

BALANCE THE BUDGET WITH THE RECONCILIATION BILL

(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, it is late in the fourth quarter, the score is tied. The outcome is uncertain. The American taxpayers are on the edge of their seats. Will Congress and the President keep their promise to balance the budget? I do not know of anyone who ran against a balanced budget. We all said we were responsible enough, we were smart enough, we were tough enough to make the hard decisions. Even the President ran on balancing the budget in 5 years. So are we going to keep our word? The American public wants to know. They are tired of the excuses, the nitpicking, the pet programs.

Mr. Speaker, they know that it is their money, not the Government's money. It is time to do what every American household does, what every American business does, what common sense cries out for. Let us balance the Federal budget and do it with the Reconciliation Act.

STOP THE VIOLENCE

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here in sorrow still in the shadow of the terrible assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, we say to the far right, particularly the religious far right in the country and around the world, put aside your ugly poster. Still the mean words. Support a sane, safe separation of church and State. Stop the violence, far right. Put down your guns.

BALANCED BUDGET WITHIN OUR GRASP

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in a generation, a real balanced budget is within grasp. For the first time in a long time, Congress has acted responsibly. It has held itself accountable. It has made tough decisions and is doing the right thing for America's future.

This time, Congress has laid aside the excuses that previous Congresses made for not balancing the budget and then passing its financial responsibilities to future generations.

This time, this new Congress has said no to the Washington-style budget gimmicks that never work and always cause the American people to lose confidence in our system of government.

Today, the national debt stands at \$4,984,737,460,958.92.

For the first time in years Congress is serious about balancing the budget.

We owe it to our children to secure for them the American dream and not to keep adding to the American debt.

AMERICAN PEOPLE REJECT EXTREMISM OF REPUBLICAN 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, some people just do not get it. Last night, as voters all over the country were rejecting the extreme agenda of the Gingrich revolution, House Republicans were working behind closed doors to raise Medicare premiums.

Medicare part B premiums were scheduled to drop to a 25-percent rate, but late last night, Republicans voted to raise those premiums to 31.5 percent. That means instead of \$42 a month, seniors will pay \$53 a month beginning on January 1.

The Gingrich revolution means that seniors will pay more for Medicare, students will pay more to go to college, and middle-class working families will pay more in taxes. That is wrong.

Yesterday, the American people rejected the extremism of the Gingrich revolution. Today, Members of this body should follow their lead and reject the continuing resolution that will increase Medicare premiums for seniors.

WE MUST BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a common fact that you cannot spend money that you do not have and expect to get away with it. We all must repay our own personal debts or face harsh consequences if we do not. But it seems that here in Washington debt is consistently ignored by the people who are spending the taxpayers money.

Mr. Speaker, our Federal Government has run up a debt of nearly \$5 trillion by spending money that it does not have. The consequences to future generations if this behavior continues will be severe. The irresponsibility practiced by previous Congresses will be the burden that future generations will be forced to bear. No one deserves that kind of treatment.

So what do we need to do to make sure this does not happen? We must balance the budget—not only this year, but every year. Our children and all that follow are depending on us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, SENIORS

(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, there is a chill in the air in many cities

in America, so people start thinking about the holidays and doing their holiday shopping.

Well, if my colleagues have any people on their holiday list, like I do, who are on Medicare, the Gingrich Republicans have just shown what they better given them, because last night, and today, they are giving them a huge increase in part B premiums.

So, if my colleagues have Medicare people on their shopping list, get a pretty box and stuff cash in it, because what they are going to need is another \$11 a month, \$132 a year, just to get through 1996.

"Merry Christmas, seniors," from the Gingrich Republicans.

AMERICAN PUBLIC SEES THROUGH MEDIGOGUERY

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the part B premium that we have been hearing about from the other side is going to remain fixed at 31.5 percent. That is what it is at now; that is what it will remain at. That is what the President's plan called for it to stay at, and the Democrats know, they absolutely know, that in order to save Medicare, it must stay at that.

The part B premium will go up from about \$47.10 to around \$53. That is \$6. At the same time, the average Social Security monthly benefit will go up about \$25, obviously a net increase for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the American public can see through the demagoguery and medigoguery that is being brought by the other side. I want to share from polls that were just released last week. This is the CBS-New York Times poll. "Who do you think can handle the most important problems facing the United States, congressional Republicans or President Clinton?" Forty percent said Republicans; 30 percent said President Clinton.

"Which party better represents your views on national issues?" Fifty-five percent said Republicans; 25 percent said Democrats.

ELECTION RESULTS SHOW AMERICANS REJECT REPUBLICAN REVOLUTION

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I notice the other side is not talking about the elections yesterday. Voters around the country yesterday put the brakes on the Republican revolution with this message: "You are going too far and too fast to the right, and we are sending you a message to cool it." Voters want the mainstream rather than the extreme; the center, rather than the right.

A broad cross-section of Americans yesterday rejected Republican plans to cut Medicare and education for a tax giveaway and gutting the environment. The American people want to go forward, not to the right. As a start, the majority should stop playing default politics with the debt limit and the country's financial stability.

ELECTIONS ARE A POSITIVE FOR REPUBLICANS

(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 my dear friend from New Mexico talk about the voting last night, and with typical Orwellian Newspeak and an inability to capture basic mathematics. Once again, the gentleman misses the point.

When the dust clears, the Republican party will have picked up three key seats and one through five major elections. The fact is for the first time in 28 years, a Republican made huge gains, even though we did not win the Governor's mansion in Kentucky. While work is going on, while we have a 50-seat majority in the New Jersey House, while we will see the governorship come to us in Louisiana, while we saw a reaffirmation of our policies in Mississippi, the American people have their eyes on what goes on in this Chamber. The fact is the American people want to see us balance the budget.

I listened with all due interest and due respect to the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] talk about giving a Christmas gift. Well, the greatest Christmas gift we can give seniors and we can give youngsters and we can give everybody in this Nation is balancing our budget, getting our fiscal house in order. Those are the most important numbers.

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CONSPIRACY CONTRACT SHAM

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans and their rich medical doctor friends have entered into a conspiracy contract sham to take money earmarked for Medicare benefits from the elderly middle class.

The middle class seniors worked for years and the Government took a part of their salaries each pay period, and put it in a trust fund so that when they stopped working or got sick, money would be available for their medical care.

The conspiracy contract between the Republicans and their rich doctor friends allow the doctors to continue to charge high fees, and in some cases, for unnecessary medical procedures and

for this, the rich doctors, through the American Medical Association, endorsed the Republican cutback of Medicare benefits.

Mr. Speaker, this is a Republican conspiracy sham in another Republican contract against America.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mrs. SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today, the national debt stands at \$4,984,737,460,958.92.

This is a problem that has to be dealt with right now. We cannot afford to wait for another Congress somewhere down the road to balance the budget. It is way too late for excuses.

The American people want results, they want an end to the blame-game excuses, and they want a balanced budget.

Last week, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan had this to say if Congress and the President fail to deliver a balanced budget: "If, for some unknown reason, the political process fails, it would signal that the United States is not capable of putting its fiscal house in order, with serious, adverse consequences for financial markets and economic growth."

Mr. Speaker, Congress is doing its part and when it comes time, I hope the President will do his part and sign a real balanced budget that really puts people first.

ELECTION RESULTS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, voters all across the country yesterday voted against the Republican Medicare cuts and the Republican cuts in education. They voted to put Democrats in office at the local level. And yet last night what were the Republicans in the House of Representatives, and the U.S. Senate doing? They were secretly negotiating to bring about the first installment of the withering of Medicare that the Speaker has said he supports and endorses. They are going to start to wither Medicare by raising the part B premiums today in the debt limit.

They are going to ask senior citizens to step up and take these cuts in Medicare benefits at a time that they still want to continue to press forward for a \$245 billion tax cut for the wealthiest people in this country.

Yes, the Republican votes today will be to let Medicare wither. We ought to reject those votes. We ought to reject that proposition, and we ought to do what the people of this country voted yesterday to do and that is to protect Medicare, to make sure that it is not used as a piggy bank for tax cuts for the wealthy.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, it is atrocious that more than 39 cents of every dollar spent in Federal income taxes goes to pay for the interest alone on the national debt. This does not even touch the national debt itself, which is the result of over 25 years of reckless liberal spending.

The new Republican majority is working hard to bring responsibility back to government spending, which will benefit the people of this country and the economy. First, by eliminating the annual deficit, we can start to pay off our \$4.9 trillion national debt. Second, the economy will be boosted due to a drop in interest rates as a result of the balanced budget. This will save students money on their college loans, as well as make it easier for people to own their homes.

A balanced budget will improve the lives of hard-working American families. Let's do the right thing and balance this budget.

REPUBLICANS GO TOO FAR

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

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think we are all for balancing the budget, in response to the last speaker, but I would suggest to Members that the American people do not think that we ought to grant a \$245 billion tax cut to the wealthiest Americans while cutting Medicare for average people as the way of doing it. That is the Republican agenda.

The fact of the matter is, Speaker NEWT GINGRICH and his new Republican majority have simply gone too far. The American people recognize it. Yet they apparently do not. Because last night while the election returns were coming in all around the country that clearly rejected this extreme agenda, the Republicans were in a meeting up here changing the current situation with regard to Medicare part B premiums which were scheduled to drop to a 25-percent rate. They decided to raise those premiums to 31.5 percent, which means that instead of a \$42-a-month premium, seniors will pay \$53 a month beginning on January 1.

Thank you very much, Republican new majority, led by Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. You are big talkers when it comes to talking about middle-class America, but when it comes to elderly people, you want to balance the budget on their backs.

CLASS WARFARE

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