

words just do not go far enough. However, our deeds can help show our respect. We must protect the Medicare trust fund.

THE INVISIBLE DEMOCRAT PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday House Republican leaders introduced our 7-year program to balance the budget. Democrats and liberal critics immediately jumped on it, crying and screaming and insisting there is another way to balance the budget without cutting spending.

So to keep the debate in perspective, I thought I would introduce to the people the Democrat plan to balance the budget and take care of Medicare. Here it is. Excuse me, it is upside down, backward. There you go. There you go. This is it, Mr. Speaker, the Democrat plan to balance the budget and take care of Medicare.

I hope it is not in too much detail for my friends on the other side of the aisle. I am sorry to get into such detail during a 1-minute speech. But the fact is, it is May. We have been in session since January. Balancing the budget is a bipartisan responsibility. We are \$4.8 trillion in debt. The third largest expenditure on the budget is the interest service on the national debt. Medicare will be broke in 6 years. If we want to help senior citizens, Mr. Speaker, we have got to do a little bit more than this.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

JAPAN TAKES UNITED STATES TO COURT

(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, Japan is suing Uncle Sam. And guess what? This new court is the World Trade Organization. Remember GATT? Supposedly created to promote and enforce free trade? GATT is now being used by the most protectionist nation in world history, Japan, to kill free trade. And listen to what Japan says. We here in Japan believe we have a better than 50-percent chance of winning in court.

Unbelievable, ladies and gentlemen. Congress has been a bunch of wimps, allowed Japan to wreck our economy, wreck our jobs, and now Japan is taking us to court. What is next, Congress? A judgment in favor of Japan in this kangaroo court? Beam me up. Shame,

Congress. You have allowed our jobs to be stolen, our companies to be taken overseas, and you are talking about some wild Disney business around here. Straighten out our order of business, our balance of payments, or you will never, never balance our budget.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, the House Budget Committee starts work on the first fiscally responsible budget the American people have seen in decades. Many House Democrats will come to the floor, attacking various parts of the budget for being too hard on their special interest groups, I ask my colleagues to reflect on the choice before us today.

We can continue to do things the Democrats' way. We can continue to waste more of the taxpayers' money for more Government programs, more bureaucracy, and more Federal intrusion into the lives of the American people. Or we can go a different route. We can start taking steps that will mean a brighter future for our children, better jobs for working Americans and more security for our Nation.

In the election of 1994, the American people decided that fiscal irresponsibility and broken promises were a thing of the past. With the budget process we start today, Republicans will lead the way to a balanced budget.

PASS BOTH A BUDGET BILL AND A FARM BILL

(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, we are now in the process of shaping a budget for America for the next fiscal year. Soon, we will consider reauthorization of a farm bill for the next several years. It is my hope that we will pass a budget bill and pass a farm bill. The two bills should not be mixed.

None will dispute that cuts in the budget are inevitable; all will agree that farm programs should bear a share of the cuts. But, \$15 billion in reductions is not a cut, Mr. Speaker, it is a severance. \$15 billion in reductions will gut the farm programs, will disrupt vital revenue sources in rural communities, and will affect the economy in severe and unintended ways. This issue transcends party and region. It is a direct hit on rural America, and it also strikes a blow against urban America.

Let us pass a budget bill. Then, let us pass a farm bill, but, in our effort to stabilize the budget, we must be careful not to destabilize food production for working families who are America's consumers.

PROTECT AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, we have many tough choices to make during the next several weeks and Republicans have been the first to come forward and face these challenges. But we need to take great care in reducing those programs that have had such a profound effect on our rural communities over the last 60 years. America's rural communities are fading examples of American history—neighbor helping neighbor, family helping family.

We cannot turn back 60 years of farm programs overnight and expect our rural communities to survive. Farm communities can survive through tax and regulatory relief, farm program reform and better trade policy reform. Remember, farm programs have declined an average of 9 percent each year since 1985—a reduction of over \$15 billion. If all other Federal programs had taken the same budget reductions during this period, our budget would balance. Assaults on agriculture are not productive, so I challenge my colleagues to roll up our sleeves and learn how important farming is to America.

REFORM THE MINING LAW OF 1872

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 123 years ago today, President Grant signed into law a bill aimed at promoting the settlement of the Western States. This bill allowed folks to mine valuable minerals such as gold and silver from Federal lands in those States for free. It also allowed people to obtain title to these lands for \$2.50 an acre. In one sense, the mining law of 1872 served much the same purpose as the Homestead Act.

Today, the Homestead Act has long since been repealed. The West is well settled. Yet, the mining law of 1872 survives intact, in this age of skyrocketing Federal budget deficits still allowing the wholesale giveaway of valuable Federal lands and minerals. It is incredible, but true, that annually under this law the United States allows about 1.8 billion dollars' worth of gold and silver to be mined for absolutely free.

And for the most part, these minerals are not being mined by the lone prospector of old, but rather, by multinational corporations who reap the benefits of this last great giveaway of American natural resources.

What a shame. What a shame, Congress, to allow lands, owned by every American, to be given away for fast food hamburger prices. To allow billions of dollars worth of the public wealth to be produced for free by corporations based in Luxembourg, Toronto, and London.

Well, happy birthday mining law of 1872. But may I say, I hope there will not be any more such birthdays left to you. My colleagues, please join me and 83 other Members of this body in seeking to reform the mining law of 1872; cosponsor H.R. 357 today.

MEMBERS URGED TO SUPPORT CLEAN WATER ACT REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 961, the Clean Water Act reauthorization. We have a chance, with this bill, to provide a great amount of regulatory relief to the American farmer. Farmers depend on the land to make a living, so they are last ones who want to jeopardize ground water with poor ecological practices. But an out-of-control bureaucracy has caused nightmare after nightmare for farm families by implementing a ridiculous definition of wetlands that prohibits producers from farming or improving their property because of puddles in their fields. I am particularly distressed that the National Academy of Sciences would sacrifice sound science for the sake of partisan politics, as shown by the timing of their recent release on wetlands. I commend my colleague, Mr. SHUSTER, my colleague, Mr. HAYES, and all the others who had a role in providing this much-needed sanity. I urge my colleagues who are interested in getting the government out of the American farmer's way, to support H.R. 961. Oh, by the way, did you notice the Republicans just produced a balanced budget?

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THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman referenced the balanced budget. He cannot get to a balanced budget while increasing military spending, cutting taxes for the wealthy and the largest corporations, and here is the proof, the Republican budget.

It is impossible to do that unless, unless you want to gut virtually every other program of the Federal Government from child nutrition to student loans, to Federal law enforcement, to veterans benefits, Medicare, and, yes, Social Security.

They will all take a massive cut so the Pentagon can continue its wanton spending and the wealthy can put another BMW in the garage. I expected that kind of a budget, but never, never did I expect that the Republicans would go back on their pledge to not touch Social Security.

Buried deep in this budget is a little change in the COLA factor, just a little

change. It will cut future retirement benefits for veterans, future retirement benefits for military retirees, future benefits for every Civil Service retiree. And yes, Social Security benefits, too, starting in 1999 will be reduced by their budget.

MORE ON THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I think we should have shame on us for the campaign that is being waged against our efforts to balance the budget. All of us know that it is necessary, if we are going to save this country, to balance the budget. And yet we have a smear campaign of unusual proportions.

My colleagues we hear about cuts in Medicare, except Medicare is going to go up. We hear about specific changes, but you cannot point out those specific changes. You just get up and spout off about them. We talk about tax cuts for the rich, but you miss the whole point, that there is tax relief for the families of America.

We talk about letters from home. I will answer those letters honestly. I am going to save the Medicare Program. I am going to balance the budget.

I believe the cruelest thing we can do is put fear in the hearts of senior citizens. The thinking Americans know that we are going to do it, and they support us.

MEDICARE CUTS

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of 80,000 Vermont senior citizens who receive Medicare, I rise today in vehement opposition to the proposed 7-year, \$400 billion cut in Medicare funding proposed by the Republican leadership.

Today under present funding, many Vermont seniors are hard-pressed to pay the high cost of Medicare premiums, and many others cannot afford the expensive prescription drugs that they desperately need. Any cuts which will raise premiums or cut benefits or raise deductible will cause terrible pain for some of the most hard-pressed citizens in America and in Vermont.

It is unconscionable to cut back on Medicare when we are giving huge tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country. It is unconscionable to cut back on Medicare when we spend \$100 billion a year on corporate welfare.

THE PHELPS SCHOOL

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Phelps School from Malvern, PA. The students at that school, the senior class is here today, and I want to recognize them.

The Phelps School whose motto is "dedication to the individual boy," strives to meet the needs and develop the strengths of each of its students.

The teachers and faculty take great pride in empowering young men to improve themselves. The school fosters the growth of each student, academically, socially, and personally. In other words, Mr. Speaker, it builds character, something sorely needed in America today.

The Phelps School is a small institution where every young man feels special, like a member of a family. The Phelps School exemplifies a good education today in America. Students come to the school as boys and leave as young men, ready to further their education.

I take great pride today in welcoming the Phelps School and the senior class. I wish them all the best as they begin their journey towards the rest of their lives. I know they are well prepared and ready for the world, as all the school's graduates have been for almost 50 years. My hat is off to the director, Mr. Phelps, and all the seniors.

REPUBLICANS BREAK CONTRACT WITH SENIORS

(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, there is a loud shattering sound all over Capitol Hill today as the Republicans rush to break our Nation's historic contract with its senior citizens.

House Republicans today make it official: They want to cut Medicare and Medicaid by \$464 billion in order to pay for a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

And now they have added a new ingredient to this sickening stew. Now House Republicans want to redefine the Consumer Price Index and lower cost-of-living adjustments for Social Security recipients. So much for their promise to keep Social Security off the table.

In short, the Republican plan squeezes seniors from both ends. Seniors would have to pay more for health care, and they would be less able to afford that increase because they would get a smaller Social Security COLA.

Altogether, this plan would cost 37 million seniors \$900 more a year so a lucky 1.1 million of the wealthiest taxpayers can enjoy a \$20,000 bonus.

The Republican plan does not save Medicare. Instead it uses Medicare as a piggybank for tax cuts we cannot afford and do not need.