

REPUBLICAN RESPONSE ON
PENSIONS

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I will answer the challenge of the last speaker and be glad to meet any time on this House floor and defend that proposal after I look into it, provided that he comes to the floor and also defends the reason why he continues to support higher taxes, higher spending, higher debt, supporting corporate welfare with the Commerce Department, supporting welfare for lobbyists, supporting all the things that the American people rebuked a year ago when we had the Republican revolution.

The Republican Party has stood for less taxes, less spending, less regulations, wiping out the Commerce Department and wiping out welfare for lobbyists. It is time that the Democratic Party gets the message. Step forward and support us in this revolutionary change. We are changing Washington and we will continue to do it today.

PENSION RAID

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, for the last several months, since the beginning of this year, in fact, the Speaker of this House and his followers have been trying to convince the American people that the best way to save the Medicare Program is by raiding it to the tune of \$240 billion. I think that the people of this country have clearly seen through that ploy. Now what they are trying to do is to convince us that the best way to treat American workers is to raid their pension funds by \$40 billion.

The last speaker who was up here said that he would be happy to look into this, but the fact of the matter is, he has already voted for it. It was in the budget reconciliation bill. This House, the majority party in this House, led by the Speaker, has already passed a bill that would take \$40 billion out of the pension programs of American workers, robbing them of the security for which they have worked all their lives. It is a shameless raid on their assets and it needs to be stopped.

TUESDAY'S ELECTION

(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 conservative revolution in this country is alive and well. Tuesday bore that out once again when we had conservative Republicans win elections all over the country. We retained for the first time ever, ever that a single party has held a ma-

jority in the legislature in New Jersey for three successive elections. We have the largest number of seats in the Virginia legislature in fully 120 years.

And not only that, but a Republican actually won in Kentucky. Governor Forge campaigned on smaller government, tax cuts, death penalty, conservative government and on election night, he said: "Today Kentucky said yes to smaller, more efficient, more conservative government." It was simply that it was a Democrat masquerading as a Republican.

Now I want to share with my colleagues something from the Washington Post of a couple of days ago where they have said, they asked the same questions about President Clinton that we have been asking all year. They said:

He has walked away from the welfare bill he sent to Congress last year. Perhaps he will say he did not mean to send up last year's health care reform proposals either. It becomes increasingly difficult to know what this President stands for or whether he stands for anything.

THE BIGGEST PENSION RAID EVER

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Dakota [Mr. POMEROY].

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

The response I would have to the preceding speaker who just said he would "look into the facts surrounding the \$40 bill pension raid" explains the seriousness of this proposal.

It was advanced in the Committee on Ways and Means—the biggest pension raid on employee pensions ever allowed in history by a Congress. It did not even have a hearing. It then came to the floor of the House and I sought, along with some of my colleagues, an opportunity to independently debate and vote on this pension raid proposal.

The Committee on Rules did not allow us to single out the pension raid proposal. It was part of the Budget Reconciliation Act. And as the preceding speaker indicated, he did not even know it was in there. He said he will look into it.

He has already voted for it—\$40 billion, the biggest raid on employee pension plans.

The majority leader said it right earlier this year in response to another proposal, he said, "keep your paws off worker pensions." The Republican majority would be well advised to follow this advice and drop the pension raid provision of the Budget Reconciliation Act.

BALANCING 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, no more excuses. No more gimmicks. It is put-up or shut-up time on balancing the budget.

If the President wants to veto the continuing resolution we passed today, then it is time for this body to take away not only his credit card but all the departments of this Federal Government's credit cards and the abuse of the taxpayer dollars.

Balancing this country's books is what the American people are demanding. The President and his ilk cannot hide behind their Medicare tactics anymore. The truth is out.

The taxpayer's share of part B is currently 31.5 percent. And guess what, it will stay at 31.5 percent. We have put forward the only responsible plan to save Medicare from bankruptcy, and we have put forward the only responsible plan to balance this country's books by the year 2002.

If Members care about the young and if they care about the old, do what is right and support both of these plans.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, did the gentleman who just spoke refer to the President as "ilk" and if so is that outside the rules of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is not aware of such a word on the RECORD.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I am sorry?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is not aware of such a word on the RECORD and cannot respond at this point. The Chair will check the remarks. The Chair will ask all Members to be respectful to the President.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker, without asking, which I do not intend to do, that the gentleman's words be taken down, is it my understanding that the Chair intends to peruse the RECORD to determine if the gentleman used the word "ilk" and whether or not that was outside the rules?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A timely challenge was not made to the remarks. However, the Chair will request all Members to respect the President in their speeches.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I thank the Chair for an effort to continue civility in the House.

ON PENSION FUND REVERSIONS

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again, the party of the rich and famous is up to their old tricks. The recently passed Republican budget reconciliation plan includes a provision

that would allow corporations to raid \$40 billion from pension funds and use it for whatever reason they see fit.

This provision is just plain wrong. During the 1980's, approximately, \$20 billion in pension funds were drained by companies and, in many cases, used to finance corporate takeovers and leveraged buyouts—leaving the retirement savings of millions of American workers at risk.

Mr. Speaker, why do House Republicans want to risk losing the pensions of 11 million workers and 2 million retirees? Why are House Republicans digging up this ill-advised pension raid which failed in the eighties and is certain to fail again?

I think I know. It is another tax break for the wealthy at the expense of working people and retirees.

The Senate rejected this language, and I urge the budget conferees to reject it too.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues about the balanced Budget Reconciliation Act that every Democrat who has spoken here in the well this morning voted against a couple of weeks ago. This is our plan which balances the Federal budget in 7 years. Members heard me right, a balanced Federal budget for the first time in a quarter of a century by limiting the growth, the increase in Federal spending to 3 percent per year.

This plan also contains three other major reforms: Tax cuts for families and for economic growth and job creation in the private sector, since the Democrat majority believes the only place we can create jobs is through Government, expanding Government; genuine welfare reform that requires work for the able-bodied, emphasizes families and gives people hope for the future; and lastly, a plan to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare for today's and tomorrow's seniors, a plan which increases Medicare spending for every senior every year.

What is their alternative? The Clinton Democratic 10-year budget plan with deficits as far as the eye can see, red ink, increasing from \$196 billion this year to \$209 billion in the year 2005. It is time for the Democrat minority to get with the program here and adopt a budget that reflects America's values.

REMEMBERING YITZHAK RABIN

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend thousands of people gathered in San Francisco, halfway round the world from Israel, to mourn the tragic death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

I rise to give expression to our grief. Hearing Prime Minister Rabin eulogized by Presidents and Kings and lovingly remembered by his granddaughter, I was reminded of the words of Ecclesiasticus:

Now let us praise great men, the heroes of our Nation's history, through whom the Lord established his renown, and revealed his majesty in each succeeding age. Some held sway over kingdoms and made themselves a name by their exploits. Others were sage counselors, who spoke out with prophetic power. Some led the people by their counsels and by their knowledge of the Nation's law; out of their fund of wisdom they gave instruction.

□ 1030

The Bible goes on to praise Abraham, Moses, David, and other heroes of the Jewish nation. Yitzhak Rabin with his courage, wisdom, and sacrifice, fits comfortably among those leaders of the Jewish people, not only for today, but for the ages. Thank God for the life of Yitzhak Rabin.

WHAT A BALANCED BUDGET MEANS TO THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, what will a balanced budget mean to the American family?

Economists predict that balancing the budget will bring about a 2-percent drop in the interest rates. On an average 30-year home mortgage of \$75,000, families will save \$37,000 over the life of that loan. On an average 10-year student loan of \$11,000, graduates will save \$2,160 over the life of that loan. And on an average 4-year car loan of \$15,000, families will save \$900 over the life of the loan.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about real savings for all Americans. The economic future of our country is at stake. No more excuses. No more gimmicks. The time has come to balance the Federal budget. Americans deserve the chance to realize the savings that a balanced budget will bring to their family.

DO NOT INCREASE THE BURDEN ON SENIORS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, they are at it again. Last night, the Republicans increased premiums for Medicare. They sneaked it in at the final hour. They sneaked it in on the same day they gave one more tax break to their rich corporate friends.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal raises premiums for seniors by 20 percent—by 20 percent. That is not fair. That is not right—not when 11 million women on Medicare have incomes less than \$8,000. For these women—every dollar counts, and now they must pay more.

Why was this done? Seniors have a right to know why. There was only one reason—my Republican colleagues must give tax breaks to the rich. This premium increase will not help the Medicare trust fund. But it will help the Republican's rich friends. And it will hurt our Nation's seniors.

That is not right. Shame on the Republicans, shame.

WE MUST BALANCE THE BUDGET

(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, with the rising national debt, with the Government going out of control, with Washington micromanaging everyone's life, it is right and it is proper and it is time to get our house in order. We must balance this budget.

I hear time and time again from this side of the aisle that we are doing it on the backs of children and seniors and so forth and national parks. If my colleagues want to play that kind of scare tactic game, I guess that is the way. As my colleagues know, we cannot convince people not to do that, but the time has come to be responsible.

Mr. Speaker, we are increasing payments on Medicare from \$4,800 to \$6,700 per senior. On AFDC we are going up 39 percent, from \$89 to \$124 million.

Our balanced budget, which the Democrats claim cuts and decimates and destroys, actually increases spending over a period of time about \$3 trillion. It is a reduction in the growth, but it balances the budget in a 7-year period of time, and that, Mr. Speaker, is what needs to be done to bring our financial picture in order.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2546, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2546) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY Mr. DIXON

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DIXON moves that in resolving the differences between the House and Senate, the managers of the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the