given the choice to take out of this bill a \$245 billion tax break.

□ 0915

This tax break is not needed. It is only being funded this year by the cuts that will be seen in the Medicare Program. Why, oh why, in the efforts to balance the budget are we reducing taxes when we are seeing the highest income earners in America seeing their taxes reduced by this bill?

BALANCING THE BUDGET WILL HELP THE POOR WITH STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrats in this House say they cannot support a plan to balance the budget because it will hurt the poor too much. This is the most bizarre argument I've ever heard.

I know it drives my liberal friends nuts, but the fact is, the best anti-poverty program this country has to offer is strong economic growth. And the best way to get strong economic growth is by cutting taxes. That was the lesson of the 1980's.

The tax cuts of both 1963 and 1981 created a rising tide that did indeed lift

all boats. Imagine if the tax cuts of 1981 had been coupled with comparable spending restraint by the Congress. The poor might actually have been able to survive the disastrous tax increases of 1990 and 1993.

Do my liberal friends really want to help the poor. Then balance the budget and cut taxes. It is a proven solution.

EFFECT OF THE GOP BUDGET ON RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN

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

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of my constituents who have no voice but who have a very large stake in the outcome of the debate over the GOP budget—the children of Rhode Island.

The Republican budget will eliminate Medicaid coverage for almost 40,000 children in Rhode Island, many whom are disabled. The Republican budget will cut nutrition assistance for almost 50,000 children in Rhode Island. The Republican budget jeopardizes immunizations for children in Rhode Island. The Republican budget will deny 14,000 children in Rhode Island child care assistance. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on.

I say to my Republican colleagues—we must work toward a balanced budget for our children, not balance the budget on the backs of our children. When it comes to public investment in children's health and education, denying a dollar today actually costs more in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this short-sighted and mean spirited budget reconciliation bill.

HELP AMERICAN WORKERS AND AMERICAN SMALL BUSINESS—JOIN THE TRAVEL AND TOURIST CAUCUS

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, we heard many speeches yesterday, and we will hear more today, good speeches on reconciliation. I just want to address one question of the aftermath of a less-government role. I think we have to allow private enterprise some elbow room, and we are going to have the opportunity to do that on Monday and Tuesday. We have for the first time ever the most important conference in this decade in this city, the Travel and Tourist Conference. Travel and tourism is the second largest industry in America. They need less taxes, they need less regulation, so we can give our people jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this is a conference for American workers, American small business, Main Street America. Travel and tourism is becoming the real eco-

nomic power right here in America and all over the globe, as the futurists tell us. Now Congress can be involved in this small business enterprise, in this travel and tourism. We have the travel and tourist caucus.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. GILLMOR] is our 300th member, and I salute him for joining the travel and tourist caucus. We now have 304 members, and I ask all the Members in Congress to join the travel and tourist caucus. Let us do something positive for American workers and American small business. Please call my office, join the caucus. Let us do something for American workers.

THE REPUBLICANS' 30-YEAR GOAL TO END MEDICARE

(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, 30 years ago the Republican leader of the other body voted against the creation of Medicare, and yesterday he bragged of that vote saying that he knew it did not work, and he was proud of his vote, and he was proud that he fought against Medicare.

On this side of the street, Speaker NEWT GINGRICH joined the trashing of Medicare, and on Tuesday he revealed the real GOP plan, to privatize Medicare. Speaker GINGRICH said, and I quote, "We didn't get rid of it in round 1 because we don't think that that's politically smart."

1965-1995, Republicans are closing in on their 30-year goal to end Medicare. Welcome to the Gingrich revolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). The Chair would remind Members they are not to refer to Members in the other body.

RED RIBBON WEEK

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, as important as budget reconciliation is, and it is very important, this morning I would like to address something else. This is National Red Ribbon Week; my colleagues may have seen people wearing these red ribbons on the floor of this House and around the country. It is a week to call on our Nation's citizens, particularly our young people, to stay healthy and drug-free.

Mr. Speaker, this is a critical and timely message because unfortunately in one generation it appears that normalized attitudes toward drug abuse has led to an epidemic increase in the number of drug users. The frightening fact is that although we seem to be