

END TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY AND CORPORATE WELFARE

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, the key issue under debate now is not whether we balance the budget in 6 years or 7 years or 8 years. The key issue is how we balance the budget, whether we balance it in a fair and just way or whether we balance it on the backs of the weakest and most vulnerable people in our society, the elderly, the children, the working people, and the poor.

In my view, instead of cutting Medicare, we should cut the \$125 billion a year we give in tax breaks and subsidies to the big corporations and the wealthy, which is corporate welfare. Instead of cutting back on Medicaid and veterans' needs, we should cut back on the B-2 bombers and star wars and the other military spending that is unnecessary and not asked for by the Pentagon.

Instead of cutting back on education and student loans, we should make absolutely certain that at a time when the rich are becoming richer, we do not give 1 penny of tax breaks to the wealthy or the large corporations.

PUTTING ON THE BEST FACE

(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, to listen to my friends from the liberal side of the aisle, it would seem that they can find their calling after public life in plastic surgery. For once again, they are desperately trying to put the best face on things.

The fact is, after much wailing and gnashing of teeth, President Clinton has finally agreed with the new majority to balance the budget in 7 years, to use honest numbers to do so.

And speaking of honest numbers, my good friend from Vermont needs to be corrected. On student loans in the next 7 years the new majority proposes to spend an additional \$12 billion; in Medicaid, an additional \$38 billion; in Medicare, over the next 7 years, we will spend an additional \$1.6 trillion.

Robert J. Samuelson, in yesterday's Washington Post, to paraphrase his column, said, when one side consistently distorts positions, then the purpose is to destroy, not to debate.

Mr. Speaker, I implore all the American people to get involved in an honest debate, not bent on destruction of the other side but preservation of our system.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP

(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, the prior speaker said that those of us on this side are only trying to put a face on this. Let me say that the Chaplain called this group together this morning with a prayer about stewardship.

Let me say to the other side of the aisle, I saw no good stewardship *vis-à-vis* the Government last week as we saw the most expensive and costly shutdown in the history of this Nation over a tantrum. One does not have to put a face on that. That was outrageous.

But today we are back at work and we should be taking our stewardship very seriously. Of course, we should be moving toward a balanced budget. Of course, we have got to do that. But we should be good stewards of the environment. We should be good stewards of our children's education and their future in the 21st century. And we should not become totally beholden to special interests, to the great crown jewel that they keep talking about, the tax benefits for the wealthiest of the wealthy. That is what this country starts out about and that is what we should be getting to work on today.

OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

(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, Republicans in Congress promised to balance the budget and stop raiding our children's future to support today's bankrupt policies. We are now a giant step closer to making that a reality.

Last night, President Clinton committed his administration to honest numbers and an end to years of deficit spending. This commitment represents total victory for congressional Republicans because we did not barter away our two main goals: a 7-year balanced budget and CBO scoring.

Today, the American people can claim victory as well.

The victory we all celebrate today is that finally Washington rejected the status quo. We've put aside the excuses and we put our children's future ahead of Washington's future.

As we balance the budget, Congress and the President will abide by honest numbers. This is a victory for all Americans. No more excuses, we're doing the right thing for our children's future.

CROWN JEWEL IN JEOPARDY

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, now that the Speaker's temper tantrum has ended and Federal workers are back at work, it is time that this Congress got on with passing the appropriations bills and a mainstream balanced budget.

In order for us to get to a balanced budget in 7 years, the Republican lead-

ership is going to have to abandon its tax-cut promises to Wall Street. We cannot afford to be cutting taxes for the wealthy when we need to balance the budget and protect Medicare, education, and the environment.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, we need to go after the \$500 billion in corporate welfare in the budget, and make Germany and Japan pay for their own defense.

So to the Republican leadership I say, reduce the tax breaks to the rich and cut out the corporate welfare, and we will get to a balanced budget.

STANDING FIRM ON PRINCIPLES

(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, yesterday, I was proud to be a Democrat. Proud as a Democratic President stood firm on the principles of our party, and stood up for our seniors, our children, and our environment.

Yesterday's agreement lays the framework for balancing the budget in a way that reflects the priorities of the American people.

Balancing the budget means balancing the books, but it also means balancing our priorities. Protecting health care for our seniors, educational opportunity for our youngsters, and our natural resources for the next generation, must be our goals. Those are the priorities of the American people. Those are the priorities of the Democrats in Congress. Yesterday, the President stood firm for those principles and stood up for our seniors, our students, and our environment.

A VICTORY FOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, today is a historic day. I hear my friends across the aisle say, we are for a balanced budget. We think it is important. They have been here 40 years. It has been a generation since they have balanced the budget.

The Republicans are pleased that the President finally agrees with the American people that balancing the budget should be a priority. Today is truly a victory for our children, \$187,000 is what a child born today will be saddled with in taxes just to pay the interest on the national debt. The Republicans have a plan to balance the budget, the Balanced Budget Act of 1995.

We have heard now that the President is going to veto that plan. We challenge the President to propose his own 7-year plan. We have our plan. Mr. President, let us see your plan. Then let us sit down and negotiate the details. Mr. President, show us your plan.