

veto and help eliminate unnecessary and wasteful Government spending.

Happy birthday, President Reagan. You are finally getting the present you dreamed about.

THE MANY FACES OF POVERTY

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

Mr. HILLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of increasing the minimum wage for the working poor, a group of individuals who are helping themselves but because of inflation and laws passed by governing bodies, including this body, their wages have been eroded over the years. We must raise the minimum wage.

Families headed by women are much more likely to be poor and for a longer period of time. For example, 35 percent of families headed by women, as compared to 7 percent of two-parent households, fell below the poverty level in a given month in 1990.

These are the working poor, a group of individuals who have rejected welfare and who are trying hard to make it. We must take them out of poverty. An increase in the minimum wage is only the first step.

□ 1410

PASS THE LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, in a speech to the City Club of Cleveland a little over 7 years ago, former President Ronald Reagan had this to say about the line-item veto: "No President should be faced with the all-or-nothing proposition. The time is here for giving the President the same thing that 43 Governors have—a line-item veto."

Mr. Speaker, the Contract with America calls for a vote on the line-item veto. Hopefully this measure will pass with the same measure of bipartisan support that unfunded mandates did.

President Reagan was right 7 years ago and his words are true today.

Republicans are working hard to deliver on our promise to the American people to give the President a tool to help fight waste and redundancies in the Federal budget.

INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the President on his proposal to increase the minimum wage and encourage my colleagues to have hearings on the pro-

posal and move it to passage immediately. Over two-thirds of working people making the minimum wage are adults over 21 years of age. They work 40 hours a week and still live below the poverty level.

Let us be blunt: All the current minimum wage and 40 hours of work will get you is poverty. That is shameful. While the rich get richer over the last 15 years, the real value of the minimum wage has fallen 27 percent since 1979. If we expect working people to be responsible, we need work to pay. Let us pass the President's proposal and increase the minimum wage.

END THE BOTTOMLESS PIT: ENACT THE LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, for decades now Congress has treated the American taxpayer as an unlimited source for revenue. Congress has spent millions and ultimately billions of dollars on programs and policies which have limited our freedom and imperiled the dignity of millions of Americans by entrapping them on welfare.

The spending habits of this body over the last quarter century has come at a terrible cost. The Federal Government has racked up almost \$5 trillion in debt. This is the height of irresponsibility. It is an utter disregard for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, today we will vote on the line-item veto. This measure will give the President the power to review our budgets and veto unneeded projects, and thus help eliminate budgetary fat.

Last November the American people sent a clear message to this body. They said they were tired of the waste, tired of the deficits, tired of the mismanagement, and thus tired of Government.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 4 weeks this body has worked on a bipartisan basis to pass unfunded mandates reform and a balanced budget amendment. Now we must pass the line-item veto on a similar basis and stop treating the American taxpayer as an unlimited bottomless pit.

CUT FAT, NOT GROWTH

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, the President's budget coming to Congress today contains some serious cuts. For West Virginia, the Appalachian Regional Commission, which is the underpinning of so many community development projects, is cut at least one-third. The Economic Development Administration, which recently provided the underpinnings as part of the Swearingen aircraft industry deal, that would be cut 27 percent.

Veterans should know they would be basically protected. Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, so important to our State legislature right now, would be protected. A class tax cut would affect thousands of West Virginians, and would be paid for.

Significantly, this budget will continue the deficit reduction pattern of reducing the deficit by one-half in relation to our economy and with no tax increase this year.

I understand this budget will only be the starting point and there will be additional cuts, but I do hope that people understand we cannot be cutting growth at the same time we are cutting fat.

SUPPORT H.R. 2, THE LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2, the line-item veto.

With the passage of the balanced budget amendment, the 104th Congress has taken an important first step in controlling rampant Federal spending. Now we must take the next step—we must give the President the line-item veto.

This past November, the people of my district—and the people all across America—voted for change. They sent a message loud and clear to Washington—it is about time we listened.

Congress has abused the trust of the American people over and over again, spending far beyond its means. Now it is time to stop this runaway Federal spending and to regain the trust of the taxpayers. We can balance the budget. We can bring some fiscal restraint to the Federal budget process.

It is time to change business as usual in this city. It is time to let the people know that we are serious about making this Government work for them. It is time to give the President of the United States the same power that 43 Governors have to control spending.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to pass the line-item veto, and I say to my colleagues today—just do it. Vote for H.R. 2, vote for the line-item veto—vote for common-sense fiscal reform.

LINE-ITEM VETO A NECESSARY TOOL

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the line-item veto. Opponents of the line-item veto say they believe it would take power away from Congress and give it to the President. But I see it as a way of taking power away from pork-barrel programs and giving it to people who want to cut

spending and reduce the deficit, regardless of which side of Pennsylvania Avenue they work on, and regardless of which party they call home.

My only regret about the line-item veto we will pass later today is that it does not allow the President to veto pork in tax incentive programs. There is no difference between a program that appropriates \$100 million to directly subsidize a certain activity and a tax incentive that cuts taxes by \$100 million for the same activity. Both increase the deficit and neither is available to the average citizen.

I urge my colleagues to support the line-item veto. It is a good tool in the hands of both Republican and Democratic Presidents.

REDUCE FEDERAL SPENDING

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, if it is one thing the American people have had their fill of, it is seeing their hard-earned tax dollars squandered on frivolous special interest projects. Whether it is a \$500 toilet seat for the military or \$100 million interstate to nowhere, the American people have had it with paying for someone else's pork.

Up until now America's real pork producers, referring, of course, to Congress, has buried their pet pork projects in important legislation. That is why our line-item veto is such an important part of the Contract With America. It gives the President the power to search out and destroy wasteful spending before it starts.

With the line-item veto, the buck isn't all that stops at the President's desk. The pork stops there too. Several minutes ago the President delivered to Congress his budget, which is out of balance by over \$210 billion, the 27th year in a row.

It is time the President and Congress worked together to reduce Federal spending. When Mr. Clinton ran for President, he said he wanted a line-item veto. Our Contract With America gives him just that.

Happy birthday, Ronald Reagan.

SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE HAS GOOD CREDENTIALS

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I think every American would agree that one of the most critical health problems we have in this Nation is the raging incidence of teen pregnancy. I was very proud when President Clinton came forward with a nominee for Surgeon General who has credentials that are better than almost any other American in dealing with this very im-

portant issue of teen pregnancy. Dr. Henry Foster, Jr., is a very distinguished Ob-Gyn in Tennessee who has worked in the housing projects, who has worked in his State tirelessly to tackle teen pregnancy, and this country could make great strides with his knowledge.

How sad I am that some people on the other side want to treat this President as though he is road kill. They are saying they will not deal with this nominee because of his associations with Planned Parenthood of America.

Now, I thought the right to free association still stood. I think that Planned Parenthood of America is a very honorable group to be associated with, and I certainly hope they change their mind.

SUPPORT FOR RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an increase in the minimum wage by 45 cents over each of the next 2 years. I spoke last week on this issue. However, due to new opposition and a new Republican proposal, I find it necessary to address the minimum wage increase again.

The proposal was offered by Senator DOLE to strike a deal with Democrats whereby we would support a capital gains tax cut in return for support of the increase in the minimum wage. This is ludicrous and it clearly demonstrates the sharp differences between the two parties.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party is not interested in making deals that would give a tax cut to the richest in our society. When we are trying to break the cycle of welfare dependency, our Republican colleagues are trying to ensure that the wealthy are protected from paying their fair share.

The January 29 issue of the Washington Post, they state that "Republicans want to replace welfare with work." If we do not increase the minimum wage, we are making that even harder.

ONE FOR THE GIPPER

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

Mr. BUNN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today is Ronald Reagan's birthday. As one of our greatest Presidents, Ronald Reagan won the cold war, expanded the economy, and restored America's faith in herself. He inspired us because in his heart, he knew the American people were crying out for a smaller Government, lower taxes, and a strong defense.

Ronald Reagan fought for these goals over the unending objections of a do nothing Democrat Congress. Now, as he

fights against the cruel indignities of Alzheimer's disease, a Republican Congress meets to take up the line-item veto.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot imagine a more appropriate birthday present than the passage of the line-item veto Ronald Reagan so desired, and so deserved. So, to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle—let us go to work, pass the line-item veto, and win one for the Gipper!

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to talk about the increase in the minimum wage.

I was talking to a woman from my district on Friday. She said, "Congressman KLINK, I don't want to be forced to go on welfare." And then she listed off the expenses that she would have to pay when she goes to work, with child care and with her rent and with food and with transportation costs.

And she said, "for \$4.25, I can't afford to go to work; I don't want to go on welfare."

In fact, that is the position so many people find themselves in. They want the pride of going to work each day, of having sweat on their brow at the end of the day and talking about a job well done. They want to get some discipline back in their lives again. But at \$4.25 an hour, they just cannot afford to do that.

I think it is among Members of this House and the other body also to say to people that \$4.25 an hour is not a livable wage and to increase the minimum wage of this Nation.

LINE-ITEM VETO: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS FINALLY COME

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, today we will vote to add one more disciplinary tool to the budget and appropriations process, the line-item veto. Along with the balanced budget amendment, which we passed 2 weeks ago, the line-item veto will help bring fiscal sanity to Congress' out-of-control spend-a-thon over the last 40 years.

Former President Ronald Reagan used to say the line-item veto was not a partisan issue but a good-government issue. Unfortunately, the Democrat-controlled Congress refused, refused to put aside partisan differences to pass this important legislation. But today we will finally throw aside partisan politics. We will pass this good-government measure.

Happy birthday, Ronald Reagan. The line-item veto is an idea whose time has come. It is too bad we could not