

special treatment; for example, utilities and other industries seeking to prevent the EPA from expanding its disclosure program under the Community Right To Know Act, refineries facing compliance with air toxic emission standards, cement kilns that burn hazardous waste, air permitting programs for the State of Virginia, bioengineering plants, State audit shields for polluters, natural gas processors. In each case there is conference language requesting the EPA to create loopholes or other special treatment in these various categories.

Essentially, Mr. Speaker, I believe very strongly that since agencies are supposed to follow the dictates of the appropriators, this shift to report language, taking the riders out of the statute but putting in the report language, really means that a lot of the damage will still be done to the environment. I hope that the conferees, when this bill goes back to committee, will make some additional changes so we have more money for environmental protection.

#### THE OCCUPATION OF BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I want to spend some time this afternoon and talk to us about the occupation of Bosnia. The President has already decided that we are going to be sending troops into Bosnia, approximately the number of 20,000, under the alleged peacekeeping mission. However, I think as we see the events of Bosnia unfold, we are starting to realize that there are many questions unanswered, in that the direction of those questions and the partial answers that we are receiving is saying that this is not a peacekeeping effort, and that this is a peacemaking effort which will probably result in an occupation unless we take some drastic changes of direction now.

Mr. Speaker, this is a big concern, I think, to every American. If it is not on their thoughts today, it should be. It will be tomorrow. I think it is a well-known fact now in the media and in Congress that the President is going to send troops to Bosnia. He has the constitutional authority to send those troops. He has thought this out. It has been planned in the Pentagon. There will be troops before the end of the year in Bosnia.

It is very frustrating for a Member of Congress, because we are unable to stop this action. We have repeatedly voted to stop from sending troops to Bosnia, yet every effort on the part of the Congress has been met with disdain, with the turning from our advice, and the President has not yet come to us with the arguments, with the right ideas, with the right plan in order to gain not only the support of Congress, but the support of the American public.

Some of the questions that are arising out of this tragic mistake that we are about to make are, No. 1, the President says there will be casualties. There are risks involved. I think this Member of Congress and others would like to know what is the acceptable level of casualties in Bosnia. Is it 1,300 troops per day? Is it the loss of 250 young men and women each day we are over there? Is that acceptable?

I can tell you what is acceptable in Kansas, in the Fourth District of Kansas. It is zero. No casualties. But that is not what we have heard. There will be casualties, but we do not know how many.

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Another thing is that we were told that it is going to be 20,000 troops, but now we are finding out that it may be 30,000, maybe 35,000. There will be some held in float. There will be some stationed nearby. According to the War College, it takes seven troops to support one combat troop. So if it is 20,000, that means it is 140,000 with support personnel. If it is 30,000, it goes up to 210,000. Pretty soon, we are talking about a quarter of a million people, and they are in there for the alleged duration, which is supposed to be 12 months.

Will there be a rotation? If there is a rotation, where will the training take place? Does that mean that there is now a half a million troops involved? If so, what would happen if North Korea should cross the border and what would happen if Saddam Hussein again crosses another border? What would happen if a conflict occurs in Yugoslavia or some other place like Macedonia?

This country is not funded in the Department of Defense to handle a two-scenario conflict. Regardless of what the leadership in the administration has said, it is simply not there. Members of the Pentagon know that.

If this is an occupation, which it appears to be leaning towards, 20,000 is not enough. Probably 200,000 is more like what it will take, just ground troops. What is the mission here?

Another question is, what is the geographical area that we will be required to defend? Is it near the hottest area? Near the Serbs? Mr. Speaker, we have already had air strikes on the Serbs. There are some 40,000 to 60,000 rogue Serbs who do not agree with the peace agreement, and we will be near there. Our troops are planned to land at Tuzla, which is just about a mile from the Serb current locations. A mortar round can travel a mile.

Other questions are, is the duration of 12 months enough? We have had a century's old conflict and we think we can solve it in 12 months? What firepower will we have there? What is the funding level? It started out at \$1 billion. It is now up to \$3 billion. Would it not be more economical in terms of human lives to offer to rebuild the entire country with this \$3 billion instead

of spending it on troops, putting them in harm's way and accepting some level of casualties?

There are many more questions. One is the question of leadership. Will America not be a leader if we back away from this? There are many ways to lead, through NATO and through other ways. We can lead through air power, through intelligence, through strategy, through logistical support. We have many ways that we can lead. But to send troops into harm's way without the support of the American public, without the support of the America people, the Congress, the answer is no, Mr. President.

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL LIMITS OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst, during these next couple of days, of making a recommitment to the American people that we are now serious about a budget reconciliation process that takes away the stridency and the gross imbalance that the present bill has offered.

I voted against the Budget Reconciliation Act that has been proposed by the majority in this House. This is not to say that the consequences of not balancing a budget is not of great concern.

I have been to my district. I have discussed the issue with a myriad of constituents: working Americans, also individuals who are looking to become independent, transitioning themselves maybe from public housing, from being recipients of welfare. But as they look to become independent and as working families are looking to become stronger, the Budget Reconciliation Act says to them that we will not join you in partnership.

This bill drastically cuts housing opportunities for affordable housing. This bill drastically cuts opportunities for poor working families to receive an earned income tax credit. What we may be saying sounds like a continuous recording sound, droning on and on. But what it actually does is impacts the lives of working and living Americans. It jeopardizes the fragile relationship of survival, whether they survive today or whether they do not survive tomorrow.

We find that when we cast aspersions and criticisms on those who receive welfare, this Budget Reconciliation Act, along with the proposed welfare reform plan, cuts child care, cuts job training, and disregards the opportunity for encouraging businesses and others to employ now present welfare recipients by providing a tax incentive to hire such persons. We find in the Budget Reconciliation Act that the job program that helped youth be employed during the summer the last

number of years is simply nothing but a baby sitting job or a baby sitting activity. How egregiously wrong that perspective is.

In my district, in the city of Houston, we will lose some 6,000 summer jobs. Across this Nation, we will lose millions of dollars that have helped young people be directed away from activities that would cause criminal results to more constructive activities that have exposed them to career activities.

There have been accusations, for example, that the monies have been misused. I am not sure of the extensiveness of any hearings that have suggested that cities that have been, and quasi-public agencies that have been in partnership with the business communities throughout this Nation have not effectively utilized youth summer program monies.

We have been able to hire 6,000 youths in my community. All of them have managed to be exposed to unique experiences. Whether it was with NASA and the space station, whether it was with city government, or whether it was with one of our major energy companies in the community, they have learned independence, self-sufficiency, self-esteem.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I had a young person who worked in my office when I was a local elected official who did real work, by the way, this young intern, who, when she got the offer to be an intern under the summer jobs program, called with excitement but yet sadness and said, I cannot accept, because I do not have the proper clothes and I would be embarrassed to show up. I said to that young person, if you have to wear a paper bag, come to this office to know what you can do, how you can be challenged and what the opportunities are for you in the future.

The Budget Reconciliation Act must give to the American people hope. It must give to them a direction. It must give to them focus. What we have now is an ill-spirited and misdirected opportunity.

So I would ask, as the process continues, that we begin to look at where this country wants to go in the 21st century. Do we want to turn back the clock on environment with respect to clear water, clean air, and would you believe, food safety inspections? How outrageous when we have come so far that now we would deny citizens the adequacy of food safety inspections.

We have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to fairly strike a chord of reason in the Budget Reconciliation Act process. I will participate. I ask my colleagues to participate.

#### BALANCED BUDGET ELIMINATING AND PROGRAMS REQUIRES TRIMMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House today on the budget and on the process of balancing the budget.

I have listened to a number of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle today and in the weeks past on the budget, and I really think that maybe an honest step would be for them to say that we do not want to balance the budget, just get it over with. Because what we are hearing is, well, not here and not there, and do not do this, and do not do that.

Federal jobs programs, for example. Mr. Speaker, as you know, we have 163 different Federal jobs training programs. Is it possible that some of those could be trimmed back, some could be consolidated, and perhaps, oh, do not say it too loudly around Washington, but maybe some could be eliminated? Is that not what the American people actually want?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I would be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his perspective.

The gentleman from Georgia mentioned several job training programs. I would only raise an inquiry for what I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle trying to do and what I would hope that we could do together, and that is to turn this country around to a level of self-sufficiency. Part of that comes from our youth. If I can just separate out your comments to focus on the summer jobs program that have been effective in our communities, because, in fact, they have been a partnership between the public and the private sector.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, one of the things that is very important to remember is that the AmeriCorps Program, which the gentlewoman has been discussing, for example, is \$26,000 per child. Well, I would say to my colleague, we can produce a heck of a lot of great opportunities for kids at that rate.

The problem, as the gentlewoman knows, is that if we want to do something for kids, we have to reduce the deficit. We cannot pass them our bankrupt legacy, the \$200 billion debt that we have year after year, the \$4.9 trillion that is eating away at these things.

Now, the gentlewoman and I know that when we were kids, an old trick used to be to go to the corner drugstore and charge a Coca Cola or an ice cream to your dad's account down there. Well, at the end of the month your father would find out, well, you charged something to me, and I am going to make you pay that back.

Well, now what is happening is we parents are going down and we are charging things for our kids to pay, but these are 4- and 5- and 6-year-old children who for years and years are going to be paying.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield? I thank the gentleman for his thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, I will be very quick on this point. If we have analyzed the \$26,000 on AmeriCorps, we have not yet juxtaposed or compared that against the investment or resources that they provide to the community which balances off, because they are giving labor for free, in essence, and the summer jobs exposes children to opportunity.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, that is important, but out of 163 job training programs I would challenge the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] to say, let us cut these. We are in agreement that maybe we need 100 job training programs, or maybe we need 2, or maybe we need 50. Where I think the Democrat Party is being somewhat disingenuous is you all are saying, let us cut the budget and let us balance it, but not here, not now, not in my area.

These are good programs. I would say to my colleague that, in each case, many of them are good programs, yet we are still in debt. So why do we not try to take the good ones that are good and consolidate them together and reduce it and, most importantly, cut out the Washington bureaucrats who are the middle people who are sucking up so much of the money that should go?

I want to make one more point. Mr. Speaker, it is already November, almost December. We keep hearing, balance the budget, but not here, not now. We want to work in a bipartisan fashion. To my knowledge, the only serious plan that has come from you all has been on the Blue Tick Hounds or the Hound Dog Democrats or whatever you call them, and I know that the gentleman from Mississippi has been a part of that. That is a great counterpunch to the debate, and I applaud it. But it is still a minority group within the Democrat Party.

We do not have a serious Democrat proposal to balance the budget yet. So as long as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to say, not here, not now; I would say, get in the arena with us. I mean, it is difficult to balance the budget. If it was not, we would have had one in the last 25 years.

Let me yield to the gentleman from Mississippi. If we can get more time, I will continue this debate, because the lady from Texas has been a very positive person in this debate process.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I think there is more that we can do, the gentleman from Georgia, and I appreciate it. I think we have tried to meet on different issues. I wish that the budget now before us was not so strident.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

#### REQUEST TO EXTEND SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have a unanimous-consent request. I would like to extend the gentleman's time by 3 minutes so that he