

no one can substantiate what was said against the speaker or against GOPAC on those occasions.

WASTEFUL SPENDING BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND NAFTA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak on two unrelated but very important national issues.

The first is wasteful and ridiculously expensive travel by Federal employees, particularly by certain Cabinet members who should be setting a better example.

Even members of the President's own Party, such as Senator REID of Nevada, have called for Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's resignation.

She has been galavanting all over the world at horrendous expense to the taxpayer.

She has been chartering private jets, when she could easily have flown commercially, and she has consistently been staying in the most expensive hotels in the world.

She spent \$2.6 million on just four of these trips—\$845,000 for a trip to China, \$500,000 for a trip to Pakistan, \$560,000 for a trip to South Africa, and \$720,000 for a trip to India.

No wonder we can't balance the budget.

This is a terrible abuse of taxpayer dollars, but then the easiest thing in the world to do is to spend other people's money.

Another Cabinet Secretary who has been wasting taxpayer funds on travel is Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt.

He has been traveling all over the United States to make political attacks on the Republican budget.

Almost all of his trips should have been paid for by the Democratic National Committee since he has been so blatantly partisan in his statements and press conferences.

And then the trip that really takes the cake is the one 400 Federal employees took to Disney World last month.

The Washington Post said that taxpayers paid "hundreds of thousands of dollars so about 400 Federal employees could go to Disney World and stay at a four-star hotel."

No wonder we have a five trillion dollar national debt.

The Associated Press said these employees were from the National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

These bureaucrats had training sessions on such topics as "The Power of Magic in Shaping History," and "Goofy (and Educational) Nature Songs."

These agencies, plus almost all other Federal offices are screaming today about cuts and shortages of funds.

Well, there is no shortage of money if they can send employees on a trip like this. In fact, it appears that they have such a surplus of funds that they cannot even use good sense in how their money is spent.

Of course, the truth is that almost all Federal agencies are still getting increases. And the best question to ask is what were they getting 10 years ago.

Over that period, inflation has averaged only about 3 percent a year.

Their spending should have gone up by about 1/3 at the most, but almost all these Federal departments and agencies have increased spending at two or three or four times the rate of inflation.

The Head Start Program, for one, has gone up 300 percent in the last 10 years about 10 times the rate of inflation.

The budget for the EPA for 1995 is twice-double-what it was in 1985—a 100 percent increase.

We have allowed our Federal Government to get so big that it is simply out of control.

That is why you have abuses of the taxpayer like these.

Also, we have a civil service system that is so overly protective that Federal bureaucrats know that they can get away with almost anything.

Instead of letting Federal spending increase, but at a slower rate, as we do in the Republican budget, we should really be cutting a few things so the people can keep more of their money.

The second topic I wanted to mention, Mr. Speaker, is the NAFTA Accountability Act.

This act would require that we take another look at NAFTA to see if it is causing more harm than good.

Apparently, in an effort to sell NAFTA 2 years ago, we were given misleading or incomplete information about the Mexican economy.

Just a few days ago in my district in Tennessee, the two largest employers in Tellico Plains announced that they were leaving, one going to Mexico, one to Honduras.

At almost the same time, the largest employer in Etowah, TN announced that it was going into bankruptcy in large part due to NAFTA.

These three companies will mean almost 900 people in my district will lose their jobs. For these two small towns, the impact is devastating.

Now I do not know if the company moving to Honduras is using funds from the Caribbean Basin Initiative but "60 Minutes" and others have reported that we are making loans to American companies to set up branches in Central America and the Caribbean.

Through NAFTA and GATT, and all the money we contribute to the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, and things like the African Development Bank, and the Export-Import Bank, and the Caribbean Basin Initiative, all the money we spend overseas, through the State Department, the Commerce Department, the Defense Department, we seem to be giving our country away.

Then when you add in our direct foreign aid program to all these other giveaways and loans to foreign countries, and then the billions we have spent for nation-building in Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti, and now Bosnia, in addition to the multibillion bailout of Mexico. I repeat Mr. Speaker.

We seem to be giving away our own country and selling out our own people.

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 of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. POSHARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

A TABLE OF TWO PRESIDENTS

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell a story this evening. I will keep it short though it could last for hours. It is called a Tale of Two Presidents, a President in 1992 and 1993 and now a different President in 1993.

Two years ago the President and his top health care specialist, Hillary Rodham Clinton, told the American people again and again, we are talking about beginning to reduce the rate of increase in Medicare from about 11 percent annually to about 6 or 7 percent increase annually.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton told Americans again and again, do not let people tell you these are cuts in Medicare. All we are doing is slowing the rate of increase. That is not a cut.

Remember those words very carefully because my colleagues are about to hear them again. Bill Clinton wanted to use those Medicare savings he was talking about in 1993 to help pay for his Government-run health care scheme.

Now let us move forward to early 1995. Medicare board of trustees reports Medicare part A will be bankrupt in 2002. The trustees, four of whom are Clinton appointees, also say Medicare part B was growing at an unsustainable rate.

So this Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act, which included a plan to

save Medicare for another decade. The plan slowed the rate of growth to more than 7 percent annually. Remember, the President said 2 years ago, that is not a cut. But guess what Bill Clinton has to say about essentially the same idea today?

He said, Republicans want to destroy, devastate and dismantle Medicare. He is talking about terrible cuts now. What happened to the President that was talking about slowing the rate of growth just 2 years ago? The Republican plan increases spending per senior from \$4800 to \$7100 in the year 2002. There are no cuts though the rate of spending increases are slowed slightly.

The Clinton plan would increase spending per senior to \$7200 in the year 2002. That is a 2 percent difference, or little more than \$100 a year 7 years from now. Remember, the President's Medicare proposal is not of a balanced budget, because even though he submitted four of them, none of them balance. More on that a little bit later.

Yet, Bill Clinton's accusations against the Republicans, that we are trying to destroy Medicare, the Nation's top elected official is telling these fictitious stories to the American people. Our President, our leader, the one on whom we depend to lead us through times of crisis and through times of need, is not coming forth and telling the American people what he was saying just 2 years ago, that we are not going to devastate Medicare. We are not cutting Medicare. We are slowing the rate of growth. He and Mrs. Clinton said 2 years ago, do not let them tell you that we are cutting.

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Well, do not let them tell you today that we are cutting Medicare.

Let us talk about Medicare part A premiums. Seniors now pay \$47 a month for part A premiums, and Bill Clinton and liberal Democrats have blasted Republicans and said they are doubling Medicare premiums. First of all, as every senior knows, Medicare part A premiums rise about almost every year. Even Bill Clinton and liberal Democrats know this. The Republican plan would see premiums rise from \$47 to \$87 a month in the year 2002. That is an increase, though it is not a doubling of the premium.

But here is the punch line: The President's plan would cost only \$4 less per month than what we are proposing.

Bill Clinton says Republicans want to destroy Medicare, but the premiums in this plan are \$83 instead of \$87. That is 13 cents a day difference.

It gets worse. Most of this year we have heard Bill Clinton and other liberals accuse Republicans of trying to force seniors into managed care plans—even though every senior could remain in the current plan just as it is. They have also blasted our innovative proposals like medical savings accounts. Now, Bill Clinton has “borrowed” every good idea Republicans wanted to use to help save Medicare in his plan.

A few weeks ago, the Washington Post, no friend of conservatives, had this to say: “The Democrats, led by the President, have shamelessly used this issue, demagogued on it because they think that's where the votes are.”

Mr. President, remember 1992, 1993. There are no cuts.

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LET'S BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the President has now had four tries at sending the Congress a balanced budget, and he still has not gotten close to honoring the commitment he made to the American people and the law he signed 29 days ago agreeing to a balanced budget in 7 years using real numbers, not smoke and mirrors. President Clinton's latest budget keeps piling on the debt, an estimated \$265 billion in the red.

Mr. Speaker, we voted on that budget here in the House today, and Democrats and Republicans alike combined to reject it 412 to zero. That is right, not a single Member of the House in either party voted for the President's latest budget.

Yesterday we had a similar bipartisan vote in favor of a 7-year balanced budget using realistic assumptions about economic growth.

While the President cannot send us a budget that actually balances, he can stand over at the White House and scare our seniors, scare our families, scare our veterans with dire rhetoric and self-serving political posturing that lacks one essential element, the truth. He and his allies have spent an estimated \$30 million attempting to mislead the American people about Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

So let us look at the facts. He says Republicans are devastating Medicare, destroying Medicare. Here are the facts:

In this current year we are spending per senior citizen \$4,816 on Medicare; in the year 2002, \$7,101 per senior citizen on Medicare. Where is the cut? I would suggest to my colleagues that only in

Washington, DC, can a \$2,300 increase in spending on Medicare be called a cut. Only in Washington, DC, and on negative misleading ads such as the one the United Mine Workers are running in my district on the radio this week, absolutely false, totally intended to try and scare senior citizens, and for what? Purely political demagoguery and nothing else.

Medicaid. We are increasing the amount of money spent on Medicaid by nearly 50 percent over the next 7 years.

Education. The chairman of the committee is going to speak on this at great length, but let us take a look at just one example, a very important part of education, student loans. Cuts to student loans they say. Well, here in 1995 the total amount of money made available for student loans this year is \$24.5 billion. In the year 2002 under our budget that has been sitting on the table waiting for a budget from the President to negotiate over we increase it to \$36.4 billion over the next 7 years, more than, or nearly, a 50-percent increase in student loans, and yet the President would have the students of this country and their parents scared with the idea that we are trying to cut education. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Earned Income Tax Credit. The President says we are being unfair to hard-working, low-income families in this country, yet we are increasing the amount of money that is spent, that the amount of tax credits that are available for the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families by \$5 billion in the 7th year of our budget, increasing again, and overall in the last 7 years we spent \$9½ trillion. That is the total amount of money the Government spent; in the next 7 years with our budget, \$12 trillion, a \$2½ trillion increase, and yet the President wants to spend more, originally proposing to spend nearly \$1 trillion more, still wanting to spend \$300 billion more than what is necessary, more than what it takes to balance the budget in 7 years, and we cannot balance the budget using his smoke and mirrors.

Mr. Speaker, the President has got his seasons mixed up. It is Christmas, not Halloween, so maybe he should put away the senior scare tactics and bogie-man budgets and join the Congress in actually helping our Nation by balancing the budget.

Today each and every Member of Congress had a crystal-clear decision. Members could vote for President Clinton's fourth budget, and with their vote they would say to their folks back home, “I agree with President Clinton; we simply don't want to balance the budget. So let's not even try. Let's just keep piling on the debt that our children and grandchildren will be stuck with, and we'll keep playing the tried and true Washington political game of saying one thing and doing another, saying we want a balanced budget, but voting to keep up the outrageous spendathon.”