

budget together says let us push the children away and let us push the elderly away, the most vulnerable in the family, so those who are doing real well can get a larger piece of the pie? I do not know any family like that. That is the traditional mogul budget.

So we have really turned it on its head and turned traditional family values into traditional mogul values. And if you are really wondering what to get your mother this year for Mother's Day, they have now answered the question. Send her a check, send her cash. She is going to need at least \$900 to \$1,000 a year because there is going to be an increase in premiums and an increase in all things that affect her Medicare.

Not a good Mother's Day present.

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LET US EXERCISE LEADERSHIP

Mr. BUYER. To my good friend from Colorado, I think there is a big difference between families in America. Her vision is she wants every family in America to drive the very same type of car and for everybody to have the same piece in size.

I submit right now we are going to hear a lot of rhetoric with regard to the Nation's budget.

It is interesting, this morning, though, when I saw C-SPAN, I got to see the Vice President, the minority leader here in the House, the minority leader in the Senate. They were asked a very important question by a member of the press. Intriguing. "What is your plan to balance the Nation's budget without a tax increase in 7 years?" They looked at each other, and there was complete silence for a good 4 or 5 seconds. It was wonderful. It reminded me almost of the Three Stooges; I saw Curley, Larry, and Mo. They stood and all kind of looked at each other.

The answer is they have no plan.

So my message is: Stop the squawking, stop the whining, and let us get down and work on the Nation's business, roll up our sleeves, and let us do it. Because this is very serious business.

You want to talk about what happens to the American family, the lady from Colorado, the greatest threat to the American family today is the national debt. That is the greatest threat.

Folks, if we are successful, and it is now 2002, the national debt will be in excess of \$7 trillion. Stop squawking, and let us exercise leadership.

CALLING FOR THE NAMING OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 113th day since the formation of the House Ethics Committee, and no substantial action has yet been

taken with regard to our imperial Speaker's serious ethics problems. Four very serious complaints have been filed and have been pending before the Ethics Committee now for months, yet no action. It is obvious that an independent counsel is needed. I advise the Ethics Committee to follow the advice that Congressman GINGRICH gave on July 28, 1988, when he said,

The rules normally applied by the Ethics Committee to an investigation of a typical Member are insufficient in an investigation of the Speaker of the House . . . clearly this investigation has to meet a higher standard of public accountability.

I call on Chairperson JOHNSON and members of the Ethics Committee to quit dragging their feet and name an independent counsel. Inactivity by the Ethics Committee and press releases from the Gingrich legal team will not clear up this most serious situation. An independent counsel will.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

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

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, within a decade, entitlements and interest will consume the entire national debt, and the President has presented no balanced budget, and the Clinton Democrats across the aisle have continued the status quo.

The Republicans have announced a plan to balance the budget and to protect our children's future, and the Democrats have announced yesterday that they have no plan.

Well, let me tell you, folks, here is their plan. Right here is what they do on Medicare to save it. Right down here is what they do to protect our children. Right down here is what they do to provide tax relief for working families.

Folks, there is no plan. That is the fact. The Republicans have a plan, a plan to balance the budget, protect our children's future and to protect, preserve, and improve Medicare.

The Republicans are willing to stand up to the plate and be counted and protect our future. The Democrats have their plan right here.

Take a look.

REPUBLICAN PLAN UNFAIR TO MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the budget debate next week, I think it is important for the American people to put this in perspective.

We have cut taxes now \$600 to \$700 billion over the next 10 years to benefit the wealthy peoples. Now we have got to come up with some cuts in the bud-

et to offset that lost revenue, \$600 to \$700 billion, to offset cuts in taxes for rich people.

Well, we started by trying to do that on the backs of poor people, and we realized that there was not enough money in poor people's programs to do that. So now, next week, we are turning our attention to our senior citizens, and we will try to finish this job under the Republican plan by balancing the budget on the backs of our senior citizens, poor people, senior citizens, balance the budget on their backs, my colleagues say. Unfair to our most vulnerable populations.

PRESERVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, yesterday House Republicans offered a plan to balance the Federal budget by the year 2002. Our plan allocates \$11 trillion for Federal spending over the next 7 years. It protects Social Security. It eliminates three Cabinet-level departments, 13 agencies and 284 Federal programs, and it provides the much needed tax relief for families, as promised in our Contract With America.

Now, let us look at what will happen if we take the House Democrats' approach and do nothing but maintain the status quo. A child born this year can expect to pay \$187,000 over the course of his or her lifetime as a wage earner and taxpayer just in interest on the national debt, and in 2 years, interest on the national debt will exceed defense spending as the single largest item in the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, which alternative would the House choose next week: the status quo or a plan to balance the budget by limiting the growth in Federal spending and eliminating wasteful spending and programs that simply have outlived their usefulness?

The answer is clear. We have to balance the Federal budget. We have a moral imperative to preserve the American dream for our children and our grandchildren.

BALANCE PRIORITIES FIRST

(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, you can take each dollar that the majority plans to spend on the wealthy through their tax break and spend it on older Americans through Medicare and still have moneys to balance the budget come the year 2002.

One wonders why there is such an insistence by the majority to take from the poor and give to the wealthy. When

one examines the record, you see a consistent pattern. That consistent pattern says if you are a pregnant woman, you are out of luck, and if you are an infant baby, certainly you do not count, and if you are from rural America, you can be ignored, and if you are poor, you do not matter, and if you are a senior citizen, you are too late.

This weekend we will celebrate Mother's Day. Mothers have always taught us, and we are reminded on Mother's Day, get your priorities right. How we spend our moneys and where we spend our moneys says a lot about us. It says what is important. It says to America that those who spend more than \$200,000 certainly are of more consequence than those who earn less.

It says to America that mothers do not count. It says to the working America we have nothing at all to celebrate this Mother's Day.

WHERE IS THE CUT?

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, where is the cut? This chart shows that under the Republican budget plan, Medicare spending will increase by nearly \$100 billion over the next 7 years.

Now, this second chart that we are going to show here shows that spending per recipient for welfare recipients will go from \$4,700 up to \$6,300 per person.

Now, I know this has to come as a complete shock to my friends on the other side of the aisle who spare no opportunity to scream about imagined Medicare cuts. They look at America and they see only two kinds of people: The wealthy and the victimized. The wealthy are, of course, evil and in need of punishment. The victims need protection, and they think that only liberal Democrats here in Congress can provide that protection.

Well, the liberal political world view has been almost totally rejected by the American people. Americans are tired of excuses. They are tired of the slick blame game, and they will not be scared by the liberal Democrat shrieks they hear here in Congress anymore. These are imaginary cuts. They do not exist.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS

(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, with Mother's Day on Sunday, we are reminded of the commandment to "honor thy father and thy mother." And, my, how our fathers and our mothers and our seniors all over this country have been honored this week. They have been honored with \$300 billion, almost, of Medicare cuts, and they can bring charts up here all day and all night and all week long.

Apparently, they want to limit the time to discuss this to the bare minimum, but they cannot deny the fact that under existing law they are cutting Medicare by almost \$300 billion.

It is not a matter of what happens here in the Halls of Congress. It is the way the American people will view these cuts. If you do not understand a cut is a cut, go out and ask the seniors across this country and the people that care for them what it means that in order to get the same level of care, your medical deductible is doubled, your premiums go up every month, suddenly you have to pay for home health care and for lab services.

You may not call that a cut, but a senior citizen that faces the decision of whether to eat or whether to get health care is going to view it as the very serious cut that it is.

ENTERING THE BUDGET DEBATE WITH FACTS

(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, you know, Sunday is Mothers' Day. I do not remember my mother in the 40 years that I have been her son, worrying about the Federal budget on Mother's Day. I just do not see ourselves sitting around the house and ringing, "Oh, my goodness, the Democrats are not going to get their way in Congress. Mother's Day is ruined."

You know, my mom, my family, we do just fine without the Federal Government running our lives, and that is what the American people want: less Federal Government intervention in the family.

The families of America want the Federal Government out of the picture. The best way to protect the family is to make sure that we have a balanced budget so that there will be a Government that is not totally bankrupt in our future, which my mother's grandchildren and their grandchildren will enjoy.

You know, a great political campaign was run on this slogan: "If not us, who; if not now, when; if not this, what?"

The Democrats' answer to that question, "Well, if not us, somebody; if not now, someday; and if not this, we do not know."

You know, it is time to come to the table with specifics. Are you going to balance the budget, or are you going to sit here and scare everybody in America that the sky is falling? Let us get responsible, let us enter the debate with the true spirit of facts and not rhetoric.

MEDICARE IS ON THE BLOCK

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker and I can probably agree on one thing; and that is, we hope everybody has a happy Mother's Day. We hope they are not worried about the Federal budget and the deficit problems.

However, I would observe I have looked at this budget carefully, I have seen what it does to Medicare. As someone observed yesterday, the best thing you can do for mother this year is do not send flowers, send a check.

Because the fact is there is a real cut in Medicare, \$300 billion, and, yes, I have heard that, well, the spending increases. But what happens if, instead of two people there are now three people entitled to it? What happens if you now have higher deductibles when you go to the physician? You have to pay more out of pocket. You are now paying for lab fees you did not pay for before. And, yes, medical inflation in this country still rises faster than regular inflation.

The fact is the matter is that in order to keep current or even slightly current, there is a real cut that is proposed in this budget in the program that affects all of us. So Medicare is on the block, and I think it is an important statement.

Finally, what is more obnoxious to me about this cut it does not do anything about the deficit. It does not do anything for seniors. What if does is pay for a tax break for the wealthiest Americans in the tax cut package that has already passed here.

ACHIEVING A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I just came over because I was hearing some of the comments.

What concerns me very, very much is what is happening from the Democrats while Republicans have designed a budget that will balance in the year 2002. Everybody, I would hope, thinks that there is some good in achieving a zero deficit, balancing our budget and not spending any more than we take in.

Yet the other side of the aisle, and I usually am not partisan on these things, have seen this as an opportunity to criticize every one of these cuts that the Republicans are making, without presenting to us their idea of where we should be.

If you just look at what the President sent over here as far as his budget, his deficit spending, his spending more than what we are taking in in the year 1996 is 211, Republicans 156; in the last year, 2002, the Republicans' proposal is down to zero, zero deficit. We are living within the budget, within the revenues that we are taking into this Government. The President is 318.

Mr. Speaker, the other side should not criticize. They should be forthright