

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

two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2546, be instructed to insist on the House position relating to technical corrections to the Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DIXON] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. WALSH] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. DIXON].

(Mr. DIXON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, this motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2546, the Fiscal Year 1996 District of Columbia Appropriations Act, is very straightforward. This motion would simply instruct the House conferees to insist on the House position related to technical corrections to the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act, Public Law 104-8.

When the House considered the District of Columbia appropriations bill, the House unanimously adopted an amendment from the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, making technical, but important, changes to the enabling statute for the District's financial control board. These changes would correct several inadvertent errors made in the original statute enacted in April 1995, and carry out the original intent of Public Law 104-8.

These provisions were not included in the Senate version of the bill, but should be adopted by the conference committee.

These provisions will strengthen the hand of the financial oversight board in dealing with the district. I urge the adoption of this motion to instruct.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to the motion. I support the motion.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN].

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, those who are following the budget debate in Washington may be aware that we are coming upon some deadlines, important deadlines for every American family. Next week there will be a deadline on funding the Federal Government. If this Congress fails to pass a continuing resolution which is signed by President Clinton, then in fact many offices of the Federal Government will close. For many American families, the veterans seeking to sign up at the Veterans Administration, those seeking to sign up for Social Security, small businesses looking for help from the SBA, they will place the phone call, no one will answer, and the lights will be out.

There is another deadline coming up soon. It is called the debt-ceiling extension, which most Americans are not aware of. It is, in fact, the authoriza-

tion by this Congress to the Federal Treasury to continue to borrow, to extend the full faith and credit of the United States. If we fail to make that extension, then in fact we will default for the first time in our history, the first time in U.S. history, and that default, of course, will ripple across the economy as it raises interest rates and raises the cost of home mortgages.

There are the doomsday scenarios, the train wrecks, the gridlocks that we hear so much about as part of the strategy from the Republican side of the aisle.

Speaker GINGRICH has said repeatedly when it comes to dealing with President Clinton on the budget, "I will cooperate, but I will not compromise." Let me tell my colleagues this:

For us to sit by and watch the Federal Government shut down or to default on this debt is a total abdication of responsibility, and that is why I am supporting a provision which says no budget, no pay. It is in the Senate version of this bill. I will be pushing for it in the conference committee. What it says is simply this:

If Congress fails to keep the agencies of Government open, if we default on the national debt because of the negligence of this Congress, Members of Congress will not be paid for those days.

Now I know that is tough medicine. A lot of my colleagues are murmuring about me, and they will not talk to me in the hallways. That is OK. I think the bottom line is Democrats and Republicans were sent here to solve problems on a bipartisan basis, not to preside over a train wreck or any gridlock.

Mr. Speaker, I will be pushing for this no budget, no pay in conference.

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I rise just briefly to respond. I think that certainly our party has reached out to work with the administration to try to preclude any of the train-wreck scenarios the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] has talked about, and our leadership has gone out of its way to try to resolve these issues, they need to be resolved, but at the same time we are very concerned about getting our budget in balance for the first time in a long, long time. Raising the debt ceiling for the Federal Government is an important issue, and I think it is important that both sides work together to try to resolve it so that we can, while we are going to increase our ability to borrow money to pay the debt, we need to talk seriously about getting our budget in balance. So I ask that first of all we support this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. DIXON].

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. WALSH, BONILLA, KINGSTON, FRELINGHUYSEN, NEUMANN, LIVINGSTON, DIXON, DURBIN, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question de novo of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The questions was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 338, nays 66, answered "present" 1, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 776]

YEAS—338

Ackerman	Bono	Conyers
Allard	Boucher	Cooley
Andrews	Brewster	Costello
Archer	Browder	Cox
Bachus	Brown (OH)	Coyne
Baessler	Brownback	Cramer
Baker (CA)	Bryant (TN)	Crapo
Baker (LA)	Bryant (TX)	Cremins
Baldacci	Bunn	Cubin
Ballenger	Bunning	Cunningham
Barcia	Burton	Danner
Barr	Buyer	de la Garza
Barrett (NE)	Callahan	Deal
Barrett (WI)	Calvert	DeFazio
Bartlett	Camp	DeLauro
Barton	Canady	DeLay
Bass	Castle	Dellums
Beilenson	Chabot	Deutsches
Bentsen	Chambliss	Diaz-Balart
Bereuter	Chenoweth	Dickey
Berman	Christensen	Dicks
Bevill	Chrysler	Dingell
Bilbray	Clayton	Dixon
Bilirakis	Clement	Doggett
Bishop	Clinger	Dooley
Bliley	Coble	Doolittle
Blute	Collins (GA)	Doyle
Boehlert	Collins (MI)	Dreier
Bonilla	Combest	Duncan
Bonior	Condit	Dunn