

veterans will have to look to the VA for health care. With the cuts proposed for that system, they will also be limited in their ability to get the care they need.

When we called upon our veterans, not one of them said, "Sorry, I cannot afford to serve." When veterans asked their country to keep the promises made to them, how can we say now, "Sorry, we cannot afford it?"

I simply fail to understand how we can repay the very people who fought for us with massive cuts to the medical care they were promised.

We must be vigilant in protecting our veterans and the benefits they were promised. As a Nation, Mr. Speaker, we have a moral obligation to keep the promises we made to our veterans.

DO NOT SACRIFICE THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLARD] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. HILLARD. Mr. Speaker, I came to Washington to help the American people, and not vote for anything that would hurt them.

The Republican budget would hurt the American people. For a week, the Republicans closed down the Government, sent Federal employees home, kept people from signing up for Social Security, Medicare or veterans' benefits, because they did not want to negotiate in good faith and tell the American people that a tax cut for the wealthy is not needed to balance the budget and would hurt most Americans.

The Republicans want to balance the budget on the backs of the poor, the disabled, the elderly, and children of working mothers so that they can pay for a tax cut for the rich.

I will continue to oppose the tax cuts for the rich, and I will continue to oppose hurting the American people.

If the proposed budget does not strike the tax cut for the rich and provide fairly for the young, the elderly, the poor, and the disabled, it will be a bad budget and I cannot and will not support a bad budget.

HISTORY OF BALANCING THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity today to visit with all of you. Of course the last 48 hours we have had a very busy weekend. I think we have come up to a compromise, but I am a little discouraged this morning to see some of my colleagues on the floor come to you and act as if they have been strong warriors for a balanced budget over the period of time that some of them have served in this office.

Let me tell you that all of a sudden, some of my colleagues cannot rush fast enough to embrace the words "balanced budget," so that they can say to the American people, you know, I have been for a balanced budget all this time. The question is not whether or not we balance the budget, the question is how we do it. That is their little wiggle room that some of these people are using.

I think it is important that we look at the history of this country.

A lot of these people that are talking to us, a lot of our colleagues that are talking that way, have served in previous Congresses. We have not had a balanced budget come out of these Chambers in 25 years. The Federal Government has not reduced Federal spending in 40 years. Look at what this deficit is doing and the debt is doing to the American people. Where are they, Johnny-come-latelies; where have they gone? It is about time they embraced a balanced budget.

I tell you it is about time the President, who by the way said when he ran for office he would produce a balanced budget plan in 5 years, then he switched it to 10 years, then he dropped to 7 years, then he went to 8 years, then he went back to 7 years, then he was back to 10, and finally last night, finally last night, we got the President to commit to a 7-year balanced budget.

Why is that so critical for the American people? What is the deficit doing to us? Take a look at what it accrues.

It accrues at \$30 million an hour. This Government spends \$30 million an hour more than it brings in. The average person in America, each person in America, not the average, excuse me, each person in America owes \$18,000 on the Federal debt. For a family of four, what is that, over \$60,000, almost \$60,000 in the debt for a family of four.

Do you know that a child born this year, a child born this year, will owe out of their lifetime earnings, if we do not do something about this deficit, if the President does not keep his word to do it in a 7-year period of time, that child will owe \$180,000 of their lifetime earnings just to pay interest on the Federal debt.

Now some of the preceding speakers have stood up here and said, take a look at the vets, take a look at Medicare, take a look at welfare, take a look at every entitlement program out there. What they are trying to convince all of you is that you could reach a balanced budget without touching entitlement programs. We can. We do not have to cut entitlement programs. We do have to control their growth.

Do not let anyone stand up here in front of you and pretend that we are going to be able to balance the budget of this country without cutting growth on some of these Federal programs. You cannot cut the growth on every other program except entitlement programs, and even have a hope of ever balancing this deficit.

Do you know that if we went out to every Federal agency next year, every

Federal agency out there, and we said to those agencies, look, you do not have to cut one penny out of your budget, you do not have to cut one penny out of your budget, but next year your budget can only grow at a rate of 1 percent, you can only grow at a rate of one penny on the dollar, if we could get the Federal agencies to do that, we would balance this problem, the annual deficit, in probably a 4-year period of time.

Now you are going to hear some of my colleagues say, well, where is this 7 years; where did they get 7 years? Did the Speaker just pull it out of the sky? I can remember when the Speaker explained to us why the 7 years.

You know what he said to us? I thought it made a lot of sense. He said to us, we could balance this budget this year, we could balance it in 4 years, we could balance it in 3 years. Then it would be so harsh on the American people that the hardships would overcome the benefit of the balance of the budget. Seven years is a period of time that, yes, everybody is going to have to pitch in, but it is not going to be especially painful for any particular group.

I take that back, any particular group. We are going to have some pretty basic requirements out there on some groups. For example, we have some able-bodied people in our country who draw Federal benefits because they are not working. They ought to be working. I do not have any problem with saying to those people, you know something, you can work, you are able to work, and you ought to work. I do not think it is particularly harsh on you when we do welfare reform to say, look, we are not going to let this go on forever. So I encourage all of us to work together to get this balanced budget.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time has past expired.

There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1404

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) at 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With every morning Sun there is the reminder of a new day and with each new day there are occasions to do the works of justice. Teach us, gracious

God, to make good use of the time allotted to us so that our efforts will allow us to be the people You would have us be. Remind us specially at this Thanksgiving season of the privilege it is to be good stewards of all the riches that have come to our Nation. Above all else may we be found faithful in our commitment to the good traditions of the land so that justice will flow down as waters and righteousness like an everflowing stream. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BROWDER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROWDER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed concurrent resolutions of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 32. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate on Monday, November 20, 1995, until Monday, November 27, 1995, and a conditional adjournment of the House on the legislative day of Monday, November 20, 1995, or Tuesday, November 21, 1995, until, Tuesday, November 28, 1995; and

S. Con. Res. 33. Concurrent resolution expressing the thanks and good wishes of the American people to the Honorable George M. White on the occasion of his retirement as the Architect of the Capitol.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled joint resolution on the legislative day of Saturday, November 18, 1995:

House Joint Resolution 123, making further continued appropriations for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

SUPPORT THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM PARTNERSHIP ACT

(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, in the last few weeks, we have been trying to come up with a budget plan to ensure a successful future for America.

Every one of us in this House can debate for hours, even days, what is best for our district, our State, or for the Nation as a whole.

But what the American people really need is an opportunity to succeed. And opportunity doesn't come in the form of a Government handout, a grant, a loan, or an endowment.

Opportunity comes in the form of jobs—good-paying jobs and the chance to put hard work to the test.

This Thanksgiving season, as you travel back to your district to spend the holidays with family and friends, take a moment to think about how many people are employed because you and thousands of other Americans are traveling.

Airlines, car rental agencies, restaurants, travel agencies, hotels, and retail stores: travel and tourism is the second largest employer in America employing more than 11 million people. That's one is every nine Americans.

As someone hands you your plane ticket to head home for the holidays, think about what you can do for the working people of America.

Cosponsor H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act. This bill would create a public-private partnership between the travel and tourism industry and the Federal Government was the highest priority to emerge from the recent White House Conference on Travel and Tourism.

With their votes, 1,700 conference delegates asked Congress to give them nothing more than the opportunity to succeed. This opportunity is not a gift or a handout, but a real chance to grow their business.

H.R. 2579 will help give the travel and tourism industry the mechanism to create thousands of new jobs—jobs that provide the economic opportunity the American people need.

Jobs, in the future, will come from two major industries: travel and tourism and high technology. The Travel and Tourism Partnership Act would capitalize on this growth potential and ensure economic success for America's future.

STOP PAYCHECKS FOR PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

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

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to prevent the President and Members of Congress from collecting paychecks during future Government shutdowns.

We could very well be right back into another budget crisis in 3 weeks when the proposed continuing resolution runs out.

I do not believe the President and Members of Congress should be exempt

from the same hardships that others endure. If we are unable to pay Federal employees or pay veterans benefits or register new Social Security claimants then we should not be able to pay ourselves during a shutdown.

It is not right that Federal employees should be made to suffer this outrage alone. Maybe a pay freeze will make the President and Congress take the situation more seriously.

BINDING AGREEMENT IS VICTORY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last night was a great victory for the American people. For once, the Washington establishment put our children's future ahead of its own. We are firmly on a course to turn the Government away from the disgraceful spending spree it has been on for a generation.

What was so important about last night's agreement was that the President made a solid, binding commitment to use honest scoring, while we balance the budget. I will quote from the continuing resolution: "The President and the Congress shall enact legislation in the first session of the 104th Congress to achieve a balanced budget not later than fiscal year 2002 as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office, * * *"

This binding agreement is not only a victory for those of us on this side of the aisle—we stuck to our priorities and we will have a balanced budget. This is also a victory for all Americans. And most important the next generation.

START NOW, IN A BIPARTISAN WAY, TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, last night's agreement to negotiate the terms of a balanced budget was a big victory for the President. Medicare is off the table. Now we are going to negotiate 7 years toward a balanced budget.

This agreement was a big victory for the Republicans in that we are now going to a 7-year time frame, a balanced budget. How do we get there?

It was a big victory for the American people, because Democrats and Republicans now are talking in a civil manner in the same room.

How do we get to a balanced budget from here? Mr. Speaker, I submit that here is an article that appeared in my local paper over the weekend: "Coalition Budget May Be Revived."

Mr. Speaker, let us defer tax cuts until we get a balanced budget, so we do not devastate Medicare and student loans and farm programs. Let us start the heavy lifting now to work in a bipartisan way to balance this budget.