

A MILLION-DOLLAR CLAIM

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I hope my good friend from Arizona and others will be here this afternoon when the House gives 5-minute speeches when I will display and walk the people of America step by step through and disprove Mr. Barbour's claim.

The first sentence is what I am going to disprove: "In November 1995 the U.S. House and Senate passed a balanced budget bill."

They did not. The law of this Nation says we can only allocate funds for 1 year. And the funds that are allocated for next year are projecting a \$270 billion annual operating deficit, of which \$100 billion will be stolen from the trust funds.

I again want to encourage people to pay attention to this. I am not going to ask for the money for myself. But, J.D., you can fill in the University of Southern Mississippi development fund in that space there because I will prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that this statement is false and I expect my fellow Mississippian, Mr. Barbour, to be a man of his word.

A SERIES OF FIRSTS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I think there has been far too much caffeine consumed here this morning.

Mr. Speaker, in 1927 Charles Lindbergh was the first man to fly across the Atlantic. In the late 1940's Chuck Yeager was the first to break the speed of sound. In 1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first to orbit the Earth, and in 1969 Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon.

In 1995 Bill Clinton became the first man to veto a balanced budget since Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon. In vetoing last week's balanced budget bill, Bill Clinton said "no" to serious Medicare reform, he said "no" to serious tax relief for working families, and a brighter future for our children. Most important, he said "no" to doing the right thing, being responsible and balancing the budget, something that has not been done in a generation.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to end the charades, end the Washington style excuses, do the right thing for our grandparents, our parents, our families and our children. Balance the budget of the United States of America.

GETTING GOVERNMENT BACK IN BUSINESS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I can understand why 215 Members of this body just voted to go on a 3-day recess. We all want to be back with our children and our wives and do some Christmas shopping and get back to a little sense of normalcy.

But things are not normal. If we do not do our job today, 300,000 Federal employees will be locked out of their jobs, the Government will be shut down, and we just voted yesterday to put our Federal Government into default in its financial obligations.

Things are not normal. We ought not go home for recess. In fact, that is why 152 Democrats voted not to. We have been told by the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT], the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO], and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR], that we should be prepared to stay on the job until we have done our job, until the Government is back in business.

We might rectify this situation with a continuing resolution today, legislation the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] has introduced that would at least ensure that Federal employees work for their pay. But we have got to get the Government back in business and do our job before we recess or adjourn.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

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

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, we understand that according to Senator DOLE that this event is so important that Hazel O'Leary is flying in for it. We would also like to point out that the American people asked us to make a change here and, that is, to balance the budget.

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The Democrats have gone after the Speaker of the House with 65 charges for political reasons. Why? To take the heat off the President so that the President can go on and cook his books.

We cannot spend \$300 billion more than we take in, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is a rare find where you find a Speaker, a man or any woman that will stand up and take this abuse, take negative charges like TOM CAMPBELL did, and win. Well, the Abe Lincoln theory that you can fool some of the people some of the time stands. TOM CAMPBELL was elected, the Speaker of the House will balance the budget, do not cook the books, Mr. President. We are going to balance the budget, and my colleagues are right. We are not leaving this place. I brought my Christmas tree for here and for home. We are not leaving until we balance the budget using CBO numbers.

REPUBLICANS TAKING GOVERNMENT HOSTAGE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, we are here for a hostage-taking. The Republican Party wants to make very substantial reductions in what the law now provides for people who get sick, who are in economic distress. They brag on the one hand about how much they are going to reduce the rate of spending in Medicare that would otherwise occur and then bitterly denounce anyone who says they are cutting. My colleagues cannot take credit for substantially reducing Government expenditures and plausibly deny that they are cutting. They want to wipe out the legal guarantee that says, "If you are sick and elderly and in a nursing home you, will be taken care of medically." Why do they want to do this? To balance the budget? No. To increase military spending by a substantial amount.

We are going to have a defense bill on the floor today which votes billions of dollars more than even the Pentagon thinks necessary. They want to do it so they can make substantial reductions in taxes especially for wealthy people. People who make \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year will get a tax cut, and, on the other hand, people of 70 and 80 years old will see their Medicare premiums go up. Now they cannot win this on their own, so they will take the Government hostage to try to force us to go along, and it will not work.

STOP GROWING THE FEDERAL BUDGET

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, what the Republicans have done is to do what Mrs. Clinton asked us to do. She testified 2 years ago that if we slow the growth of Medicare down to 6, to 7, percent, we can take care of Medicare and balance the budget. We spend 7.2 percent on Medicare. It goes up 62 percent over the next 7 years.

Tax cuts. Our budget has \$245 billion in tax cuts for the American family and American business. The Democratic party criticizes us for having a tax cut for the American family. I ask, "If we gave you the money, what would you do with it? Would you put it on the deficit? No, you would spend it on the Federal budget, you would shrink the family budget."

That is not talk, that is fact, because in President Clinton's budget he reduced our tax package from 245 to 78, he took the money, and he put it on the Federal Government. He shrunk the family budget.

Stop shrinking the family budget, stop growing the Federal budget. The American public would love to have it on the deficit. They are not going to put it on the deficit. They are going to spend it up here. Spending needs to stop.

WE NEED TO HELP ORDINARY PEOPLE

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

Mr. STUPAK. The GOP balanced budget plan, as the last speaker says, give \$245 billion in tax breaks. Those tax breaks go to the wealthiest 1 percent of this country, and they repeal the alternative minimum corporate tax. Corporations do not have to pay taxes under their plan.

I would like my colleagues to listen to what my constituents say. I got a letter from a constituent from Charlevoix, MI, that says:

My wife is a bookkeeper at Charlevoix Hospital. I run a very small business in town. My wife will get a small pension from the hospital plus Social Security when she retires. I will only get Social Security. I have had 2 heart attacks, and I am a noninsulin diabetic. My wife, although working, does so while in much pain with a back ailment. With all we have to worry about in this present day, why do we have to be faced with a large group in the Congress that apparently is bent on making us suffer even more in our old age? People need help, not corporations. The wealthiest do not need tax breaks. We need to help ordinary people the, middle class. Balance the budget, yes, but not on the backs of the middle class.

CLINTON SHOULD PAY PRICE FOR TRADE GIVEAWAY

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago the United States of America had 100 percent of the commercial space-launch market, today we have 30 percent, and yesterday the President's trade negotiators gave away that remaining 30 percent. They signed a trade agreement with the Ukraine to allow them to launch United States satellites. Today we have the French, the Chinese, the Russians, and now the Ukrainians, putting United States satellites in orbit.

President Clinton ran as the domestic policy President committed to creating high-quality jobs for Americans. Yesterday he turned his back on thousands of working people on Florida's space coast, in California, in St. Louis, MO, in New Mexico, and Alaska, and he should pay a price for it in the election of 1996.

"FIGURES DON'T LIE, BUT LIARS FIGURE"

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

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH], the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, would be here and all the people that have spoken that there is not a cut in Medicare and Medicaid.

I am a senior citizen. There are cuts in Medicare and Medicaid.

If there are not cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, why can we not have the tax cut unless they get the Medicare-Medicaid cuts? Unless we score the \$270 million cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, we cannot have a \$245 billion tax cut. It does not take a space scientist to figure that out.

There is an old saying in North Carolina, "figures don't lie, but liars figure."

WE WILL BE PAYING FOR BOSNIA

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on the CBS radio news, a man from Tuzla was asked what it meant to him that the Americans were coming.

He shouted back in a happy, accented voice that I won't try to imitate: "Money—Only Money."

A few days earlier, I had seen the deputy mayor of Tuzla say on one of our national networks that he expected the Americans to rebuild their infrastructure.

At about that same time, the Bosnian leadership said they would need \$25 billion in loans from the World Bank to rebuild their country.

The biggest contributor to the World Bank: the United States of course.

This is all in addition to the \$600 million we promised in aid, up front at Dayton, and the billions we will spend on our own troops.

As long as we are there, we can keep the peace, and I think and hope with very few casualties.

But we will be borrowing billions to do it, and the American people, especially our children and grandchildren, will be paying for this for a very long time to come.

A THOUSAND-DOLLAR OFFER

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard an awful lot about Mr. Haley Barbour, the head of the Republican National Committee, and his offer of \$1 million regarding Medicare cuts. Now I would like to make an offer today to Mr. Barbour and Members of this House.

As a Democrat I am not as wealthy as some of my Republican friends, and certainly not as wealthy as the Republican National Committee, so I cannot offer \$1 million. But I will take \$1,000 out of my own savings account and offer it to any Republican Member of this House who can prove that their Medicare and Medicaid budget plan will not cut real services to senior citizens, real services to senior citizens.

My friends, that is what counts, cutting care in nursing homes, cutting care in rural health care hospitals for senior citizens. That is what the Re-

publican plan does, that is what is important, not silly little gimmicks in ads such as this.

But I will maintain my offer of \$1,000 to any Republican in this House who can suggest and prove that their plan will not cut services for our Nation's seniors.

REPUBLICAN PLAN BALANCES THE BUDGET

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

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, prior to November 1 was a physician taking care of Medicare patients. It is indisputable that unless we can slow the rate of growth in 6 years, there are insufficient funds to pay the bills. That will cause significant problems for those Medicare beneficiaries. As has been said already before this morning, only 2 years ago Mrs. Clinton said slowing the rate of growth to twice the rate of inflation is not a cut. That stands today as it stood then.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have presented a budget plan that balances the budget. We use honest numbers. While Republicans are busy trying to save the country from bankruptcy, there are those who are busy with political campaigns based on fearmongering and scare tactics, and it is time to get serious about our children's future, it is time to get serious about whether our senior citizens will have a Medicare plan.

Let us balance the budget now.

BUDGET SHOULD REFLECT AMERICA'S PRIORITIES

(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, to the prior speaker I say, "Take the tax break off the table, and we will have a Medicare program for seniors and we will balance the budget."

Last month Speaker GINGRICH shut down the Government because he did not like his seat on Air Force One. Now he is at it again. This time the Speaker wants his way on the budget. While President Clinton, Democrats, and Republicans in the other body all try to reach a budget agreement, the Gingrich Republicans want to shut down the Government in order to force their budget priorities on this country.

But the American people have rejected the Gingrich budget, a budget which slashes Medicare, education, environmental protection, to finance that crown jewel of the contract, tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for House Republicans to join the President, Democrats, and Republicans in the other body at the negotiating table. Let us give the American people an early Christmas present, a budget that reflects America's priorities, not Speaker GINGRICH's priorities.