

NUTRITION BLOCK GRANT PROPOSAL CALLED MEAN SPIRITED

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the mean-spirited nutrition block grant proposal. I say mean spirited, and I do intend to say that, because what the Republicans are saying is, "No, we're not going to cut the amount of money that's spent. We're going to put it into one bundle or block and give it to each of the States."

You know, that sounds good on the surface, but what they are doing is saying, "What we're going to spend is a fixed amount. It's not going to depend on the economy. It's not going to depend how some regions of our country fare compared to some other regions. It's going to depend on how much we want to give them today."

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker. It will devastate our Nation's children. Children are the most defenseless population in America. They are entirely at the mercy of adults. We have a moral obligation to provide for these children.

When I was in the Peace Corps, living in Africa, I was not surprised to see children malnourished. I do not want to see it in America.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, while home over the weekend, numerous people shared their hope and anticipation in the passage of the balanced budget amendment. These people understand the need for this legislation since their share of the national debt exceeds \$13,000. The debt now stands at over \$4.5 trillion and it has been 25 years since the Federal Government has endorsed a fiscal year surplus.

My constituents and constituents nationwide want a balanced budget amendment because it denies the Federal Government from spending more than it takes in. It ensures that the Federal Government lives by the same rules as families, businesses, and local governments, and it restores fiscal sanity and common sense to Washington. As elected officials, it is our duty to work for passage of this legislation. This commonsense approach to changing business as usual is the right thing to do for future generations.

My fellow Members, it is my hope that this amendment passes for the sake of the American people.

CHINESE TRADE: THE FLY AND THE SHARK

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, another trade deal with China. This time it is over software. Software, Mr. Speaker. While we are quibbling over software, China is melting down hardware in factories all over America.

Check this out. Nike makes over 1 million pairs of athletic shoes in China every year and it costs 17 cents to make a pair of those shoes. Nearly all of them are shipped to America and they sell for over \$100 a pair. But these think tank experts keep telling Congress, we need these cheap Chinese goods so we can keep our prices down.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I commend Mickey Kantor for his efforts, but the truth is I think this trade deal is a fly on China's face while a full-grown great white shark is eating America's assets. That is assets, Mr. Speaker. Think about it.

ENDING BIG BUSINESS AS WE KNOW IT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the other body will cast its most important vote to date on the balanced budget amendment. Only a balanced budget amendment can provide the discipline to end deficit spending, shrink the Government, and reduce the burden on American families to shoulder the national debt for generations to come.

The balanced budget amendment is still one vote short as President Clinton and the other guardians of big government are doing everything within their power to kill it.

The fact of the matter is that many Members of Congress and the President have absolutely no intention of ever balancing the budget. They seem to be content with ongoing \$200 billion deficits and the intrusion of big government into the daily lives of American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, there is a fork in the road and the paths are clear. One leads to more of the same, deficits and higher taxes. The other leads toward the replacement of the welfare state with an opportunity society that understands that power emanates from people, not from government.

The choice is clear. I urge all my colleagues in the other body to move this country in the right direction.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING BRINGS REWARDS

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

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, last week the House Appropriations Committee took the first step to cut funding, and

eventually eliminate, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Public Broadcasting stations are different than commercial stations in that they are not always bound by the bottom line. This allows them to air programs commercial stations cannot afford. And it allows the American public to watch quality, commercial-free programming that is not available elsewhere.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting ensures that our children watch Sesame Street rather than Beavis and Butthead, that quality arts and cultural entertainment are available, and that we get indepth news coverage on television and radio.

Mr. Speaker, as we cut Federal spending, we must be smart and responsible. And we should remember that for a relatively small investment, Public Broadcasting brings us great rewards.

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, after listening to some of my liberal colleagues on the other side of the aisle, you would think that balancing the budget was like dreaming the impossible dream. Actually nothing could be further from the truth. We can balance our budget. We just need to act a little more responsibly. That is why I support the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. It forces us to act a little more responsibly.

One would think from the rhetoric of the liberal Democrats that balancing the budget means draconian cuts in the budget. Actually all we have to do is slow the rate of spending to an additional \$2 trillion instead of \$3 trillion in the next 7 years. The fearmongers are acting like we want to starve children. Ridiculous. We want to save our children's future.

I encourage all of my colleagues, pass the balanced budget amendment now.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND MEAN SPIRITEDNESS

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the President for signing the order that will make the Federal Government a model employer on child support enforcement. I chaired the hearings last year where we had parent after parent come forward and talk about their problem of making Federal employees be responsible for paying child care. Now the President has done everything within his means and I would hope that this body would do everything within their means to fill in the things that we have to do by legislation.

I also would like to speak for a moment about the mean spiritedness I am hearing about on the floor today. I think it is rather ironic that the same bureaucracy that they do not want to handle child lunches is going to be able to continue doing food stamps. I mean, that makes no sense to me.

Why will 50 bureaucracies do a better job of handling children's lunches but you do not want to entrust the food stamps to them? I think we know. I think it is because we are going to let the bureaucracies eat the kids' food.

SUPPORT THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, as the debate on the balanced budget amendment comes to a conclusion, the American people have heard a great many reasons why this amendment to the Constitution should not be enacted. There is the Social Security red herring. There is the canard regarding the role of the judicial branch. There are the dire predictions of gloom and doom to our economy. Excuses, diversions, distractions, delaying tactics.

The American voters do not want any more excuses. They want a balanced budget to the Constitution. They want this amendment because the people are tired of the Congress taxing and spending away our children's futures. They want this amendment because the Congress has proved incapable of coming to grips with our budget deficit without it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opponents of the balanced budget amendment to stop with their excuses. A vote for the balanced budget amendment is a vote for the future prosperity of our Nation.

FEED THE CHILDREN

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, last week when we saw the proposals that were being made by the Republican leadership to cut the Federal nutrition programs, our colleague, TONY HALL, a great leader in the fight against hunger in America and indeed throughout the world, said, "Up until now, the issue of hunger has not been debatable." Indeed it should not be. A great country, a decent country like ours should heed the Bible and feed the hungry.

Before we vote on these changes, because we will have to vote on them, which will jeopardize our children's health, we should think and we should listen. We should listen to the teachers. Teachers tell us that a hungry child is a distracted child. A good meal is an investment in learning. We should listen to the doctors. With the WIC Program, the doctors tell us that a dollar spent on nutrition for a pregnant

mom saves \$4 to be spent on problems to be dealt with with a sick child later, a malnourished child later.

In addition to our concern about the child, this has fiscal overtones. We should listen to the generals. It is indeed they who had suggested the School Lunch Program when they saw that our troops were malnourished in the 1940's.

This is not about domestic versus defense. This is about a strong defense. We must feed our children.

TODAY'S FORGOTTEN AMERICANS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the giant sucking sound in America in 1995 is a governmental grabbing of private property through ruinous regulation. Our farmers in the Midwest and across the Great Plains are unable to use their farmland because the Government calls their dry lands wetlands.

Property owners on the East Coast are denied the right to build homes for their families because bureaucrats deem their construction unwise.

Across, Texas, homeowners, ranchers, and farmers are warned they may not be able to use private land if a golden-cheeked warbler decides to nest there.

These are today's forgotten Americans. These citizens will be forgotten no longer if, later this week, we pass the Private Property Protection Act of 1995.

This legislation puts the rights of these Americans who do the work, pay the taxes, and pull the wagon on the same par as the blind cave spider and the fairy shrimp.

This legislation requires the Government to pay for land that it wants to use for a public good. It prevents us from shifting those costs onto the farmer, the rancher, the homeowner who happens to own the wrong land in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember the forgotten Americans.

REMEMBER THE CHILDREN

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in protest to the Republican plan to transfer funding for the school student nutritional program to block grants to the States. The claim that this proposal will be beneficial by reducing bureaucracy is misleading and downright false.

The purpose of this program which has been in place for 49 years and has been modified and approved in previous Congresses is to ensure that our children are well-nourished and that they are provided with the nutritional sub-

stance that they need to get them through the day.

Many children who participate in this program have no other source for meals during the school day. The family may not be able to provide for the child because of financial difficulties, and, of course, we must acknowledge that parental neglect does take place even in affluent families.

How can we justify taking food from the mouths of poor children who are struggling to get through school? Mr. Speaker, we have lost a generation of children through violence and drugs. Let us not destroy another one through malnutrition and neglect.

OHIO LEADS THE COUNTRY IN THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

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

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the manufacturers and workers of Ohio on a noteworthy achievement. According to World Trade Magazine, the State of Ohio ranks No. 1 in the country in the number of businesses that export goods. Thanks in no small part to the policies of Governor Voinovich and the Ohio Department of Development, 67 percent of Ohio's manufacturing companies with over 100 employees exported products last year. Ohio has become a major player in the world economy. In the words of the magazine's editor—

This dispels the myth that Ohio is the capital of the Rust Belt. Ohio is one of the most progressive and forward thinking States in America in terms of export promotion.

Mr. Speaker, I am a long-time supporter of free trade and international competition. I cannot tell you how gratifying it is to see Ohio leading the country in the global marketplace. This is proof positive that protrade policies at the State and national levels are benefiting Ohio's workers.

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, it appears that our appeals for a compassionate Congress are paying off. On Friday, it was announced that the Committee on Agriculture had reached some accord with the Speaker and that the food stamps will not be converted to a block grant. It remains as an entitlement with a cap. While the cap is a problem, nonetheless we have won a battle, but the war goes on.

The Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunity has proposed a radical change in the School Lunch and WIC Programs. If these changes stand, 275,000 women, infants and children will be removed from the WIC Program. Nutritious meals served to some 185,000 family day care centers