

BUDGET RESOLUTION A PRODUCT OF SECRECY

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this morning around 1 or 1:15 a budget resolution was adopted by the House Committee on the Budget. It is the product of secrecy, of task forces meeting, working as a shadow government in this Capitol, to design a budget resolution. And if you had sat there from 10 in the morning until a little after 1 in the morning the next day as I have, you would understand why it has been necessary to conceive this budget resolution in secret, because the members of the Republican caucus have again broken their word.

They have broken their word about having an open House, which they promised on the first day. And the reason it was so essential for them to operate in secrecy is that they are breaking their word to seniors across this country. They are coming after Medicare to the tune of almost \$300 billion in cuts, directly out of the pockets of American seniors.

Finally, after being pressed, they admitted that copayments are going up for American seniors and that many seniors will see a cut in their benefits. They just do not know who has been marked for the most pain.

FEDERAL BUDGET MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, time is running out.

If Congress fails to address the out-of-control Federal budget, it will soon be too late for our children's future.

If we fail to end the irresponsible spending that Washington has engaged in for the last 25 years, we can say goodbye to the American dream, and say hello to a diminished standard of living for our kids.

The consequences are just too great to imagine if we do not bring the Federal budget into balance. In just 10 years, at current projections, the Federal Government will be unable to pay for anything beyond the service on the debt and entitlements. That means no defense, no law enforcement, or any other domestic spending.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are committed to bringing budgetary sanity out of budgetary chaos. We will balance the budget by eliminating outdated agencies, waste, and programs that simply do not work. All the liberal Democrats can offer is class warfare rhetoric and posture for the best political angle. They totally fail to realize that the future of America is on the line and that time is running out.

GOP BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, is it any surprise how the Republicans would reach a balanced budget in 7 years? By breaking our contract with senior citizens, with veterans, with the most vulnerable people in our society, and with those of us who live in cities.

I take the floor today to challenge just one aspect of this disastrous plan, that which would bankrupt American mass transit. The best way that we can empower people and bring them out of poverty and welfare is to help them get jobs and to keep those jobs. This requires meeting practical needs, job training, child care, health insurance, and mass transit. We must help people get to their jobs on safe, dependable, and economical public transit.

Thus I rise to oppose some of the aspects of this mean-spirited budget plan and to oppose, as strongly as I can, the end of the Federal Government's commitment to mass transportation.

ZERO DEFICIT BUDGET RESOLUTION PASSED

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, Rome burns and Nero fiddles. Since yesterday at this time, the national debt has increased \$548 million. That is almost \$23 million every single hour, \$383,000 every single minute, \$9,000 every second. Every newborn baby enters the world owing \$17,300 of his or her share of the national debt. That means that between yesterday morning at this time and today, we have on a per capita basis increased the debt about \$2.10 each.

Thomas Jefferson said that "We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay them ourselves." Yesterday the Republican members of the Committee on the Budget, joined by one of the Democrat members of the committee, passed what will be a zero, goose egg, nothing, no deficit in the year 2002, balanced budget resolution.

MEDICARE RECIPIENTS PLACED AT GREAT RISK

(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 now know that the majority proposes to reduce Medicare spending by \$250 billion over the next 7 years. This will mean the average Medicare patient's benefits will be reduced by \$132 in 1996 to \$2,000 in the balanced budget year 2002. Out-of-pocket costs will rise as well. Each American on Medicare, and their fami-

lies, can expect to be responsible for thousands of dollars of additional costs per year. The import of these huge spending reductions are profound—less people will have access to quality health care, and our Nation's hospitals will be put at great risk.

As Medicare goes under the knife, so too does funding for medical education, especially teaching hospitals, such as Pitt Memorial, in my congressional district. Hospitals like Pitt Memorial receive about 30 percent of their funding for resident training. They get additional funds for graduate medical education programs. These funds provide such hospitals with the financial cushion so that they can continue to provide care for Medicare patients. Who will pick up the slack for this essential funding—certainly not the States, the counties or the people? I invite my colleagues from across the aisle to really consider the impact that these deep spending reductions will have on millions of seniors and their families. This will end Medicare, as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, if these huge reductions go into effect, Medicare patients and their families will suffer.

TIME WARP

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are caught in a time warp.

They are still thinking like the Congress of old, where through the magic of baseline budgeting, Democrats could claim they were cutting spending when actually they were spending more than ever.

Now they come to the floor and claim that Republicans are cutting Medicare, when the cold, hard facts are just the opposite.

As you can see by this chart, the per capita expenditure in Medicare will increase from \$4,700 to \$6,300 over the next 7 years.

In Democrat parlance, that is a cut, but to most Americans that is a significant increase.

Coupled with our reforms, which will weed out waste and fraud, we will protect, improve, and preserve Medicare far into the next century.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats who come to the floor today will continue to attack Republicans for cutting Medicare. But as this chart shows, the truth is far different from the Democrat version of reality.

MEDICARE CUTS PAY FOR TAX CUTS FOR WEALTHY

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

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have finally unveiled their budget proposal. And as expected, the news is not good for our senior citizens.

House Republicans returned from their party conference last week united by a plan to cut Medicare in order to pay for their \$345 billion tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. Under this proposal, 37 million seniors will lose \$900 a year while a very lucky 1.1 million taxpayers—those making more than \$230,000 a year—will enjoy a \$20,000 bonus.

When President Clinton came to office, the Medicare Trust Fund was due to run out of funds in 1999. Through tough actions that this administration passed, and every Republican opposed, the trust fund was strengthened for an additional 3 years. The President then proposed a highly detailed health care reform proposal that would have significantly strengthened the Medicare Trust Fund, and again was opposed by most Republicans.

Since last year's election, the President has made clear that he still wants to work on Medicare cost issues with the Republicans, but that it has to be in the context of real health care reform that protects the integrity of the program, expands coverage, and protects choice as well as quality and affordability. No responsible person should stand by and allow Medicare to be used as a cover to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy and, in doing so, break our historic contract with the senior citizens.

REPUBLICANS SUBMIT AN HONEST BALANCED BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, my daughter is grown and she and her husband have a 1½-year-old son and another child on the way. The last time an official House committee submitted a bill to balance the budget, she was 2.

Today, House Republicans present the first honest attempt to balance the budget. We do so not for politics, but for our children, my daughter and son, and my grandchildren. We do so because my family, your family and families across the country cannot achieve the American dream if we do nothing.

If we do nothing, we will pay more interest on the debt than we spend for defense. Moreover, my grandchildren will pay more than \$185,000 in their lifetimes just to pay interest on the debt.

We will not stand by and watch any child in this country be subject to that type of cruelty. Yet the Democrat Party, which needlessly frightened children of the impending doom of school lunches is utterly unmoved by the threat to the dreams and future of those same kids.

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TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN

(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, the battle for a balanced budget is not taking place in the Halls of Congress. The battle for a balanced budget is raging in the Pacific over the protectionist trade policies of Japan. You know that, I know that, and the American worker, they absolutely know it. Watch them at election time.

I commend President Clinton for his efforts. The President's fight is absolutely right. I just hope at the last minute they do not make another compromise washed-down deal.

Let me say this: The hammer is in the hands of Congress. I recommend imposing a 15-percent across-the-board tariff on Japanese products, all products until they open their market. Think about it. That worked for Washington. That worked for Lincoln. And that worked for Japan.

There is nothing wrong with winning and losing is contagious. Let us join the President's fight. Let us take action against Japan. They are not going to open their doors on a voluntary request.

WHERE'S THE DEMOCRATS' PLAN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Republicans produced a historic plan to bring us to a balanced budget by the year 2002. The liberal Democrats here in Congress have already jumped on the whining, moaning, and groaning bandwagon to denounce our plan in every way they can.

But let me just ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle one question, Where's your bill? Where's your plan to balance the budget?

The fact is that you don't have a plan. You haven't submitted anything in writing to balance the budget. Instead, you are content to sit there maintaining the status quo while our children's future goes down the drain.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans care about the future of our country. Republicans will pass a balanced budget. We will keep our promise to the American people.

KEEPING THE MEDICARE PROMISE

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, after waging a war against our Nation's children by slashing school lunch and child nutrition programs, the Republicans have turned their sights on America's senior citizens.

Yesterday, they released the details of a Republican budget that finances

tax breaks for wealthy Americans by gutting Medicare.

The Republicans intend to write their wealthy friends a check for \$305 billion. And to finance this giveaway, they plan to force seniors to cough up an extra \$900 a year.

By targeting those with the most yet to give, our children, and those who have made the greatest sacrifice—our seniors—the Republicans are undermining a fundamental, moral obligation.

This debate is not about deficit reduction. It is about sacrifice. The generation of Americans who now receive Medicare benefits sacrificed to bring this Nation great prosperity.

A senior from my district—from Vacaville, CA—wrote to tell me that these programs are: "promises made to people who earned these benefits."

Promises? Where have I heard that word before? "Promises made, promises kept."

Obviously, this is one promise the Republicans do not intend to keep.

THE WRONG WAY TO GO WITH SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are solving something that has bothered all the people, but I do not think they are doing it the right way. Older people have complained to me; I am not talking about the wealthy older people who will be the beneficiaries of the Republican tax cuts but the average older person for whom Social Security is a major part of their income. And they have complained that, as the Social Security cost of living has gone up, Medicare has come and taken it away. And they have been virtually equal in many cases.

Well, no longer under the Republican budget plan will the cost-of-living increase that older people get be equal to the increase they have to pay in Medicare. But the Republicans are solving this in the wrong way.

Older people are going to have to pay more for their Medicare, and under the Republican plan they will get less for their Social Security. So every year older people will see under the plan an erosion in their incomes because the Republicans will reduce the cost of living.

They want to cut taxes for wealthy older people who will be making \$150,000 or \$200,000 a year, but they will cut the cost of living for an older person living on \$9,000 or \$10,000. That is the wrong way to go.

REPUBLICANS PROMISES ARE BROKEN

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1